

AP Human Geography Syllabus

The purpose of the AP course in Human Geography is to introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice.

The particular topics studied in an AP Human Geography course should be judged in light of the following five college-level goals that build on the National Geography Standards developed in 1994. On successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Use and think about maps and spatial data
2. Understand and interpret the implications of associations among phenomena in places
3. Recognize and interpret at different scales the relationships among patterns and processes
4. Define regions and evaluate the regionalization process
5. Characterize and analyze changing interconnections among places

AP Exam

One of the goals of this course is to give students the opportunity to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills needed to excel on the AP Human Geography examination. Successful completion of the AP examination allows students to gain college credit while in high school.

Textbook

Rubenstein, James M. 10th Edition, *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography*, Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson Education, Inc., 2011.

If you lose the textbook, or return in worst condition, you will buy it.

Course Units: This course will consist of seven units of study

Unit 1: Geography: Its Nature and Perspective
Unit 2: Population
Unit 3: Cultural Patterns and Processes
Unit 4: Political Organization of Space
Unit 5: Agriculture and Rural Land Use
Unit 6: Industrialization and Economic Development
Unit 7: Cities and Urban Land Use

Grading

- Tests and quizzes are not curved
- Unit tests may not be retaken
- Quizzes may be retaken after school on designated days
- You will be expected to read the textbook and retain the information you have read
- The majority of your grade will be based on quizzes over classroom notes and assigned readings, as well as unit tests
- At the time of each unit test, there will be a notebook check. All notes and handouts for that particular unit must be in the notebook and organized correctly
- For each unit, you will complete free response questions and 5 paragraph essays. Essays must include thesis statement, evidence, and conclusion
- When writing, organization, spelling, and grammar does count
- You will be expected to know the countries of the world and the major physical features of the world

Unit 1: Geography: Its Nature and Perspective (5%-10%)

Reading: Rubenstein: Chapter 1

Essential Key Terms and Concepts for this Unit:

Absolute distance	Climograph	Density
Accessibility	Concentration	Diffusion
Relative distance	Connectivity	Distribution
Cardinal directions	Compass	Dispersion
Cartogram	Culture	Environmental- determinism
Cartography	Cultural ecology	Equator

Field study
Five Themes
Formal region

Friction of distance
Functional region
GIS
GPS
Globe
Greenwich Mean Time
Globalization
Intermediate directions
International Date Line
Land Ordinance of 1875
Landscape
Latitude and longitude
Location

Map
Map Projection
Mental map
Meridians
Model
Networks
Node
Nodal region
Parallels
Pattern
Perception
Perspective
Place
Polder
Prime Meridian
Projection
Remote Sensing

Resources
Scale
Sequent occupance
Site
Situation
Size
Space
Spatial
System
Time Zones
Toponym
Traditions in geography
Uniform region
Vernacular region

Unit 1 Outline:

Geography as a field of inquiry

Evolution of geographical models and concepts

Key concepts in geography

- Location
- Place
- Space
- Scale
- Pattern
- Regionalization
- Globalization

Geographical Skills

- Using maps and spatial data
- How to understand and interpret the implications of associations among phenomenon in places
- Defining regions and evaluating the regionalization process
- Analyzing interconnections among places

New geographic technologies

- GIS
- GPS
- Remote Sensing

Unit 2: Population and Migration (13%-17% of the AP Exam)

Reading: Rubenstein: Chapters 2 and 3

Essential Key Terms for this Unit:

1.

Demography
Scale
Pattern
Place
Interdependence
Distribution
Age-sex structures
Refugee flows
Immigration
Internal Migration
Residential Mobility
Environmental Degradation
Out migration
Urbanization
Demographic transition
Epidemiological transition
Ecumene
Arithmetic density
Physiological density
Agricultural density
Crude birth rate

Crude death rate
Natural increase rate
Doubling time
Carrying Capacity
Total fertility rate
Infant mortality rate
Life expectancy
Carrying Capacity
Agricultural Revolution
Industrial Revolution
Medical Revolution
Zero population growth
Population pyramids
Dependency ratio
Sex ratio
Thomas Malthus
Neo Malthusians
Epidemiology
Pandemic

Report of Sanitary Conditions of the Laboring Population of Great Britain
S curve
Push and Pull Factors
Voluntary Migration
Forced Migration
Refugee
Migration Patterns
-intercontinental
-interregional
-rural-urban
Gravity Model
Distance Decay
Step Migration
Chain Migration
Transhumance
Internal Migration
Brain Drain
Remittances

