

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

COLLEGE BOARD CONSULTANT CHRISTOPHER HALL

Session Overview 2018

Participants in this session will learn how to set up an AP Human Geography course and curriculum that will prepare students to learn to love geography and be successful on the AP test. After reviewing the basics of the course, its curriculum, and the goals of the course we will focus on the strategies and best practices that effective teachers of geography use.

Specific attention will be given to helping student learn to “think geographically” and develop spatial skills. Participants can expect to learn a great deal of content during the week through consultant-led presentations, classroom discussions, and reading assignments. We will also spend time analyzing the exam itself; how it is written, how it is graded, and how to best prepare students for it.

The following topics will be specifically addressed and examples shared.

- Overview of the course design and curriculum articulation.
- Fulfilling the requirements of the AP Course Audit.
- Analysis of free-response and techniques for using writing in class.
- Strategies for using outside readings.
- Methods of spatial analysis.
- Strategies for increasing student engagement.
- Lesson planning specific to geography instruction.
- Strategies for helping students learn to analyze non-text information.
- Understanding of models in geography.
- Application activities.
- How to develop, present, use, and assess case studies.
- Vocabulary strategies.
- In-depth consideration of the test construction; FRQ and multiple choice
- Lessons and activities for each major unit in the course.

Each year I try to have a theme which runs both through the course content and our week together. Past themes have included natural disasters, indigenous peoples, water, and tourism. This year’s theme is MOVEMENT. We will use this theme to examine content in each of the content areas of the course.

During the 4-day experience we will strike a balance between the needs of new teachers and those who have experience with the course. Teachers who have not taught the course will find all of their questions addressed and veteran teachers will discover new ways of involving students, curricular pieces to focus on, and learn new content.