

AP[®] Human Geography

Teacher's Guide

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connect to college success[™]
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The College Board: Connecting Students to College Success

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Welcome Letter from the College Board

Dear AP[®] Teacher:

Whether you are a new AP teacher, using this AP Teacher's Guide to assist in developing a syllabus for the first AP course you will ever teach, or an experienced AP teacher simply wanting to compare the teaching strategies you use with those employed by other expert AP teachers, we are confident you will find this resource valuable. We urge you to make good use of the ideas, advice, classroom strategies, and sample syllabi contained in this Teacher's Guide.

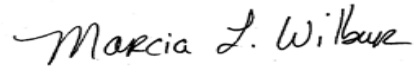
You deserve tremendous credit for all that you do to fortify students for college success. The nurturing environment in which you help your students master a college-level curriculum—a much better atmosphere for one's first exposure to college-level expectations than the often large classes in which many first-year college courses are taught—seems to translate directly into lasting benefits as students head off to college. An array of research studies, from the classic 1999 U.S. Department of Education study *Answers in the Tool Box* to new research from the University of Texas and the University of California, demonstrate that when students enter high school with equivalent academic abilities and socioeconomic status, those who develop the content knowledge to demonstrate college-level mastery of an AP Exam (a grade of 3 or higher) have much higher rates of college completion and have higher grades in college. The 2005 National Center for Educational Accountability (NCEA) study shows that students who take AP have much higher college graduation rates than students with the *same* academic abilities who do not have that valuable AP experience in high school. Furthermore, a Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS, formerly known as the Third International Mathematics and Science Study) found that even AP Calculus students who score a 1 on the AP Exam are significantly outperforming other advanced mathematics students in the United States, and they compare favorably to students from the top-performing nations in an international assessment of mathematics achievement. (Visit AP Central[®] at apcentral.collegeboard.com for details about these and other AP-related studies.)

For these reasons, the AP teacher plays a significant role in a student's academic journey. Your AP classroom may be the only taste of college rigor your students will have before they enter higher education. It is important to note that such benefits cannot be demonstrated among AP courses that are AP courses in name only, rather than in quality of content. For AP courses to meaningfully prepare students for college success, courses must meet standards that enable students to replicate the content of the comparable college class. Using this AP Teacher's Guide is one of the keys to ensuring that your AP course is as good as (or even better than) the course the student would otherwise be taking in college. While the AP Program does not mandate the use of any one syllabus or textbook and emphasizes that AP teachers should be granted the creativity and flexibility to develop their own curriculum, it is beneficial for AP teachers to compare their syllabi not just to the course outline in the official AP Course Description and in chapter 3 of this guide, but also to the syllabi presented on AP Central, to ensure that each course labeled AP meets the standards of a college-level course. Visit AP Central[®] at apcentral.collegeboard.com for details about the AP Course Audit, course-specific Curricular Requirements, and how to submit your syllabus for AP Course Audit authorization.

As the Advanced Placement Program[®] continues to experience tremendous growth in the twenty-first century, it is heartening to see that in every U.S. state and the District of Columbia, a growing proportion of high school graduates have earned at least one grade of 3 or higher on an AP Exam. In some states, more

than 20 percent of graduating seniors have accomplished this goal. The incredible efforts of AP teachers are paying off, producing ever greater numbers of college-bound seniors who are prepared to succeed in college. Please accept my admiration and congratulations for all that you are doing and achieving.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcia L. Wilbur". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Marcia Wilbur
Director, Curriculum and Content Development
Advanced Placement Program

Equity and Access

In the following section, the College Board describes its commitment to achieving equity in the AP Program.

Why are equitable preparation and inclusion important?