Outline

Geographical analysis of population

- Density (Rubenstein 52-53)
- Distribution (Rubenstein 32, 46-49 Analyze figures 2-1 2-2, 2-3, 2-4)
- Scale (Rubenstein 28-29)
- Implications of various densities and distribution (Rubenstein: Japan's Population Decline pg.65)
- Patterns of composition: age, sex, race, and ethnicity (Rubenstein pgs. 59-61)
- Population and natural hazards: past, present, and future

Population growth and decline over time

- Historical trends and projections for the future (Rubenstein pgs. 53-54 analyze figure 2-8)
- Demographic transition model (Rubenstein pgs. 56-59 analyze figures 2-15 and 2-17)
- Patterns of fertility, mortality, and health (Rubenstein pgs. 54-55)
- Regional variations of demographic transition (Rubenstein pgs. 61-64)
- Effects of population policies

Population Movement

- Migration selectivity (Rubenstein: Characteristics of Migrants: pgs. 84-85)
- Major voluntary and involuntary migrations and different scales (Rubenstein: pages 85-88)
- Theories of migration, including push and pull factors, human capital, and life course (Rubenstein: pgs. 81-83)
- International migration and refugees (Rubenstein pg. 84)
- Socioeconomic consequences of migration (Rubenstein pgs.94-100)

Unit 3 Cultural Patterns and Processes: (13%-17% of AP Exam)

Reading: Rubenstein: Chapters 4, 5, 6, and 7

Essential Key Terms:

Concepts of Culture

Acculturation
Assimilation
Cultural adaptation
Cultural core/periphery pattern
Cultural ecology
Cultural identity
Cultural landscape
Cultural realm
Culture
Culture region

- Formal—core, periphery
- Functional—node
- Vernacular (perceptual)—regional self-awareness

Diffusion types

- Expansion—hierarchical, contagious, stimulus
- Relocation

Innovation adoption
Maladaptive diffusion
Sequent occupance

Folk and Popular Culture

Adaptive strategies
Anglo-American landscape characteristics
Architectural form
Built environment
Folk culture
Folk food

Folk house
Folk songs
Folklore
Material culture
Nonmaterial culture
Popular culture
Survey systems
Traditional architecture
Language
Creole
Dialect
Indo-European languages
Isogloss
Language
Language family
Language group
Language subfamily
Lingua franca
Linguistic diversity
Monolingual/multilingual
Official language
Pidgin
Toponymy
Trade language

Religion

Animism
Buddhism
Cargo cult pilgrimage
Christianity
Confucianism
Ethnic religion

Exclave/enclave
Fundamentalism
Geomancy (feng shui)
Hadj
Hinduism
Interfaith boundaries
Islam
Jainism
Judaism
Landscapes of the dead
Monotheism/polytheism
Mormonism
Muslim pilgrimage
Muslim population
Proselytic religion
Reincarnation
Religion (groups, places)
Religious architectural styles
Religious conflict
Religious culture hearth
Religious toponym
Sacred space
Secularism
Shamanism
Sharia law
Shintoism
Sikhism
Sunni/Shia
Taoism
Theocracy
Universalizing
Zoroastrianism

Ethnicity

Acculturation
Adaptive strategy
Assimilation
Barrio
Chain migration
Cultural adaptation
Cultural shatterbelt
Ethnic cleansing
Ethnic conflict

Ethnic enclave
Ethnic group
Ethnic homeland
Ethnic landscape
Ethnic neighborhood
Ethnicity
Ethnocentrism
Ghetto
Plural society
Race

Segregation
Social distance

Gender

Dowry death
Enfranchisement
Gender
Gender gap
Infanticide
Longevity gap
Maternal mortality rate

Outline**Part I: Concepts of Culture**

- Traits
- Diffusion
- Acculturation, assimilation, and globalization
- Cultural regions

Part II: Cultural Differences

- Language
- Religion
- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Popular and folk culture

Part III: Cultural landscapes and cultural identity

- Values and preferences
- Symbolic landscapes and sense of place
- Environmental impact of cultural attitudes and practices

Unit 4: Political Organization of Space (13%-17% of AP Exam)

Reading: Rubenstein: Chapters 8 and 9

Essential Key Terms:

