

Advanced Placement Human Geography

I. Overview of the Course

The purpose of the Advanced Placement (AP) Human Geography course is to introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of the earth's surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to analyze human social organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers' use in their science and practice. Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Use and think about maps and spatial data sets
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.
6. Understand and apply the theories of geographic inquiry to human social systems.

The aim of this AP course is to provide the student with a learning experience equivalent to that obtained in most college introductory human geography courses. Therefore, there is a heavy emphasis on the development of reading, writing, critical thinking and presentation skills. In order to prepare students to take the AP Human Geography exam, the course will be divided into seven topic areas:

1. The Nature and Perspectives of Geography
2. Population Demography
3. Cultural Patterns and Processes
4. Political Organization of Space (Geopolitics)
5. Agricultural and Rural Land Use
6. Industrialization and Development (Economic Geography)
7. Cities and Urban Land Use.

II. Course Objectives (Curriculum Requirements)

1. C1: The course provides a systematic study of human geography, including the following topics outlined in the Course Description:
 - a. Nature of and Perspectives on Geography
 - b. Population
 - c. Cultural Patterns and Processes
 - d. Political Organization of Space and Agricultural and Rural Land Use
 - e. Industrialization and Economic Development
 - f. Cities and Urban Land Use.
2. C2: The course teaches the use of spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human organization of space.
3. C3: The course teaches spatial relationships at different scales ranging from the local to the global.
4. C4: The course teaches students how to use and interpret maps, data sets, and geographic models. GIS, aerial photographs, and satellite images, though not required, can be used effectively in the course.

III. Required Textbook

Rubenstein, James M., *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography* (7th ed., 2005)

IV. Grading

Your academic progress will be evaluated through a variety of assessments.

Marking Period (Quarter) Grades will be calculated as follows:

- 50% = Unit Tests, Research Assignments, and Quarterly Assessments
- 25% = Reading Quizzes, Vocabulary Quizzes, Map Quizzes, Daily Quizzes
- 25% = Homework, Classwork, Lab Work, Timed Writings.

Semester Grades will be calculated as follows:

- 40% = First Quarter (9 Weeks)
- 40% = Second Quarter (9 Weeks)
- 20% = Exam.

The *Advanced Placement Exam* is administered in May to all students enrolled in AP Human Geography. It is a timed test consisting of 75 multiple choice questions and 3 free response essay questions.

The *VA Standards of Learning (SOL) End-of-Course Test for World Geography* is also administered in May. It consists of 70 Multiple-choice questions. Students who pass this test will receive a verified credit towards high school graduation.

V. Course Outline

AP Human Geography is a full academic year course (two semesters) and is organized into four quarters that are each nine weeks long.

Please note the following abbreviations in the course outline:

- SOL's refers to the VA Standards of Learning, which are notated by *WG*. * denotes material required by the VA SOL's, but not specifically listed in the AP curriculum.
- C1 – C4 denotes AP Human Geography Curriculum Requirements listed on page one of the syllabus (C1 runs through all units).

Quarter 1		
VA Standards (SOL)	Topics and/or Strands	Time Estimate
WG 1a–e 4 12a–b	<p><u>Unit 1: Part 1 – Geography, its Nature and Perspectives</u></p> <p>Chapter One</p> <p><u>Topics</u></p> <p>A. Geography as a field of inquiry (C2)</p> <p>B. Evolution of key geographical concepts and models associated with notable geographers (C2)</p> <p>C. Key concepts underlying geographical perspective: location, space, place, scale, pattern (C3, 4)</p> <p>D. Key geographical skills</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How to use and think about maps and spatial data (C3, 4) 2. How to understand and interpret the implications of associations among phenomena in places (C3) 	<p>2 weeks</p> <p>5 extended block sessions</p>