Currently, 40 percent of students entering four-year colleges and universities and 63 percent of students at two-year institutions require some remedial education. This is a significant concern because a student is less likely to obtain a bachelor's degree if he or she has taken one or more remedial courses.¹

Nationwide, secondary school educators are increasingly committed not just to helping students complete high school but also to helping them develop the habits of mind necessary for managing the rigors of college. As *Educational Leadership* reported in 2004:

The dramatic changes taking place in the U.S. economy jeopardize the economic future of students who leave high school without the problem-solving and communication skills essential to success in postsecondary education and in the growing number of high-paying jobs in the economy. To back away from education reforms that help all students master these skills is to give up on the commitment to equal opportunity for all.²

Numerous research studies have shown that engaging a student in a rigorous high school curriculum such as is found in AP courses is one of the best ways that educators can help that student persist and complete a bachelor's degree.³ However, while 57 percent of the class of 2004 in U.S. public high schools enrolled in higher education in fall 2004, only 13 percent had been boosted with a successful AP experience in high school.⁴ Although AP courses are not the only examples of rigorous curricula, there is still a significant gap between students with college aspirations and students with adequate high school preparation to fulfill those aspirations.

Strong correlations exist between AP success and college success.⁵ Educators attest that this is partly because AP enables students to receive a taste of college while still in an environment that provides more support and resources for students than do typical college courses. Effective AP teachers work closely with their students, giving them the opportunity to reason, analyze, and understand for themselves. As a result, AP students frequently find themselves developing new confidence in their academic abilities and discovering their previously unknown capacities for college studies and academic success.

1. Andrea Venezia, Michael W. Kirst, and Anthony L. Antonio. *Betraying the College Dream: How Disconnected K–12 and Postsecondary Education Systems Undermine Student Aspirations* (Palo Alto, Calif.: The Bridge Project, 2003), 8.

2. Frank Levy and Richard J. Murnane, "Education and the Changing Job Market." *Educational Leadership* 62 (2) (October 2004): 83.

3. In addition to studies from University of California–Berkeley and the National Center for Educational Accountability (2005), see the classic study on the subject of rigor and college persistence: Clifford Adelman, *Answers in the Tool Box: Academic Intensity, Attendance Patterns, and Bachelor's Degree Attainment* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Education, 1999).

4. *Advanced Placement Report to the Nation* (New York: College Board, 2005).

5. Wayne Camara, "College Persistence, Graduation, and Remediation," *College Board Research Notes* (RN-19) (New York: College Board, 2003).

Which students should be encouraged to register for AP courses?

Any student willing and ready to do the work should be considered for an AP course. The College Board actively endorses the principles set forth in the following Equity Policy Statement and encourages schools to support this policy.

The College Board and the Advanced Placement Program encourage teachers, AP Coordinators, and school administrators to make equitable access a guiding principle for their AP programs. The College Board is committed to the principle that all students deserve an opportunity to participate in rigorous and academically challenging courses and programs. All students who are willing to accept the challenge of a rigorous academic curriculum should be considered for admission to AP courses. The Board encourages the elimination of barriers that restrict access to AP courses for students from ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic groups that have been traditionally underrepresented in the AP Program. Schools should make every effort to ensure that their AP classes reflect the diversity of their student population.

The fundamental objective that schools should strive to accomplish is to create a stimulating AP program that academically challenges students and has the same ethnic, gender, and socioeconomic demographics as the overall student population in the school. African American and Native American students are severely underrepresented in AP classrooms nationwide; Latino student participation has increased tremendously, but in many AP courses Latino students remain underrepresented. To prevent a willing, motivated student from having the opportunity to engage in AP courses is to deny that student the possibility of a better future.

Knowing what we know about the impact a rigorous curriculum can have on a student's future, it is not enough for us simply to leave it to motivated students to seek out these courses. Instead, we must reach out to students and encourage them to take on this challenge. With this in mind, there are two factors to consider when counseling a student regarding an AP opportunity:

1. Student motivation

Many potentially successful AP students would never enroll if the decision were left to their own initiative. They may not have peers who value rigorous academics, or they may have had prior academic experiences that damaged their confidence or belief in their college potential. They may simply lack an understanding of the benefits that such courses can offer them. Accordingly, it is essential that we not gauge a student's motivation to take AP until that student has had the opportunity to understand the advantages—not just the challenges—of such course work.

Educators committed to equity provide all students in a school with an understanding of the benefits of rigorous curricula. Such educators conduct student assemblies and/or presentations to parents that clearly describe the advantages of taking an AP course and outline the work expected of students. Perhaps most important, they have one-on-one conversations with the students in which advantages and expectations are placed side by side. These educators realize that many students, lacking confidence in their abilities, will be listening for any indication that they should not take an AP course. Accordingly, such educators, while frankly describing the amount of homework to be anticipated, also offer words of encouragement and support, assuring the students that if they are willing to do the work, they are wanted in the course.

