



# AP<sup>®</sup> Human Geography

## Syllabus

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### Course Description

Human Geography is a college-level, yearlong course designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement<sup>®</sup> Human Geography Exam. The goal of the 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, student collaborative activities, and practice AP Exams.

### Course Materials

#### Required Text

- Fouberg, E. H., Murphy, A. B., & De Blij, H. J. (2009). *Human Geography: People, Place, and Culture* (9th ed.). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.

#### Supplemental Materials

- 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.
- Marsh, M., & Alagona, P. S. (2010). *Barron’s AP Human Geography* (3rd ed.). Hauppauge, NY: Barron’s Educational Series.  
*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 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 be introduced to geographic land use models and basic geographic theories that will assist them in understanding the human organization of spaces. They will learn how to “think geographically” and to apply geographic skills to the interpretation of data, charts, graphs, and maps.

### Readings

- Foubert, *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

Important geographic concepts covered in this unit, include, but are not limited to: The Five Themes of Geography, the Six Essential Elements of Geography, scale, perception, perspective, various map projections, distortion, types of map, reading maps, spatial interaction, sequential occupation, cultural landscape, built environment, and geographic models: Von Thunen, Burgess, and Hoyt

### Direct Instruction:

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

# Unit 2 - Human Geography: Geographic Theories and Population Models

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

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

## Videos

- *Power of Place*: “Kenya: Medical Geography”
- *Power of Place*: “Delhi: Bursting at the Seams”
- *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

Important geographic concepts covered in this unit, include, but are not limited to: Demographic Transition model, measuring and mapping populations, interpreting population maps, graphs, and pyramids, population distribution, population density, patterns of settlement, population growth and decline, total fertility rate, infant mortality rate, patterns of fertility and mortality, healthcare and disease, endemic diseases, standard of living, migration and immigration, push and pull factors, step migration, intervening opportunities, human capital flight, refugees, and asylees.

## Direct Instruction:

- 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 environment to the influence humans exert on their environment and how humans, at times, manipulate it.

## Readings

- Foubert, *Human Geography*: Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7, and 13

## 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

Important geographic concepts covered in this unit include, but are not limited to: characteristics of culture; subcultures; folk and local cultures; popular culture; cultural adaptation; acculturation; assimilation; appropriation; diffusion; identity; the five major world religions; traditional religions; the diffusion of religion; religion and conflict; language families; convergence and divergence of languages; regional variations in language; official, pidgin, and trade languages; race, ethnicity, and racism; gender and gender inequities; and the human environment interaction.

## Direct Instruction:

- 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*: “Dagestan: Caucuses Disconnect”
- *Power of Place*: “Slovakia: New Sovereignty”
- *Power of Place*: “Jerusalem: Capital of Two States?”
- *Power of Place*: “South Africa: This Land is My Land”
- *Power of Place*: “Poland: Diffusion of Democracy”

## Key Activities

**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

Important geographic concepts covered in this unit include, but are not limited to: territoriality; political and national boundaries; stateless nations; nationless states; multinational states; types of boundaries; personal space; bilingualism; border towns; xenophobia; the influence of boundaries on culture; trade barriers; types of political systems and key forms of government; enclaves; exclaves; territories and colonialism; autonomous regions; political geography; electoral geography; the creation of the nation state; nationalism; independence movements; sovereignty; devolution; ethnic and religious conflicts; territorial conflicts; the impact of colonialism; globalization; the European Union; terrorism; and nuclear proliferation.

## Direct Instruction:

- 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*: “Andalucía: 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

Important geographic concepts covered in this unit, include, but are not limited to: agricultural origins and early farming practices, food surpluses and early settlements, river valley civilizations, the first, second, and third agricultural revolutions, the Von Thunen model of land use and agricultural production, settlement patterns, agricultural hearths, nucleated settlements, subsistence and commercial farming, zones of agricultural production, the geography of consumption and production, agro-business, biotechnology and the mechanization of agriculture, chemical fertilizers and pesticides, bioengineered foods, organic farming, sustainable agriculture, famine, the impact of agriculture on the environment, environmental concerns associated with farming, community supported agriculture, subsidies, and the changing face of the American farm.

### Direct Instruction:

- Development of Agriculture
  - ◇ Early Agrarian Societies
  - ◇ Revolutions in Agriculture
  - ◇ Agricultural Land Use and 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

- Foubert, *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

Important geographic concepts covered in this unit include, but are not limited to: economic development; GDP, GNP, and HDI; Genuine Progress Indicator; Rostow’s Modernization Model; the Brandt Line; neocolonialism; Wallerstein’s World Systems Theory; the five economic sectors; formal and informal sections; comparative advantage; specialization; export processing zones; special economic zones; barriers to economic growth; industrialization and technological advances; the World Bank; the IMF; NGOs; microcredit loans; gender and economic development; millennium development goals; westernization; globalization; commoditization; multinational corporations; environmental concerns associated with industrialization; child labor; working conditions; least-cost locations; and production and manufacturing.

## Direct Instruction:

- 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

- Foubert, *Human Geography*: Chapter 9

## Videos

- *Power of Place*: “Singapore: Gateway to Southeast Asia”
- *Power of Place*: “Randstad: Preserving the Green Heart”

## Key Activities

### 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

Important geographic concepts covered in this unit include, but are not limited to: rural vs. urban areas; the development of early cities; the development of government, culture, and economies in early cities; urban planning; Central Place Theory; Burgess Model; Hoyt Model; Multiple Nuclei Model; the natural environment vs. the built environment; the grid city; the city beautiful; transportation and infrastructure and the impact on the city; suburbia; zoning; residential landscapes; commercial landscapes; edge cities; urban sprawl; suburban decay; sustainability; new urbanism; race and class in the city; ghettoization; white flight; redlining; segregation; megacities; comparative urban environments; primate cities; globalization; global cities; and the social, economic, and environmental challenges facing modern cities.

## Direct Instruction:

- 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