



AP* HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Syllabus

Course Description

AP Human Geography is a college-level, yearlong course designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement (AP) Human Geography Exam. The goal of this course is to provide students with a geographic perspective through which to view the world. Through a combination of direct instruction, documentary videos, and online readings, students will explore geographic concepts, theories, and models; human-environment interactions; and interactions among human systems.

Topics covered include population, culture, political organization of space, agricultural land use, industrialization, and urban land use. Students will demonstrate their understanding and acquisition of skills through essays, document-based questions, collaborative activities, and practice AP Exams.

Course Materials

1. Fouberg, Erin H., Alexander B. Murphy, and H. J. de Blij. *Human Geography: People, Place, and Culture*. 9th ed. (Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, 2009).
Students use this book as the main text for the course.
2. Cambridge Studios. “The Power of Place: Geography for the 21st Century”. Video series. Annenberg Foundation, 2003. <http://www.learner.org/resources/series180.html>
The episodes in this series are used for the video case studies and are included in the online content.
3. Marsh, Meredith, and Alagona, Peter S. *Barron’s AP Human Geography*. 3rd ed. Barron’s Educational Series. (Hauppauge, NY: Barron’s Educational Series, 2010).
Any AP human geography study guide will also do.

Course Goals

- Interpret maps and spatial data to analyze the organization of people and places
- Identify factors that affect the delineation of regions and the role that natural and political boundaries play in the regionalization process
- Analyze relationships and patterns that occur at different geographic scales
- Examine the effect of changing political, economic, cultural, and physical systems on the relationships among places
- Investigate ways the environment has influenced human inhabitation, and analyze the effect that human settlement and activity have had on the environment

COURSE OUTLINE

UNIT 1 – Introduction to Human and Physical Geography

This unit will explore basic concepts essential to the study of geography. Students will learn how to “think geographically” and apply geographic skills to the interpretation of data, charts, graphs, and maps.

Readings

- Fouberg, *Human Geography*: Chapter 1

Videos

- *Power of Place*: “Lost in Space? Geography Training for Astronauts”

Key Activities

Online Discussion: Choose a specific type of map, other than political or physical, and explain how a geographer may use it to convey information. Is it possible for a cartographer to mislead readers? Why or why not?

Content

- Concepts of Geography
- Thinking Geographically
- Geographic Concepts
- Working with Maps and Data in Geography
- Evolution of Geographic Theories and Ideas

UNIT 2 – Human Geography: Population

This unit will analyze global population patterns and distributions. As they evaluate factors that affect human systems, students will identify global population patterns, forces that affect populations, and push and pull factors that influence migration.

Readings

- Fouberg, *Human Geography*: Chapters 2 and 3

Videos

- *Power of Place*: “Kenya: Medical Geography”
- *Power of Place*: “Operation Hold the Line”
- *Power of Place*: “Twin Cities, Divided Lives”
- *Power of Place*: “Mexico: Motive to Migrate”

Key Activities

Online Discussion: Explain how a high immigration rate could both positively and negatively affect a country’s economy. Is it possible for a country to sustain economic growth while experiencing a population decline? Why or why not?

Content

- Analyzing Population
 - Population Distribution
 - Recognizing Population Patterns and Historical Trends
 - Patterns of Fertility and Mortality
- Population: Growth and Decline
 - Health Care and Disease

- Politics, Policies, and Population
- Controlling Population: Eugenics and Genocide
- Population: Movement
 - Movement: Migration
 - Immigration: Refugees and Asylees
 - Economics of Migration

UNIT 3 – Human Geography: Culture

This unit will examine concepts of culture, including language, religion, and customs. This unit will also explore the interactions between humans and their environments. Students will analyze how social constructs such as race, ethnicity, and gender affect human societies around the world. Students will compare the influence of the environment on human cultures and how humans adapt to their environments to the influence humans exert on their environments and, at times, manipulate it.

Readings

- Fouberg, *Human Geography*: Chapters 4–7

Videos

- *Power of Place*: “Montreal: An Island of French”
- *Power of Place*: “Egypt: Gift of the Nile”

Key Activities

Online Discussion: Can a spoken dialect reveal any information about an individual’s cultural background? Why or why not? Provide examples.

Content

- Cultural Differences
 - Exploring Culture: Concepts of Culture
 - Exploring Culture: World Religions
 - Exploring Culture: Diffusion of Religion
 - Exploring Culture: Language
 - Exploring Culture: Race, Ethnicity, and Gender
- Environment and Culture
 - The Environment: Shaping Cultures
 - Altering the Environment
 - Greening the Globe

UNIT 4 – Politics and Boundaries

This unit will identify the purpose of boundaries as created by governments and explore the influence of boundaries on the development or destruction of cultures. Students will also analyze the effects of colonialism on contemporary political systems in Asia, Africa, and the Americas.

Readings

- Fouberg, *Human Geography*: Chapters 8 and 14

Videos

- *Power of Place*: “Singapore: Gateway to Southeast Asia”
- *Power of Place*: “Slovakia: New Sovereignty”

- *Power of Place*: “Jerusalem: Capital of Two States?”
- *Power of Place*: “Delhi: Bursting at the Seams”
- *Power of Place*: “Poland: Diffusion of Democracy”

Key Activities

Essay Question: Respond to the exam prompt from the 2010 exam concerning Alfred Weber’s theory of industrial location.