The College Board has created a free online tool, AP Potential™, to help educators reach out to students who previously might not have been considered for participation in an AP course. Drawing upon data based on correlations between student performance on specific sections of the PSAT/NMSQT® and

Equity and Access

performance on specific AP Exams, AP Potential generates rosters of students at your school who have a strong likelihood of success in a particular AP course. Schools nationwide have successfully enrolled many more students in AP than ever before by using these rosters to help students (and their parents) see themselves as having potential to succeed in college-level studies. For more information, visit <http://appotential.collegeboard.com>.

Actively recruiting students for AP and sustaining enrollment can also be enhanced by offering incentives for both students and teachers. While the College Board does not formally endorse any one incentive for boosting AP participation, we encourage school administrators to develop policies that will best serve an overarching goal to expand participation and improve performance in AP courses. When such incentives are implemented, educators should ensure that quality verification measures such as the AP Exam are embedded in the program so that courses are rigorous enough to merit the added benefits.

Many schools offer the following incentives for students who enroll in AP:

- Extra weighting of AP course grades when determining class rank
- Full or partial payment of AP Exam fees
- On-site exam administration

Additionally, some schools offer the following incentives for teachers to reward them for their efforts to include and support traditionally underserved students:

- Extra preparation periods
- Reduced class size
- Reduced duty periods
- Additional classroom funds
- Extra salary

2. Student preparation

Because AP courses should be the equivalent of courses taught in colleges and universities, it is important that a student be prepared for such rigor. The types of preparation a student should have before entering an AP course vary from course to course and are described in the official AP Course Description book for each subject (available as a free download at apcentral.collegeboard.com).

Unfortunately, many schools have developed a set of gatekeeping or screening requirements that go far beyond what is appropriate to ensure that an individual student has had sufficient preparation to succeed in an AP course. Schools should make every effort to eliminate the gatekeeping process for AP enrollment. Because research has not been able to establish meaningful correlations between gatekeeping devices and actual success on an AP Exam, the College Board **strongly discourages** the use of the following factors as thresholds or requirements for admission to an AP course:

- Grade point average
- Grade in a required prerequisite course
- Recommendation from a teacher

- AP teacher’s discretion
- Standardized test scores
- Course-specific entrance exam or essay

Additionally, schools should be wary of the following concerns regarding the misuse of AP:

- Creating “Pre-AP courses” to establish a limited, exclusive track for access to AP
- Rushing to install AP courses without simultaneously implementing a plan to prepare students and teachers in lower grades for the rigor of the program

How can I ensure that I am not watering down the quality of my course as I admit more students?

Students in AP courses should take the AP Exam, which provides an external verification of the extent to which college-level mastery of an AP course is taking place. While it is likely that the percentage of students who receive a grade of 3 or higher may dip as more students take the exam, that is not an indication that the quality of a course is being watered down. Instead of looking at percentages, educators should be looking at raw numbers, since each number represents an individual student. If the raw number of students receiving a grade of 3 or higher on the AP Exam is not decreasing as more students take the exam, there is no indication that the quality of learning in your course has decreased as more students have enrolled.

What are schools doing to expand access and improve AP performance?

Districts and schools that successfully improve both participation and performance in AP have implemented a multipronged approach to expanding an AP program. These schools offer AP as capstone courses, providing professional development for AP teachers and additional incentives and support for the teachers and students participating at this top level of the curriculum. The high standards of the AP courses are used as anchors that influence the 6–12 curriculum from the “top down.” Simultaneously, these educators are investing in the training of teachers in the pre-AP years and are building a vertically articulated, sequential curriculum from middle school to high school that culminates in AP courses—a broad pipeline that prepares students step-by-step for the rigors of AP so that they will have a fair shot at success in an AP course once they reach that stage. An effective and demanding AP program necessitates cooperation and communication between high schools and middle schools. Effective teaming among members of all educational levels ensures rigorous standards for students across years and provides them with the skills needed to succeed in AP. For more information about Pre-AP[®] professional development, including workshops designed to facilitate the creation of AP Vertical Teams[®] of middle school and high school teachers, visit AP Central.

