INTRODUCTION:  Welcome to AP Human Geography! The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth’s surface. You will employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis using maps, aerial photos, and satellite images to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences. You will also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice.

GOALS: On successful completion of the course, students should have developed skills enabling them to:

· Use and think about maps and spatial data. Maps and spatial data are fundamental to the discipline of geography. Students will learn how to use maps and spatial data to pose and solve problems, to analyze spatial information, and to think critically about what is revealed in different types of maps.

· Understand and interpret the implications of associations among phenomena in places. Students will learn not just to recognize and interpret spatial patterns but to assess the nature and significance of the relationships among phenomena that occur in the same place, and to understand how tastes and values, political regulations, and economic constraints work together to create types of cultural landscapes.

· Recognize and interpret at different scales the relationships among patterns and processes. Geographical analysis requires a sensitivity to scale as a framework for understanding how events and processes at different scales influence one another. Students should understand that phenomena they are studying at the local scale may well be influenced by developments regionally, nationally, or globally.

· Define regions and evaluate the regionalization process. Geography is concerned not simply with describing patterns but with analyzing how they came about and what they mean. Students should be seeing regions as objects of analysis and exploration and move beyond simply locating and describing regions to considering how and why they come into being and what they reveal about the changing character of the world in which we live.

· Characterize and analyze changing interconnections among places. At the heart of a geographical perspective is a concern with the ways in which events and processes operating in one place can influence those operating in other places. Students should view places and patterns not in isolation but in terms of their spatial and functional relationship with other places and patterns.
TOPICS: We will cover the following topics during the year in AP Human Geography:

Thinking Geographically
Language
Political Geography
Industry
Population
Religion
Development
Services
Migration
Ethnicity
Agriculture
Urban Patterns
Folk & Popular Culture
Resource Issues

MATERIALS:
Students should have the following materials available to use:

A) Notebook, folder, college-ruled paper, and pencils or pens, computer

B) A good student atlas

TEXTBOOK: The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography - Rubenstein

OFFICE HOURS: Mr. Mackey will be in his room (7-201) after school, before school, or during lunch by appointment for makeup or tutoring.

CLASS RULES:
1) Turn off and put away cell phones & electronic device unless instructed.

2) Follow directions

3) Be on time

4) Use proper language & manners

5) Keep the room clean. This includes your desk area, and any condensation from a drink.

6) No food/gum. Drinks in a closed container.

CONSEQUENCES:
1) Warning
2) Student/teacher conference

3) Parent/teacher contact and/or conference

4) Teacher detention

5) Office referral

EVALUATION: A student should score at least a 70% on tests in order to demonstrate mastery of a topic. If they do not pass the student has the option to perform a remediation activity of the instructor’s choice and then, after demonstrating proficiency, a second remediation session can be scheduled in order to retake the test. All students performing under a 90% on an summative assessment may retake the test provided that they have completed additional work of the instructor’s choice. MINI SUMMATIVES (vocab exams) are NOT eligible for retakes. A student will have only one opportunity to retake the test and the second of the two grades will be taken unless the instructor can see a concerted effort has been made to improve. Exam retakes must be taken within 15 school days or else it cannot be retaken and only one retake can be taken per school quarter unless approved by the instructor. Overall grades will be calculated by the following formula: 40% for formative assignments (ex. homework) and 60% for summative assignments (ex. tests).

EXAMS: You will be tested on the major concepts, ideas, and vocabulary covered in class or found in your text at the end of every chapter. Exam questions will come from the notes you take during lecture/discussions, information from class activities and/or labs, and from the guided reading questions assigned for homework. For each chapter, exams may contain…

1) a 50 point multiple choice exam that checks your comprehension of the content covered.

2) a free-response question similar to the ones used on the AP Exam that you will take in May.

3) a vocabulary exam by matching terms with their definitions.

**Students who complete the reading assignments, take the time to answer the guided reading questions, and review notes & daily work should be well prepared for the exams.**

QUIZZES: Questions are normally related to work completed during class the day before or on your reading assignments. Students who are on task during class and complete their own work usually do very well on quizzes. Students who miss a quiz will need to schedule a make-up time.

DAILY WORK: Each student should have a 3–ring notebook with pockets. The middle section of the folder should consist of at least 100 pages of college-ruled notebook paper. You will keep all notes & information from class in this folder. Daily work is given to you to help you understand the material and prepare you for the exam at the end of the chapter. Exceptions are made for students who prefer to take class notes on their laptop, however, the student must be
consistent with either digital or analogue notetaking, and demonstrate an organizational system conducive to their personal learning style.

**MID-TERM/FINAL:** Student will be expected to take a comprehensive exam at the end of each semester.

**Teacher’s Authority to Override Final Grade:** A teacher may override the final grade if a student’s overall performance warrants it. Before the grade override is finalized, the teacher must notify the parent/guardian concerning the student’s performance if the override may result in a lower final grade. The teacher may issue a failing grade override based on the student’s overall performance only with the approval of the principal.

- This refers to the final grade of the grading period, or the final grade for the course.

**THE AP EXAM:** Students who take Advanced Placement Human Geography are required to sit for the AP Human Geography exam. If for any reason a student does not take the A.P. Exam, they will be assessed a charge from DeLand High School and the name of your course will be changed to an “honors” or “regular” designation rather than “A.P.” This will also result in a change of weighting for the course from a 5.0 to either a 4.5 or a 4.0, which could affect your class rank and weighted grade point average.

**Viewing of PG-13 Movie Release**
Often appropriate PG-13 movies or sections of PG-13 movies can be utilized effectively to enrich classroom instruction and accomplish identified objectives. If you give permission for your child to view such materials, you do not have to do anything. (NOTE: NO “R” rated movies will ever be shown per Volusia County School Board Policy). If you do NOT wish to grant permission for your child to view any PG-13 movies identified by the teacher as effective in teaching the curriculum, please contact me via email atjfwetter@volusia.k12.fl.us or send in a note with your student.

**EXTRA HELP**
If you experience unusual difficulty in the assignments, either in general or consistently in a specific area, this is a signal to seek extra help. For best results, attend extra help sessions as needed, rather than only the day before a test or major assignment. Bring in homework to help locate troublesome areas. I am available before school, after school, or during lunch for tutoring. It is your responsibility to attend tutoring if you are having difficulty as I cannot force you to attend.

I am available for extra help before or after school by appointment. Also, I check my email (jrmackey@volusia.k12.fl.us) several times a day.

**Class Size Amendment Syllabus Statement**

*There are a number of core courses at DeLand High School that are covered by Class Size Amendment. According to this state mandate, class size may not exceed twenty-five students in*
these classes. To be in compliance with Class Size Amendment, students who are failing at the interim date may be subject to removal from this course.