Annexation
Antarctica
Apartheid
Balkanization
Border landscape
Boundary, disputes (definitional, locational, operational, allocational)
Boundary, origin (antecedent, subsequent, superimposed, relic)
Boundary, process (definition, delimitation, demarcation)
Boundary, type (natural/physical, ethnographic/cultural, geometric)
Buffer state
Capital
Centrifugal
Centripetal
City-state
Colonialism
Confederation
Conference of Berlin (1884)
Core/periphery
Decolonization
Devolution
Domino theory
EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone)

Electoral regions
Enclave/exclave
Ethnic conflict
European Union
Federal
Forward capital
Frontier
Geopolitics
Gerrymander
Global commons
Heartland/rimland
Immigrant states
International organization
Iron Curtain
Irredentism
Israel/Palestine
Landlocked
Law of the Sea
Lebanon
Mackinder, Halford J.
Manifest destiny
Median-line principle
Microstate
Ministate
Nation
National iconography
Nation-state

Nunavut
Raison d'être
Reapportionment
Regionalism
Religious conflict
Reunification
Satellite state
Self-determination
Shatterbelt
Sovereignty
State
Stateless ethnic groups
Stateless nation
Suffrage
Supranationalism
Territorial disputes
Territorial morphology (compact, fragmented, elongated, prorupt, perforated)
Territoriality
Theocracy
Treaty ports
UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea)
Unitary
USSR collapse

Women's enfranchisement

Unit Outline

Territorial dimensions of politics

- The concept of territoriality
- The nature and meaning of boundaries
- Influences of boundaries on identity, interaction, and exchange
- Federal and unitary states
- Spatial relationships between political patterns and patterns of ethnicity, economy, and environment

Evolution of the contemporary political pattern

- The nation-state concept
- Colonialism and imperialism
- Democratization

Changes and challenges to political and territorial arrangements

- Changing nature of sovereignty
- Fragmentation, unification and alliances
- Supranationalism and devolution
- Electoral geography and gerrymandering
- Terrorism

Unit 5: Agriculture and Rural Land Use (13%-17% of AP Exam)

Reading: Rubenstein: Chapter 10

Essential Key Terms:

Adaptive strategies	Environmental modification (pesticides, soil erosion, desertification)	Mineral fuels
Agrarian		Mining
Agribusiness		Planned economy
Agricultural industrialization	Extensive subsistence agriculture	Plant domestication
Agricultural landscape	(shifting cultivation [slash-and- burn, milpa, swidden], nomadic	Plantation agriculture
Agricultural location model	herding/pastoralism)	Renewable/nonrenewable
Agricultural origins	Extractive industry	Rural settlement (dispersed, nucleated, building material, village form)
Agriculture	Farm crisis	Sauer, Carl O.
Animal domestication	Farming	Second agricultural revolution
Aquaculture	Feedlot	Specialization
Biorevolution	First agricultural revolution	Staple grains
Biotechnology		Suitcase farm
Collective farm	Fishing	Survey patterns (long lots, metes and bounds, township-and-range)
Commercial agriculture	Food chain	Sustainable yield
(intensive, extensive)	Forestry	Third agricultural revolution
Core/periphery	Globalized agriculture	(mechanization, chemical farming, food manufacturing)
Crop rotation	Green revolution	"Tragedy of the commons"
Cultivation regions	Growing season	Transhumance
Dairying	Hunting and gathering	Truck farm
Debt-for-nature swap	Intensive subsistence agriculture	Von Thünen, Johann Heinrich
Diffusion	Intertillage	
Double cropping	Livestock ranching	
Economic activity (primary, secondary, tertiary, quaternary, quinary)	Market gardening	
	Mediterranean agriculture	

Development and diffusion of agriculture

- Neolithic Agricultural Revolution
- Second Agricultural Revolution
- Green Revolution
- Modern Commercial Agriculture

Major agricultural production regions

- Agricultural systems associated with major bioclimatic zones
- Variations within major zones and effects on markets
- Linkages and flows among regions of food production and consumption

Rural land use and settlement patterns

- Models of agricultural land use – von Thunen's model

- Settlement patterns associated with major agricultural types
- Land use/land cover change, irrigation, conservation (desertification and deforestation)

Modern commercial agriculture

- Biotechnology, including genetically modified plants and animals
- Spatial organization and diffusion of industrial agriculture
- Organic farming and local food production
- Environmental impacts of agriculture

Unit 6: Industrialization and Economic Development (13%-17% of AP Exam)

Reading: Rubenstein: Chapters 11 and 12

Essential Key Terms:

Development

Agricultural labor force
Calorie consumption
Core-periphery model
Cultural convergence
Dependency theory
Development
Energy consumption
Foreign direct investment
Gender
Gross domestic product (GDP)
Gross national product (GNP)
Human Development Index
Levels of development
Measures of development
Neocolonialism
Physical Quality of Life Index
Purchasing power parity
Rostow, W. W.
"Stages of Growth" model
Technology gap
Technology transfer
Third World
World Systems Theory

Industrialization

Acid rain
Agglomeration
Agglomeration economies
Air pollution
Aluminum industry (factors of production, location)

Assembly line
production/Fordism
Bid rent theory
Break-of-bulk point
Canadian industrial heartland
Carrier efficiency
Comparative advantage
Cumulative causation
Deglomeration
Deindustrialization
Economic sectors
Economies of scale
Ecotourism
Energy resources
Entrepôt
Export processing zone
Fixed costs
Footloose industry
Four Tigers
Greenhouse effect
Growth poles
Heartland/rimland
Industrial location theory
Industrial regions (place, fuel source, characteristics)
Industrial Revolution
Industry (receding, growing)
Infrastructure
International division of labor
Labor-intensive
Least-cost location
Major manufacturing regions

Manufacturing exports
Manufacturing/warehouse location (industrial parks, agglomeration, shared services, zoning, transportation, taxes, environmental considerations)
Maquiladora
Market orientation
Multiplier effect
NAFTA
Outsourcing
Ozone depletion
Plant location (supplies, "just in time" delivery)
Postindustrial
Refrigeration
Resource crisis
Resource orientation
Special economic zones (China)
Specialized economic zones
Substitution principle
Threshold/range
Time-space compression
Topocide
Trade (complementarity)
Transnational corporation
Ubiquitous
Variable costs
Weber, Alfred
Weight-gaining
Weight-losing
World cities

Growth and diffusion of industrialization

- The changing roles of energy and technology
- Industrial Revolution
- Evolution of economic cores and peripheries
- Geographic critiques of models of economic localization (bid rent, comparative costs of transportation) industrial location, economic development, and world systems

Contemporary patterns and impacts of industrialization and development

- Spatial organization of the world economy
- Variations in levels of development
- Deindustrialization and economic restructuring
- Globalization and international division of labor
- Natural resources and environmental concerns
- Sustainable development
- Local development initiatives: government policies

- Women in development

Unit 7 Cities and Urban Land Use: (13%-17% of AP Exam)

Reading: Rubenstein: Chapters 13 and 14

Agglomeration	Ghetto	Settlement form (nucleated, dispersed, elongated)
<i>Barriadas</i>	Globalization	Shopping mall
Bid-rent theory	Great cities	Site/situation
Blockbusting	High-tech corridors	Slum
CBD (central business district)	Hinterland	Social structure
Census tract	Hydraulic civilization	Specialization
Centrality	Indigenous city	Squatter settlement
Centralization	In-filling	Street pattern (grid, dendritic; access, control)
Central-place theory	Informal sector	Suburb
Christaller, Walter	Infrastructure	Suburbanization
City	Inner city	Symbolic landscape
Cityscapes	Invasion and succession	Tenement
Colonial city	Lateral commuting	Threshold/range
Commercialization	Medieval cities	Town
Commuter zone	Megacities	Underclass
Concentric zone model	Megalopolis/conurbation	Underemployment
Counterurbanization	Metropolitan area	Urban growth rate
Decentralization	Multiple nuclei model	Urban function
Deindustrialization	Multiplier effect	Urban hearth area
Early cities	Neighborhood	Urban heat island
Economic base (basic/nonbasic)	Office park	Urban hierarchy
Edge city	Peak land value intersection	Urban hydrology
Emerging cities	Planned communities	Urban morphology
Employment structure	Postindustrial city	Urbanization
Entrepôt	Postmodern urban landscape	Urbanized population
Ethnic neighborhood	Primate city	World city
Favela	Racial steering	Zone in transition
Female-headed household	Rank-size rule	Zoning
Festival landscape	Redlining	
Gateway city	Restrictive covenants	
Gender	Sector model	
Gentrification	Segregation	

Development and character of cities

- Origin of cities
- Rural-urban migration and urban growth
- Global cities and megacities
- Suburbanization and edge cities

Models of urban systems

- Rank-rule size
- Sector model
- Multiple-nuclei model
- Changing employment mix
- Changing demographic and social structures
- Uneven development, ghettoization, and gentrification

Built environment and social space

- Housing
- Transportation and infrastructure
- Political organization of urban areas
- Patterns of race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status