Advanced Placement Program
The College Board

Participating in the AP Course Audit

Overview

The AP Course Audit is a collaborative effort among secondary schools, colleges and universities, and the College Board. For their part, schools deliver college-level instruction to students and complete and return AP Course Audit materials. Colleges and universities work with the College Board to define elements common to college courses in each AP subject, help develop materials to support AP teaching, and receive a roster of schools and their authorized AP courses. The College Board fosters dialogue about the AP Course Audit requirements and recommendations, and reviews syllabi.

Starting in the 2007-08 academic year, all schools wishing to label a course “AP” on student transcripts, course listings, or any school publications must complete and return the subject-specific AP Course Audit form, along with the course syllabus, for all sections of their AP courses. Approximately two months after submitting AP Course Audit materials, schools will receive a legal agreement authorizing the use of the “AP” trademark on qualifying courses. Colleges and universities will receive a roster of schools listing the courses authorized to use the “AP” trademark at each school.

Purpose

College Board member schools at both the secondary and college levels requested an annual AP Course Audit in order to provide teachers and administrators with clear guidelines on curricular and resource requirements that must be in place for AP courses and to help colleges and universities better interpret secondary school courses marked “AP” on students’ transcripts.

The AP Course Audit form identifies common, essential elements of effective college courses, including subject matter and classroom resources such as college-level textbooks and laboratory equipment. Schools and individual teachers will continue to develop their own curricula for AP courses they offer—the AP Course Audit will simply ask them to indicate inclusion of these elements in their AP syllabi or describe how their courses nonetheless deliver college-level course content.

AP Exam performance is not factored into the AP Course Audit. A program that audited only those schools with seemingly unsatisfactory exam performance might cause some schools to limit access to AP courses and exams. In addition, because AP Exams are taken and exam grades reported after college admissions decisions are already made, AP course participation has become a relevant factor in the college admissions process. On the AP Course Audit form, teachers and administrators attest that their course includes elements commonly taught in effective college courses. Colleges and universities reviewing students’ transcripts can thus be reasonably assured that courses labeled “AP” provide an appropriate level and range of college-level course content, along with the classroom resources to best deliver that content.

For more information

You should discuss the AP Course Audit with your department head and principal. For more information, including a timeline, frequently asked questions, and downloadable AP Course Audit forms, visit apcentral.collegeboard.com/courseaudit.

Preface

What is AP Human Geography? Be prepared to answer that question again and again! AP Human Geography was established through the efforts of a small, unique group of geographers whose vision was ahead of their time and destined to influence generations to come. At first, those outside this close-knit geography community struggled to understand AP Human Geography; but once teachers and students began to explore the subject together, they came away with a new and exciting view of the world.

To truly understand the world today, it must be viewed within a spatial context. Yet, this perspective is foreign to most high school students, especially those in North America. In the National Geographic-Roper 2002 Global Geographic Literacy Survey, only 17 percent of Americans aged 18 to 24 could find Afghanistan on a map. Only 13 percent could find Iraq or Iran on a map of the Middle East and Asia, and only 14 percent could locate Israel (this survey can be found on the *National Geographic* Web site at www.nationalgeographic.com/geosurvey). Obviously, this speaks volumes about the current state of geographic education in North America. Our position, simply stated, is that although North Americans seem to have skirted studying geography in the twentieth century, this behavior must change as we face increasing globalization in the twenty-first century.

Today, with technology as a driving force, the world has become smaller—for example, North America's physical geography no longer presents a barrier to acts of war. The successes and failures of North America are intertwined with those of the rest of the world, which makes AP Human Geography an essential course for U.S. students. It helps them view the world from a spatial perspective. This spatial context, or the *where* and *why* things occur, is at the core of the course.