	<p>3. How to recognize and interpret at different scales the relationships among patterns and processes (C3)</p> <p>E. New geographic technologies such as GIS and GPS (C4)</p> <p>F. Sources of geographical ideas and data: the field, census data (C1)</p> <p><u>Assignments and Assessments</u></p> <p>A. Readings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hebert, Laura "Do Maps Create or Represent Reality", 2004 (C2–4) 2. Rubenstein, James R. "Introduction to Human Geography", Chapter 1: Key Issues 1, 2 <p>B. Assignments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lab work; map skills (GIS, GPS, Location, Scale, Projections) (C2–4) <p>C. Assessments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quizzes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vocabulary Quiz (C1) ▪ Reading Quiz (C1) 2. Unit 1, Part 1 Test with Free Response Question (C1–4) 	
<p>WG 2a–c 3a–c 4 7a–b 9b, d 12a–b</p>	<p><u>Unit 1: Part 2 – Geography, its Nature and Perspectives</u></p> <p>Chapters One & Fourteen</p> <p><u>Topics</u></p> <p>A. Key Concepts Underlying the Geographical Perspective; Regionalization and Globalization (C2, 4)</p> <p>B. Key Geographical Skills</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How to define regions and evaluate the regionalization process (C2–4) 2. How to characterize and analyze changing interconnections among places (C2–4) <p>C. *Physical Geography</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Geomorphology 2. Climatology and Bio-geography <p>D. Cultural Ecology (*Human Environment Interactions and Resource Issues) (C2, 3)</p> <p>E. Connections (Movement) (C2, 3)</p> <p>F. *United States and Canada (C4)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Political and Physical Characteristics 2. Economic Characteristics 3. Cultural Characteristics <p><u>Assignments and Assessments</u></p> <p>A. Readings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. McNeil, Donald G., "New Concern on Polio Among Mecca Pilgrims", 2005 (C2–4) 2. Rubenstein, James R. "Introduction to Human Geography," Chapter 1: Key Issues 3 &5 and Chapter 14 <p>B. Assignments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timed Writing (C1–3) <p>C. Assessments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quizzes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vocabulary Quiz (C1) ▪ Reading Quiz (C1) 2. Unit 1, Part 2 Test with Free Response Question (C1–4) 	<p>2 weeks</p> <p>5 extended block sessions</p>

WG 4–6 12a–b	<p><u>Unit 2: Population</u></p> <p>Chapters Two & Three</p> <p><u>Topics</u></p> <p>A. Geographical analysis of population (C4)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Density, distribution, and scale 2. Consequences of various densities and distributions 3. Patterns of composition: age, sex, race, and ethnicity 4. Population and natural hazards: past, present, and future <p>B. Population growth and decline over time and space (C4)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Historical trends and projections for the future 2. Theories of population growth, including the Demographic Model 3. Patterns of fertility, mortality, and health 4. Regional variations of demographic transitions (C2, 3) 5. Effects of population policies (C2) <p>C. Migration (C2, 3)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Push and pull factors 2. Major voluntary and involuntary migrations at different scales 3. Migration selectivity 4. Short term, local movements, and activity space <p>D. *Latin America (C4)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Political and Physical Characteristics 2. Economic Characteristics 3. Cultural Characteristics <p><u>Assignments and Assessments</u></p> <p>A. Readings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Longman, Phillip “The Global Baby Bust”, 2004 (C1–3) 2. Rubenstein, James R. “Introduction to Human Geography,” Chapters 2 and 3 <p>B. Assignment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Timed Writing (C1–3) 2. Lab work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Population Pyramids (C3, 4) ▪ Census Data (C3, 4) ▪ Migration (C2, 3) <p>C. Assessments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quizzes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Map Quiz (C1) ▪ Vocabulary Quiz (C1) ▪ Reading Quiz (C1) 2. Unit 2 Test with Free Response Question (C1–4) 	4 weeks 10 extended block sessions
Review and Quarterly Assessment		1 week, 2 extended block sessions
Quarter 2		
VA Standards (SOL)	Topics and/or Strands	Time Estimate
WG	<u>Unit 3: Part 1 – Cultural Patterns and Processes</u>	2 weeks