- According to Alfred Weber’s theory of industrial location, three factors determine the location of a manufacturing plant: the location of raw materials, the location of the market, and transportation costs.
 - Using an example of a specific industry other than the one portrayed on the map above, explain under what conditions an industry would locate near the market.
 - Using an example of a specific industry other than the one portrayed on the map above, explain under what conditions an industry would locate near raw materials.
 - Using the map above and Weberian theory, explain the geography of ethanol plants in the United States.

Online Discussion: Name a variety of circumstances that can cause a country’s borders to change and provide an example of each. Explain how Colonial powers determined boundaries for their territories.

- AP Test Prep Practice
 - Vocabulary Quiz
 - Free-response Practice
 - Timed Test

Content

- Boundaries
 - Territory and Boundaries in Geography
 - Geographer’s Perspective: The Influence of Boundaries on Culture
 - Geographer’s Perspective: Types of Government and Political Systems
 - Geography and Internal Boundaries
- Imperialism, Colonialism, and Change
 - Changing Geography: Colonialism
 - Colonialism in Africa, Asia, and the Americas
 - Changing Geography: Creating the Nation-State
- Challenges to Modern Government
 - Post-Colonial Governments in Asia
 - Post-Colonial Governments in Africa
 - Post-Colonial Governments in the Americas
 - Changing Geography: Changing Politics
 - Modern Global Concerns

UNIT 5 – Agriculture and Land Use

This unit will focus on the development of agriculture, from subsistence to commercial farming and from manual to mechanized labor. Students will investigate the role of agriculture in the development of societies and the ways that agriculture has changed to adapt to modern societies.

Readings

- Fouberg, *Human Geography*: Chapter 11

Videos

- *Power of Place*: “Andalucia: Developments in the Hinterlands”
- *Power of Place*: “Vologda: Russian Farming in Flux”

- *Power of Place*: “Oregon: A Fight for Water”

Key Activities

Online Discussion: Use examples to explain why you agree or disagree with this statement: The effects of the Third Agricultural Revolution on the environment have been more negative than positive.

Content

- Development of Agriculture
 - Early Agrarian Societies
 - Revolutions in Agriculture
 - Land Use: Settlement Patterns
- Regions of Production
 - Agri-zones: Regions of Production
 - Agriculture: Products and Consumption
 - Economic Factors of Agricultural Production
- Modern Agriculture
 - Modern Agriculture: Changing Landscapes
 - Changing Face of Farms
 - Changing Technology, Changing Agriculture

UNIT 6 – Industrialization and Economic Development

This unit will explore the role of industrialization in the development of economies worldwide. Focusing on the progression from the Industrial Revolution to the westernization of the global marketplace, this unit will have students consider the positive and negative effects of industrialization while examining diverse challenges facing developing and developed countries.

Readings

- Fouberg, *Human Geography*: Chapters 10, 12, 13, and 14

Videos

- *Power of Place*: “Shenyang: Hope for China’s Rust Belt?”
- *Power of Place*: “Chile: Pacific Rim Player”
- *Power of Place*: “Liverpool: A Tale of Two Cities”

Key Activities

Online Discussion: Does the rate of economic growth influence a country’s human development index? Use examples to explain why or why not.

Content

- Concepts of Industrialization
 - Economic and Social Development
 - Global Economic Sectors and Systems
 - Barriers to Economic Growth
- Economics of Industrialization
 - Revolutions in Technology
 - Financial Resources and Global Lending
 - Gender and Economic Development
- Global Risks and Rewards
 - Westernization and Commoditization
 - Environmental Concerns of Industrialization
 - Ethics of Industrialization

UNIT 7 – The Urban Environment, Land Use, and Economic Development

This unit will explore the progressive development of urban environments, from the establishment of early cities to the evolution of modern spaces. Students will compare the qualities of modern urban environments and examine the socioeconomic divides that exist within cities, identifying modern challenges and potential solutions.

Readings

- Fouberg, *Human Geography*: Chapter 9

Videos

- *Power of Place*: “Iceland: Edge of the Habitable World”
- *Power of Place*: “Randstad: Preserving the Green Heart”

Key Activities

Essay Question: Respond to the exam prompt from the 2009 exam concerning squatter settlements.

- A large proportion of urban residents in the megacities of the periphery of the world system live in squatter settlements.
 - Describe a typical location of squatter settlements within urban areas of megacities on the global periphery.
 - Describe two factors that contribute to the formation of squatter settlements.
 - Give a detailed account of **three** consequences of the rapid growth of squatter settlements. The three consequences you discuss may be social, economic, political or environmental.

Online Discussion: Examine the theories of urban structure presented by Burgess and Hoyt and Ullman and Harris. Which of these do you believe to be the most effective model for urban development in the United States? Why? In today’s world, is it essential for a city to have one central business district? Why or why not?

Content

- The Urban Environment
 - Urbanization and the Early City
 - Growth of Early Cities
 - Urban Planning and Design
 - Transportation and Infrastructure in the Modern Space
 - The Suburban Environment in the Modern Space
- The Modern Urban Space
 - Immigration and Urban Enclaves
 - Race and Class in the City
 - Comparative Urban Environments
 - Global Cities
 - Challenges Facing the Modern Urban Space

UNIT 8 – The AP Human Geography Exam

Key Activities

- AP Practice Test

Content

- AP Human Geography Fundamentals
 - Studying for the exam