Since its inception, the course has experienced tremendous growth, with teachers and administrators listening intently to the tune of AP Human Geography. More than 14,000 students took the AP Human Geography Exam in 2005 (a 35 percent increase over 2004), and that number promises to grow. We hope that this Teacher's Guide will foster its continued expansion by providing new teachers of AP Human Geography with access to the resources they need for the course, and administrators with an understanding of the course's intent. Our goal is for new AP Human Geography teachers to be able to pick up and thumb through this guide, find what they need, and get to work on their course. Features that may be especially helpful include:

- The course's goals and topics as stated in the *AP Human Geography Course Description*
- A discussion of the key concepts and skills in the Course Description
- Advice about creating a syllabus
- Syllabi developed by other human geography instructors
- Tips for preparing students for the AP Human Geography Exam
- Where to find more teacher resources

As you prepare your course, we encourage you to use the resources within this book, as well as those offered by the College Board on the AP Human Geography Course Home Page on AP Central

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(apcentral.collegeboard.com/humangeo). Attend teachers' workshops, join the electronic discussion group, talk to your colleagues, and participate in the annual AP Reading. We look forward to meeting each and every one of you!

Paul Gray



Greg Sherwin



A Note from the Authors

Although we were not members of the founding AP Human Geography Development Committee, we both quickly became involved in the course by attending College Board workshops and applying to become AP Readers. As high school teachers, we found a network of geographers at both the high school and college levels who were passionate about this course. With each successive meeting we gained knowledge, received lesson plan ideas, and made professional connections with educators throughout North America. Teaching this course has been the most enriching professional development of our careers. We have met some of the brightest geographers in the country, who have shared their ideas and solicited ours. In turn, we have tried to share our enthusiasm and experience with as many people as possible by speaking at workshops and conferences throughout the country.

In addition to participating in every Reading, we are fortunate to have had many other enriching experiences. We both joined the AP Human Geography Development Committee in 2003 and hold leadership positions at the Readings. We believe that these experiences have helped us view the course and exam from many different perspectives. In this book we share with you the insights we have gained over the years, and our hope is that you, too, will catch the fever.

We are indebted to a number of people who directly and indirectly shared their wisdom, ideas, syllabi, and experience for this publication. They provided us with direction, which is the essence of geography. Specifically, we would like to thank Barbara Hildebrant of ETS for her guidance and patience.

We also thank the administrators at Russellville High School in Russellville, Arkansas, and Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, Illinois, for their support and encouragement as we embraced this opportunity to promote geographic education. At Russellville High School, Principal Wesley White and Assistant Principal Margaret Robinson have been patient and accommodating at every point. At Stevenson High School, Dr. Timothy Kanold, Superintendent; Mr. Dan Galloway, Principal; Ms. Janet Gonzalez; Mr. Eric Twadell; and Mr. Chris Franken have all directly supported this opportunity for professional growth. Both schools understand that the pursuit of educational excellence benefits greatly from encouraging professional development.

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About AP[®] Human Geography

Overview: Past, Present, Future

Patricia Gober
Arizona State University
Chair, Development Committee

Geography's name dates back 2,200 years to the Greek scientist Eratosthenes, who combined the words *geo*, "the earth," and *graphein*, "to write about," to describe a field devoted to the study of the physical structure of Earth's surface and the human activities upon it. Greek, and later Roman, geographers measured Earth, developed a grid of latitude and longitude, and described patterns of climate, landforms, vegetation, people, and culture. Geography was also practiced by the ancient Chinese and later by Muslim scholars, who sought to explore and describe the world in physical and human terms.

The founders of modern geography, Alexander von Humboldt (1769–1859) and Carl Ritter (1779–1859), used the flood of new observations about the world generated by the Age of Exploration to produce massive syntheses describing interconnections among phenomena grouped together in rich diversity on the surface of Earth. Their work was followed by the Age of Specialization during the nineteenth century when geography became an independent field of study in universities, first in Germany and then spreading rapidly to France and other European countries as well as to the United States. The pioneer of American geography is generally acknowledged to be William Morris Davis, who was appointed instructor of physical geography at Harvard in 1878; he later founded the Association of American Geographers in 1904.

Geography as a scientific field and course of study waxed and waned in the United States with war, demographic forces, changing social values, competition from cognate disciplines, and the strength and orientation of the discipline itself. The number of geography bachelor's degrees awarded at American colleges and universities peaked around 1970 as the first wave of the baby boom generation graduated from college, declining thereafter as students gravitated to fields like biology, geology, and business. At its nadir in the late 1980s, geography produced only two-thirds of the number of majors it had at its earlier peak.

