

Advanced Placement Human Geography

Summer 2011 Reading/Text Assignment

Mrs. Galbraith

Hi all! Welcome to the fourth season of AP Human Geography here at BHS. I look forward to our year together as we both enter upon our journey into the discovery of how human beings use this space we call Earth. It is my hope that not only will you get a 5 on the AP exam next May but that you will also develop a love and passion for Geography as I have and will want to continue in this field of study as you move forward into college.

In advance of you beginning this course this coming fall, I would like for you to read TWO books from the attached list of FIVE to read over this summer. Everyone will need to read book #1 and then you will each choose your second book from the remaining five on the list. As well, I would like for you to complete an assignment related to the Introductory Unit of this course, which will come out of three of the textbooks we will be using.

The books on this list have been selected to help you understand the nature and complexity of Geography before undertaking its formal study. Moreover, each book in its own way will hopefully broaden your knowledge of Geography by helping make the complex simple and the intricate interesting.

Finally, I have selected these books because they are easily accessible, eminently readable, broadly informative and specifically focused on some important aspect of Geography such as urban development, ethnic conflict, globalization, cultural landscape or politics. It is my hope that in anticipation of taking AP Human Geography, that you will not only enjoy the subject matter of the book you select but that by reading this book you will make your AP experience more meaningful.

You will be asked to discuss your books, based on the following rubric when we come back in late August. Please have your summer assignment ready to share on the second day of school (Wednesday August 31, 2011). As we will with all written assignments, make sure you WORD-PROCESS your assignment, using no larger than 12 font, times new roman, double-spaced. Point deductions will be taken if this format is not followed. Use the following rubric as a guide to how to organize your papers (you will need to write one paper for each book that you read). With regard to length of response, two-three pages typed for each would be considered appropriate!

I.	Description:	
	Author's name, place of publication, date of publication, number of pages in book	5 points
	Summary of Book - important points brought out, highlights, etc.	20 points
II.	Analysis	
	Author's objectives - What did the author intend for the reader in writing this book?	10 points
	Universal Lessons - Provide examples from the book of lessons that would apply any place or time. These lessons should deal, if possible, with threads of humanity or the universal condition. If you do not feel there is any lesson to be learned from your book, explain why?	10 points
	(Use of passages to support answer)	10 points
III.	Appraisal	
	Did you like/Dislike the book and Why?	10 points
	What is missing?	5 points
IV.	Themes of Geography	20 points
	Please integrate, where applicable, the 5 geographic themes of place/location, movement, perception, human/environment interaction, and region. If you are unsure of the definitions of these terms, you will find them in your textbook, any dictionary or web inquiry related to the Five Themes of Geography. You do not have to address them all, just the ones that apply to your book!	
V.	Ten points are reserved for the overall paper.	10 points
Total:		100 points

Galbraith/AP Human Geography

Summer 2011

Summer Reading Book List 2011

Copies of these books may be found in our BHS Library. As well, they can be found at the Bethel & Danbury Public Libraries. Finally, if you are having problems finding a copy of any of these books, you can purchase an inexpensive USED copy from www.amazon.com. ****DO NOT come back to school in late August and tell me you could not find a book to read. Please contact me in July, not late August, if you have that kind of emergency! ****

1. **Sherer, Thomas E., Jr. *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Geography* (New York: Alpha Books, July 2007, UPDATED EDITION, original edition 1997).** This updated edition will bring readers up-to-date on new country names, capital cities, flags, ruling governments, changes to production and economics, and more. It also examines the basis for recent geographical, environmental, and political events shaping geography. This book also emphasizes human geography for students taking the Advanced Placement Human Geography exam.
2. **Friedman, Thomas. *Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why we Need a Green Revolution – and How it Can Renew America*. (Picador; First Edition, November 24, 2009).** Thomas L. Friedman's phenomenal number-one bestseller *The World Is Flat* has helped millions of readers to see the world in a new way. In his brilliant, essential new book, Friedman takes a fresh and provocative look at two of the biggest challenges we face today: America's surprising loss of focus and national purpose since 9/11; and the global environmental crisis, which is affecting everything from food to fuel to forests. In this groundbreaking account of where we stand now, he shows us how the solutions to these two big problems are linked--how we can restore the world and revive America at the same time.
3. **Diamond, Jared. *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*. (New York: W. W. Norton and Company, 1997, 1999).** If you choose this book, you do not have to read the entire book. You can pick any six chapters to analyze. Likewise, please pick at least one section from each of the four parts of the book. This book is very good, and it is highly recommended that, even if you do not read it this summer, you should read it at some point before we finish this course.
4. **Kunstler, James Howard. *Geography of Nowhere: The Rise and Decline of America's Man-Made Landscape*. (Simon and Schuster, June 1993).** This book deals with suburbanization and urban development in the United States and how they have altered our cultural landscape.
5. **Lapierre, Dominique. *City of Joy*. (Full Circle, April 2, 2000).** This book deals with the culture of the poor in India. Likewise, it gives a clear picture of agricultural life and the impact of religion on day-to-day life in India.
6. **Schlosser, Eric. *Fast Food Nation, The Dark Side of the All-American Meal*. (HarperCollins; 1st edition January 2002).** This is a great book related to the "Fast Food" culture of America. It tells the story of how America and much of the "globalized" world has become a repository for eating "fast food" and embracing the "fast culture" of America. The book also takes an in-depth look at fast food's associated impact on agricultural and economic practice. You may never eat Fast Food again after reading this book!

Place Geography Map Assignment

1. Label all countries appearing on the attached maps. It will be extremely important for you to have an understanding of where places are for this course. You will see these maps again on each unit test.

Assigned Texts for summer work:

1. Rubenstein, James M. The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography. 9th edition. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 2008.
2. Knox, Paul L., and Marston, Sallie A. Places and Regions in Global Context, Human Geography. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 2004.
3. de Blij, H.J., Murphy, A., and Fouberg, E. Human Geography: People, Place, and Culture. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2007.

Summer Assignment from Texts (I have copied the de Blij & Knox chapters for you):

1. In Rubenstein Textbook, Read Chapter 1, *Thinking Geographically*, beginning on Page 2. Begin a vocabulary notebook, label this section Unit 1 – Nature and Perspectives of Geography, and **define the key terms listed on pages 40-41.
2. In de Blij text, Read Chapter 1, *Introduction to Human Geography*, beginning on Page 1. In the same vocabulary textbook that you started with the terms from the Rubenstein text, **define any key terms that were not in the Rubenstein text (no need to duplicate) which can be found on page 32.
3. In Knox and Marston Text, Read Chapter 1, *Geography Matters*, beginning on Page 3. In the same vocabulary notebook that you started with the terms from the Rubenstein & de Blij texts, **define any key terms that were not in the other texts (no need to duplicate) which can be found on pages 39-40.

****When defining key terms MAKE SURE TO GIVE AN EXAMPLE wherever you feel it is appropriate. When you take the Multiple Choice portion of the exam next May there will be a number of questions that will ask you to know the terms and also their application!**

Have a great summer! If you need to reach me with any questions or concerns, my e-mail address is galbraithj@bethel.k12.ct.us.

