AP® Human Geography at our school is a year-long course designed to meet or exceed the experience of an introductory one-semester college human geography course. The purpose of the course is to utilize geographic processes to systematically study and understand spatial patterns that are evident in the world in which we live.

Course Materials


Organization of Course

In this course students will meet every other day for a 95-minute block period. Students use interactive notebooks as an organizational and learning tool for the course. The notebooks include activities, vocabulary, key concepts, and questions for each unit and will be turned in the day of each unit exam. Unit exams include a 35-45 minute timed multiple-choice section, followed by a 45-minute free-response section that usually involves answering two essay questions. Each unit also includes either an in-class or online Socratic discussion. Each semester the course includes a field study. The field study in the first semester is trip to a regional mall to apply regionalization and cultural landscape principles. Second semester students participate in a full-day urban field study that helps them synthesize concepts from many units (population, economic, culture, and urban).

Course Outline (by unit)

I. What is Geography? *Geography—Its Nature and Perspectives* [C1]
   Reading Fellman Chapter 1: Introduction: Some Background Basics
   A. Historical development of the discipline

C1—The course provides a systematic study of human geography including the following topics outlined in the AP Human Geography Course Description:

- Nature of and Perspectives on Geography
- Population
- Cultural Patterns and Processes
- Political Organization of Space
- Agricultural and Rural Land Use
- Industrialization and Economic Development
- Cities and Urban Land Use
B. Defining “human geography”
C. Basic concepts of geography
D. Methods and skills of geography
E. Thinking Geographically—Level 4 Analysis [C2] posing and answering geographic questions—Field Study Park Meadows Mall

II. Population Unit [C1]
Population Research Project
Socratic Seminar: Population Policies
A. Population Patterns
   1. Factors of growth: rates and averages
   2. Historical patterns of growth
   3. Contemporary patterns and regional variations of demographic data i.e., fertility, mortality, and health [C4]
      Demographic transition
   4. Population policies—role of women
B. Population Distribution
   1. Spatial patterns: global, regional, local [C3]
   2. Demographic trends: case studies
   3. Spatial variations in factors of growth
C. Population Movement
   1. Push and pull factors of migration
   2. Major voluntary and involuntary migrations
   3. Contemporary migrations
   4. Local migrations and activity space
   5. Migration to and within the U.S.

III. Cultural Patterns and Processes [C1]
Reading: Fellmann, Chapter 2: “Roots and Meaning of Culture”
Fellmann, Chapter 5: “Language and Religion”
Fellmann, Chapter 6: “Ethnic Geography”
Fellmann, Chapter 7: “Folk and Popular Culture”

A. Culture and Culture Traits
1. Defining culture: material, nonmaterial, traits, complexes
2. Cultural diffusion and change
   Applied Activity: Kuby, Chapter 3: “Tracking the AIDS Epidemic: Diffusion through Space and Time”
3. Major culture regions and realms
   Socratic Seminar: Acculturation or Assimilation

B. Cultural Diversity—Four-Level Analysis for Each Topic
   1. Languages
   2. Religions—religion research project
   3. Ethnicity
   4. Popular culture/folk culture
   5. Perceptions of natural hazards

C. Cultural landscapes
   Applied Activity: Kuby, Chapter 2: “Layers of Tradition: Culture Regions at Different Scales”
   1. Culture and the environment
   2. Culture and group identity—values and preferences
   3. Culture and conflict
   4. Sense of place

IV. Economic Systems and Patterns
Reading Fellmann, Chapters 8–9: “Livelihood and Economy”
Fellmann, Chapter 10: “Patterns of Development and Change”
Socratic Seminars:
   • Effects of development on the environment
   • Agriculture

A. Economic Structure/Development
   1. Economic sectors / trends
   2. Measuring development—variations in levels of development
      Applied Activity: Kuby, Chapter 7: “From Rags to Riches: The Dimensions of Development”
   3. Core periphery
   4. Economic and development models

B. Agriculture and Rural Land Use
   1. Origins and spread of agriculture
   2. Major agricultural regions
   3. Linkages and flows of products
   4. Commercial agriculture
   5. Science and agriculture

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**C3** — The course teaches spatial relationships at different scales ranging from the local to the global.

**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.

**C1** — The course provides a systematic study of human geography including the following topics outlined in the AP Human Geography Course Description:
   • Nature of and Perspectives on Geography
   • Population
   • Cultural Patterns and Processes
   • Political Organization of Space
   • Agricultural and Rural Land Use
   • Industrialization and Economic Development
   • Cities and Urban Land Use
Applied Activity: Kuby, Chapter 8: “Food for Thought: The Globalization of Agriculture”

C. Rural land use/settlement patterns
   1. Land use models
   2. Energy and intensification of land use
   3. Rural activity and environmental issues

D. Industrialization
   1. Origins and spread of industrialization
   2. Major industrial regions
   3. Industrial location models
   4. Deindustrialization
   5. Industrialization and quality of life

E. Global Economy
   1. Trade and transportation patterns
   2. Shifting patterns of production
   3. Transnationals and outsourcing
   4. Interdependence and competition

V. Urban Geography
   — Urban Field Study — Light Rail — Littleton, Englewood, LODO

A. Patterns of Urbanization
   1. Global: rates and regions
   2. National: growth and decline
   3. Local: urban sprawl

B. Evolution of Cities
   1. Defining an urban place: site, situation, form
   2. Models of urban location and structure
      Applied Activity: Kuby, Chapter 9: “Take Me Out to the Ball Game: Market Areas and the Urban Hierarchy”
   3. Urban hierarchies

C. Patterns within the city – Urban Field Study Lite Rail
   1. Internal structure – models of cities
      Applied Activity: Kuby, Chapter 10: “Reading the Urban Landscape through Census Data and Field Observation”
   2. Demographic and social patterns
   3. Transportation and infrastructure
4. Political organization and urban planning

D. Patterns Beyond the City
   1. Megacities and conurbations
   2. Suburbanization and edge cities

VI. Political Geography [C1]
Reading: Fellmann, Chapter 12: “The Political Ordering of Space”

A. Nations and States
   1. Drawing boundaries: global, national, local [C3]
   2. Effects of size and shape
   3. Centripetal and centrifugal forces

B. Contemporary Political Patterns
   1. Historical development of boundaries and states
   2. Colonialism and neocolonialism
   3. Internal order: national and subnational governance

C. Cooperation and Conflict
   1. Alliances
   2. Devolution/Supranationalism
   3. Conflicts

VII. Review for AP Human Geography Exam