<p>3a–c 4 12a–b</p>	<p>Chapter Four</p> <p><u>Topics</u></p> <p>A. Concepts of Culture (C3)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Traits 2. Diffusion 3. Acculturation 4. Culture Regions <p>B. Folk and Popular Culture (C2, 3)</p> <p>C. Environmental Impact of Cultural Attitudes and Practices (C2)</p> <p>D. Cultural Landscapes and Cultural Identity (C2, 3)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Values and Preferences 2. Symbolic Landscapes and sense of place <p>E. *Europe (C4)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Political and Physical Characteristics 2. Economic Characteristics 3. Cultural Characteristics <p><u>Assignments and Assessments</u></p> <p>A. Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rubenstein, James R. “Introduction to Human Geography,” Chapter 4 <p>B. Assignments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Timed Writing (C1–3) 2. Project: Symbolic Landscapes (C1–4) <p>C. Assessments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quizzes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Map Quiz (C1) ▪ Vocabulary Quiz (C1) ▪ Reading Quiz (C1) 2. Unit 3, Part 1 Test with Free Response Question (C1–4) 	<p>5 extended block sessions</p>
<p>WG 3a–c 4 12a–b</p>	<p><u>Unit 3: Part 2 – Cultural Patterns and Processes</u></p> <p>Chapters Five – Seven</p> <p><u>Topics</u></p> <p>A. Cultural Differences (C3, 4)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Language 2. Religion 3. Ethnicity 4. Gender <p>B. *Russia and Central Asia (C4)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Political and Physical Characteristics 2. Economic Characteristics 3. Cultural Characteristics <p><u>Assignments and Assessments</u></p> <p>A. Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rubenstein, James R. “Introduction to Human Geography,” Chapters 5, 6, and 7 <p>B. Assignments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timed Writing (C1–3) <p>C. Assessments</p>	<p>4 weeks</p> <p>10 extended block sessions</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quizzes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Map Quiz (C1) ▪ Vocabulary Quiz (C1) ▪ Reading Quiz (C1) 2. Unit 3, Part 2 Test with Free Response Question (C1–4) 	
WG 3a–c 4 12a–b	<p><u>Unit 4: Part 1 – Political Organization of Space</u></p> <p>Chapter Eight</p> <p><u>Topics</u></p> <p>A. Territorial Dimension of Politics (C2–4)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The concept of politics 2. The nature and meaning of boundaries 3. Influences of boundaries on identity, interaction, and exchange <p>B. Evolution of the Contemporary Political Patterns (C2–4)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The nation-state concept 2. Colonialism and imperialism 3. Federal and unitary states <p><u>Assignments and Assessments</u></p> <p>A. Readings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rubenstein, James R. “Introduction to Human Geography,” Chapter 8: Key Issue 1 and 2 <p>B. Assignments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timed Writing (C1–3) <p>C. Assessments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quizzes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Map Quiz (C1) ▪ Vocabulary Quiz (C1) ▪ Reading Quiz (C1) 2. Unit 4 Notes Quiz (C1–4) 	<p>2 weeks</p> <p>5 extended block sessions</p>
Review and Semester Exam		1 week, 2 extended block sessions
Quarter 3		
VA Standards (SOL)	Topics and/or Strands	Time Estimate
WG 4 10a–c 12a–b	<p><u>Unit 4: Part 2 – Political Organization of Space</u></p> <p>Chapter Eight</p> <p><u>Topics</u></p> <p>A. Challenges to inherited political-territorial arrangements (C2–4)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Changing nature of sovereignty 2. Fragmentation, unification, alliance 3. Spatial relationships between political patterns and patterns of ethnicity, economy, and environment 4. Electoral geography, including gerrymandering 	<p>2 weeks</p> <p>5 extended block sessions</p>

