



# AP Human Geography (APHG)

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The AP Human Geography course is aimed to provide the student with a learning experience equivalent to that obtained in a college introductory human geography courses.

The AP Human Geography curriculum is targeted for the college-bound student. The year-long course will count as a one-credit general social studies elective. Concurrent or past enrollment in English 9 is required. In addition, it is highly recommended that a grade of C or better was earned in your previous English class.

The purpose of the Human Geography course is to introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, uses, and alterations 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 study of Human Geography is both *historical* and *contemporary*. Therefore, it is essential that students remain aware of what is happening in the world. It is suggested that regular reading of newspapers and news magazines as well as the regular viewing of news broadcasts be maintained throughout the course.

## COURSE UNITS

The curriculum for this two-semester AP<sup>®</sup> Human Geography course consists of topics drawn from seven interrelated units of study outlined in the *AP Human Geography Course Description* booklet published by the College Board.

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

Week 1-3

Rubenstein, Chapter 1

### **Overview:**

Students will examine the basic concepts essential for geographic understanding. Students will gain perspective on how geographers understand location, environment, and arrangement of human activities in space - the where, why, and significance of human settlement and activities.

- History of geography as a science

- Exploration of space, place, region, and scale using the map
  - Local scale
  - Regional scale
  - Global scale
- Introduction to the modern techniques of geography
  - GIS
  - GPS
  - Remote sensing

## Unit II: Population (13-17%)

Week 4-8

Rubenstein, Chapter 2 - 3

### Overview:

Students will explore population globally, nationally, and locally. The students will demonstrate knowledge of the demographic transition model; why populations grow or decline in different regions. They will evaluate the migration process and the push-pull factors that cause individuals and groups to migrate or stay in a particular location. i.e. residential mobility. Additionally, students will study the demographics of population as it relates to age, gender, religion, and ethnicity.

- Density and Distribution
- Population Growth
- Population Movement (Push – Pull)

## Unit III: Cultural Patterns and Processes (13-17%)

Week 9-13

Rubenstein, Chapter 4 - 7

### Overview:

Students will use ethnicity, language, and religion maps to see how various cultures are dispersed around the world. A key component of this unit is for students to evaluate the processes leading to the diffusion of cultures around the world and its influence on different regions, countries, and communities alike. By the end of the unit students will be able to examine the affect that various cultures had on the environment and how different cultural patterns are expressed through art and architecture.

- Popular Culture

- Trends and Patterns
- Influence of Cultures – Diffusion
- Cultural Differences
  - Language
  - Religion
  - Ethnicity
- Cultural Landscapes & Cultural Identity

## Unit IV: Political Organization of Space (13-17%)

Week 14-19

Rubenstein, Chapter 8 – 9

### Overview:

In this unit students will use maps both current and historic to study the world's political boundaries. This unit focuses on disputes that resulted worldwide as a result of political boundaries. Moreover, students will realize the difficulty that lies in solving environmental problems that cross national borders.

- Influence of Colonialism
- Political Organization of Territory – Boundaries
- Nation-state

## Semester Review: Includes Units I-IV

Week 20

----- End of Semester -----

Exam Week 21

## Semester II

## Unit V: Agricultural and Rural Land Use (13-17%)

Week 22-24

Rubenstein, Chapter 10

### Overview:

Students will explore characteristics of agricultural regions around the world, its impact on the quality of life, and the onset of agricultural revolutions. Attention will be given to activity including fishing, forestry, nomadic herding, ranching, plantation agriculture, mixed crop/livestock systems, market gardening, horticulture, and factory farms.

- Origins of Agricultural Revolution
- Agricultural Regions
- Rural Land Use
- Economic Difficulties
- Commercial Farming; Von Thunen Model

## Unit VI: Industrialization and Economic Development (13-17%)

Week 25-28

Rubenstein, Chapter 11

### Overview:

Students will gain insight to the value of natural resources to different societies worldwide. Throughout this unit we will address and compare the growth and expansion of various economies. Attention will be given to developed versus developing nations, the use and conservation of resources, and standard of living and quality of life.

- Value of Natural Resources
- Economic Inequality
  - Developed v. Developing Countries
  - Aggressive Economies – Southwest Asia
- Location of Industries World Wide

## Unit VII: Settlement and Services

Week 29-31

Rubenstein, Chapter 12

### Overview:

Students will understand the three service sectors of the economy; consumer services, business services and public services. The focus will be on four key issues:

- Where did services originate?
  - Types and origin of services, and services available in rural settlements.
- Why are consumer services distributed in a regular pattern?

- Central Place Theory
- Introduction to market area analysis
- Hierarchy of services and settlements
- Why do business services locate in large settlements?
  - World cities
  - Hierarchy of business services
  - Economic base of settlements
- Why do services cluster downtown?
  - Central Business District (CBD) concept
  - Suburbanization of services.

## Unit VIII: Cities and Urban Land Use (13-17%)

Week 32-34

Rubenstein, Chapter 13

### Overview:

Throughout this unit we will focus on the location of cities (site and situation), the political, economic and cultural functions of cities and their effect on the cities growth. We will delve into the infrastructure of cities as it relates to transportation, education, and communication linkages amongst cities. Finally, we will address land use, demographics, and the cultural values of a variety of cities.

- Urban Structure Models
- Growth of Cities – Site and Situation
- Rural v. Urban
- Demographics
- Infrastructure

## AP Human Geography Exam: Includes Units I-VIII

- [http://wps.prenhall.com/esm\\_rubenstein\\_humangeo\\_8/20/5326/1363606.cw/index.html](http://wps.prenhall.com/esm_rubenstein_humangeo_8/20/5326/1363606.cw/index.html)