Geography reemerged as a field of study in higher education in the 1990s with the public's growing unease about the state of geographic illiteracy. In addition, public attention shifted to environmental and international problems, and the discovery of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and other spatial technologies provided geographers with highly marketable skills and a pipeline to jobs in the burgeoning information economy. In the midst of geography's renaissance in the United States, in 1996 the College Board, a national not-for-profit membership association dedicated to facilitating the transition from high school to college, added geography to its Advanced Placement Program (AP).

To prepare for the course and exam, state geographic alliances offered training for potential AP Human Geography teachers. This was no small task, as several generations of Americans lacked the formal training needed to teach geography. Historians and social studies teachers stepped up to be taught the fine

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points of college-level geography. This task was particularly challenging because most college instructors stress geography's spatial approach and eschew subject matter as an organizing principle for their courses. Thus, the new cadre of AP Human Geography teachers had to grapple with both the new subject matter and the idea of geography as a new way of organizing knowledge about the world.

Now, after five years of administering exams and nine years of preparing teachers for and educating the field about AP Human Geography, we have a clearer picture of what this course means for geography and of the challenges that lie ahead. AP Human Geography has increased the number of students who arrive at colleges and universities with high-level geographic training. For the first time in several generations, geographers report that incoming majors and incoming students know and can use rudimentary geographic ideas like site versus situation, scale, region, world systems theory, and the demographic transition. When asked on the 2003 AP Exam, almost 22 percent of the AP Human Geography students said they had some interest in majoring in geography. If just half of the 22 percent in the 2003 cohort become geography majors, the discipline will have 800 additional majors, not a trivial number for a field that typically produces only 4,000 bachelor's degrees annually.

AP Human Geography's growth in popularity occurs at a time when government officials, the scientific community, and the general public increasingly look to geography's rich tradition of synthetic studies and knowledge about Earth to address complex, global-scale, environmental, economic, and social problems. Geography's new information technologies foster the integration of knowledge about land use change, urbanization, migration, the spread of disease, human-induced climate change, ecosystem dynamics, biodiversity, and Earth surface processes. Americans are more aware than ever that their country's well-being is linked to global markets, international political developments, and far-flung environmental issues. There is, in addition, unprecedented interest in building healthy and sustainable neighborhoods and communities at the local level. This fundamental interest in places, from global to local, dovetails nicely with geography's long-standing expertise in exploring, describing, and understanding Earth's surface in both physical and human terms. The discipline's ideas are at the core of America's increasingly interdisciplinary scientific enterprise, and its content and spatial perspective are vital to a well-informed citizenry.

AP Human Geography faces serious challenges as we strive for wider implementation. Geography is not taught at elite private colleges like Harvard; competition for student enrollment from community colleges is strong; and many college geographers are not aware of the significance of the course or its exam. However, AP Human Geography represents an opportunity for geography to rejoin the mainstream of core university subjects and expand its role in American education. The course exposes the smartest and most motivated students in the nation to geography, produces more prepared students entering university, and generates new geography majors. AP Human Geography teachers gain professional development opportunities, enroll in additional college courses, mix with fellow geographers at the annual summer AP Reading during which the AP Exams are scored, and become the cheerleaders who will help the discipline meet its future challenges.

Course Description Essentials

What is Human Geography?

Human geography is the study of where humans and their activities and institutions such as ethnic groups, cities, and industries are located and why they are there. Human geographers also study the interactions of humans with their environment and draw on some basic elements of physical geography.

Few people—the general public and students alike—think about their daily experiences in geographic terms. That is not to say that the general public or our students do not know anything geographic;

it is simply that they may not recognize geography when they see it. For example, looking for and thinking about cultural imprints on the landscape, such as how Hispanic markets or religious institutions affect their environments, is geography. Locational questions like “Why is the interstate highway where it is?” or “Why do most Indonesians practice Islam?” are geographic questions with geographic answers. These are just two examples of how we can use the world around us in classroom lessons.