	<p>B. *North Africa and Southwest Asia (C4)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Political and Physical Characteristics 2. Economic Characteristics 3. Cultural Characteristics <p><u>Assignments and Assessments</u></p> <p>A. Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rubenstein, James R. "Introduction to Human Geography," Chapter 8: Key Issues 3 and 4 <p>B. Assignments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Timed Writing (C1–3) 2. Lab Work: Boundary Activity (C2–4) <p>C. Assessments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quizzes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Map Quiz (C1) ▪ Vocabulary Quiz (C1) ▪ Reading Quiz (C1) 2. Unit 4 Test (C1–4) 	
<p>WG 2b–c 4 12a–b</p>	<p><u>Unit 5: Agriculture and Rural Land Use</u></p> <p>Chapters Ten and Fourteen</p> <p><u>Topics</u></p> <p>A. Development and diffusion of agriculture (C2, 3)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Neolithic Agricultural Revolution 2. Second Agricultural Revolution <p>B. Major agricultural production regions (C2, 3)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agricultural systems associated with major bioclimatic zones 2. Variations within major zones and effects of markets 3. Linkages and flows among regions of food production and consumption <p>C. Rural Land Use and Settlement Patterns (C2, 3)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Models of agricultural land use, including Von Thünen’s model 2. Settlement patterns associated with major agriculture types <p>D. Modern Commercial Agriculture (C2, 3)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Third Agricultural Revolution 2. Green Revolution 3. Biotechnology 4. Spatial organization and diffusion of industrial agriculture 5. Future food supplies and environmental impacts of agriculture <p>E. *Australia, Pacific Islands, and Antarctica (C4)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Political and Physical Characteristics 2. Economic Characteristics 3. Cultural Characteristics <p><u>Assignments and Assessments</u></p> <p>A. Readings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Biotech foods article: Gillis, Justin, "Biotech Crops Could Help Poor Farmers," 2004 (C2–4) 2. Hardin, Garrett, "The Tragedy of the Commons," 1968 (C1–3) 3. Rubenstein, James R. "Introduction to Human Geography," Chapter 10 <p>B. Assignments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Timed Writing (C1–3) 2. Lab Work: Von Thünen’s land use model (C1–4) <p>C. Assessments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quizzes 	<p>2 weeks</p> <p>5 extended block sessions</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Map Quiz (C1) ▪ Vocabulary Quiz (C1) ▪ Reading Quiz (C1) <p>2. Unit 5 Test (C1–4)</p>	
WG 4 7a–b 8 9a–d 12a–b	<p><u>Unit 6: Industrialization and Economic Development</u></p> <p>Chapters Nine, Eleven, and Twelve</p> <p><u>Topics</u></p> <p>A. Key concepts in industrialization and development (C2, 3)</p> <p>B. Growth and diffusion of industrialization (C2, 3)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The changing roles of energy and technology 2. Industrial Revolution 3. Evolution of economic cores and peripheries 4. Geographic critiques of models of economic localization (i.e., land rent, comparative costs of transportation), industrial location, economic development, and world systems <p>C. Contemporary patterns and impacts of industrialization and development (C2, 3)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Spatial organization of the world economy 2. Variations in levels of development 3. Deindustrialization and economic restructuring 4. Pollution, health, and quality of life, 5. Industrialization, environmental change, and sustainability 6. Local development initiatives: government policies <p>D. *Sub-Saharan Africa (C4)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Political and Physical Characteristics 2. Economic Characteristics 3. Cultural Characteristics <p><u>Assignments and Assessments</u></p> <p>A. Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rubenstein, James R. "Introduction to Human Geography," Chapters 9, 11, and 12 <p>B. Assignments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Timed Writing (C1–3) 2. Lab Work: International Trade Game (C1–3) <p>C. Assessments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quizzes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Map Quiz (C1) ▪ Vocabulary Quiz (C1) ▪ Reading Quiz (C1) 2. Unit 6 Test (C1–4) 	4 weeks 10 extended block sessions
Review and Quarterly Assessment		1 week, 2 extended block sessions
Quarter 4		
VA Standards (SOL)	Topics and/or Strands	Time Estimate
WG	<u>Unit 7: Cities and Urban Land Use</u>	4 weeks

<p>4 11a-c 12a-b</p>	<p>Chapters Twelve and Thirteen <u>Topics</u></p> <p>A. Definitions of Urbanism (C2, 3) B. Origin and Evolution of Cities (C2, 3) 1. Historical patterns of urbanization 2. Rural-Urban migration and urban growth 3. Global Cities and Megacities 4. Models of Urban systems C. Functional character of contemporary cities (C2, 3) 1. Changing employment mix 2. Changing Demographic and social structures D. Built environment and Social space (C2, 3) 1. Comparative models of internal city structure 2. Transportation and infrastructure 3. Political organization of urban areas 4. Urban planning and design 5. Patterns of race, ethnicity, gender, and class 6. Uneven development, ghettoization, and gentrification 7. Impacts of suburbanization and edge cities E. *Asia (C4) 1. Political and Physical Characteristics 2. Economic Characteristics 3. Cultural Characteristics</p> <p><u>Assignments and Assessments</u></p> <p>A. Readings • Rubenstein, James R. "Introduction to Human Geography," Chapters 13 B. Assignments 1. Timed Writing (C1-3) 2. Lab Work ▪ Central Place Theory (C2, 4) ▪ Models of Urban Development (C1-4) C. Assessments 1. Quizzes ▪ Map Quiz (C1) ▪ Vocabulary Quiz (C1) ▪ Reading Quiz (C1) 2. Unit 7 Test (C1-4)</p>	<p>10 extended block sessions</p> <p>Note: Time adjusted as necessary based on scheduled date for AP & SOL tests</p>
<p>Review and <u>AP Test & SOL Test</u></p>		<p>1 to 2 weeks 2 to 5 extended block sessions (based on AP & SOL test dates)</p>
<p>WG 1-12</p>	<p><u>Unit 8: Independent Study Project</u></p>	<p>2 to 3 weeks 5 to 7 extended block sessions (based on AP & SOL test date)</p>
<p>Semester Exam</p>		<p>1 day 1 extended block session</p>