

Alexander Hamilton High School
2955 S. Robertson Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90034
<http://www.hamiltonhighschool.net>

AP Human Geography Thomas Metro-Zapata
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Course Overview

Geography is the study of **where and why** things are located around the world. Human geography, as opposed to physical geography, emphasizes the human features of the world (i.e. the study of ethnicity, language, economic development among others). As an introductory course to human geography, we will survey places throughout the globe to analyze how and why they are unique culturally, how and why they are connected and how and why they change. In doing so, we will explore questions such as “Why do some places fail to develop economically?” and “How does globalization affect local culture?”.

Strategies

Each unit will consist of four main activities: (1) readings, lectures and discussions of key terms and concepts, (2) practice of geographic skills through hands-on activities and the application of concepts to current events and case studies, (3) continual quizzes from the readings and vocabulary lists, and (4) evaluation with AP style multiple choice and free response questions.

Breakdown of Points: (may be adjusted later)

- Class & Homework.....20%
 - Quizzes.....20%
 - Projects.....10%
 - Unit exams.....30%
 - Final Exam.....20%
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- Total.....100%



Please use the PASSport website to monitor your child’s attendance and grades. To get started, go to our website (www.hamiltonhighschool.net) and click on the PASSport logo. Once you’re at the PASSport site, you can select the Quick Guide link for assistance in setting up your account.

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Student’s Name (Please Print)

Parent’s Name (Please Print)

Student’s Signature

Parent’s Signature

Home Phone

Parent’s Daytime Phone

Student’s Email

Parent’s Email

AP Outline: This outline is the focus of our study, more so than the book and even my curriculum—in May, you will be responsible for what is on this outline. The full outline is available on the College Board website (collegeboard.com) and on the class website along with the full version of this syllabus (www.political-economy.net; Password: 905).

- I. Geography: Its Nature and Perspectives (5–10%)
- II. Population and Migration (13–17%)
- III. Cultural Patterns and Processes (13–17%)
- IV. Political Organization of Space (13–17%)
- V. Agriculture, Food Production and Rural Land Use (13–17%)
- VI. Industrialization and Economic Development (13–17%)
- VII. Cities and Urban Land Use (13–17%)

Grading and Make-up Policy: Grades will be based on a scale where an A=90-100%, B=80-89%, C= 70-79%, D= 60-69%, F= 59% & below.

- Absences, Tardies and Late Work:
 - Work due the day of an excused absence must be turned in upon return to class.
 - Work assigned the day of an excused absence must be turned in no later than the second day back (check the website or see me).
 - All work missed because of an unexcused absence will result in a zero
 - It will be up to the student to get all missed notes and assignments.
 - **Only 1 test can be made up each semester.** The student has no more than 3 days to make it up.
 - Major assignments (e.g. research projects) are due the date given regardless of attendance.
 - All work missed because of *unexcused* tardies will result in a zero.
 - Ten points will be deducted for all late work. Late work will not be accepted later than one class meeting after the assignment's due date.
 - One homework grade will be dropped at the end of each semester (worth 10 points).

Academic Integrity: Cheating or plagiarism of any kind will result in an automatic “F” on the assignment (for all parties involved). All work copied or based off of another's work should be cited.

Miscellaneous:

- All work must be kept until the end of the spring semester.
- Grades will not be altered retroactively; what the grade book says, you get! (59.4% = F)
- You may want to purchase a study guide for the unit exams and the AP Exam in May.
- We will have a **practice exam on a Saturday or Sunday** in the weeks before the AP exam in May.

Texts

Rubenstein, James M. *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography*. 9th ed. Upper Saddle River, N.J.:

Prentice Hall, 2007.