The AP Human Geography Course

Human Geography was officially introduced into the Advanced Placement Program in the fall of 2000. The first exam was administered in May 2001, with 3,293 students from 309 high schools accepting the challenge. AP Human Geography has experienced steady growth since 2001, with 14,139 students from 702 high schools taking the exam in 2005. This growth translates into great news for geography education. The direction of the course is governed by the AP Human Geography Development Committee, which is composed of three university professors, three high school teachers, a university professor who serves as the Chief Reader, and an assessment specialist from ETS. This team also works together to design a rigorous, comprehensive, and equitable exam.

A number of studies are conducted to ensure that the AP Human Geography course is current, the exam is valid, and the scores are comparable to college-level grades. Periodically, the committee develops and administers a curriculum survey that is sent to colleges and universities that include human geography among their course offerings. The committee reviews the responses and makes revisions to the *AP Human Geography Course Description* based on the results. A college comparability study is administered to a sample of college classes in the initial year of a new AP Exam and again every five years. In this study, a portion of the AP Exam is administered to college students enrolled in human geography courses. Their scores are compared with AP scores, and score boundaries are set so that an AP score of 5, for example, is equivalent to a college grade of A.

Introduction to the Course

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 considered 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:

- *Use and think about maps and spatial data.* Geography is fundamentally concerned with the ways in which patterns on Earth’s surface reflect and influence physical and human processes. As such, maps and spatial data are fundamental to the discipline, and learning to use and think about them is critical to geographical literacy. The goal is achieved when students learn to use maps and spatial data to pose and solve problems, and when they learn to think critically about what is revealed—and what is hidden—in different maps and spatial arrays.
- *Understand and interpret the implications of associations among phenomena in places.* Geography looks at the world from a spatial perspective—seeking to understand the changing spatial organization and material character of Earth’s surface. One of the critical advantages of a spatial perspective is the attention it focuses on how phenomena are related to one another in particular places. Thus students should learn not just to recognize and interpret patterns but also to assess the

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nature and significance of the relationships among phenomena that occur in the same place and to understand how tastes and values, political regulations, and economic constraints work together to create particular types of cultural landscapes.

- *Recognize and interpret at different scales the relationships among patterns and processes.* Geographical analysis requires a sensitivity to scale—not just as a spatial category but also as a framework for understanding how events and processes at different scales influence one another. Thus, students should understand that the phenomena they are studying at one scale (e.g., local) may well be influenced by developments at other scales (e.g., regional, national, or global). They should then look at processes operating at multiple scales when seeking explanations of geographic patterns and arrangements.
- *Define regions and evaluate the regionalization process.* Geography is concerned not simply with describing patterns but also with analyzing how these patterns came about and what they mean. Students should see regions as objects of analysis and exploration and should move beyond just locating and describing regions to considering how and why they come into being—and what they reveal about the changing character of the world in which we live.
- *Characterize and analyze changing interconnections among places.* At the heart of a geographical perspective is a concern with the ways in which events and processes operating in one place can influence those operating in other places. Thus, students should view places and patterns not in isolation, but in terms of their spatial and functional relationship with other places and patterns. Moreover, they should strive to be aware that those relationships are constantly changing, and they should understand how and why change occurs.

The course outline was constructed by the inaugural Development Committee and is revised and updated every two years by the current committee. These revisions and adjustments are made to reflect changes in the field or to clarify concepts or topics. They also occur as a result of issues related to student responses to questions on the AP Human Geography Exam. The topic outline, reproduced below, is a breakdown of these content areas paired with the percentage of the AP Exam multiple-choice questions that cover each area. Concerted efforts are made by the Development Committee to ensure that AP Human Geography Exam questions reflect the topics covered in the topic outline.

It is the AP Human Geography teacher's responsibility to transform students' daily thinking processes into speculating, interpreting, and applying everyday experiences with preexisting knowledge through the lens of geography. If the teacher helps students develop these thought processes, the geographic models, theories, and concepts will naturally follow. Teachers who work closely with the Course Description will have an easier time facilitating the development of student thought processes. Therefore, following the topic outline is vitally important. It should also be noted that teachers should augment their instruction by using a number of the human geography textbooks that are available in addition to their students' assigned classroom text. This practice ensures that students are exposed to the wide array of necessary content areas.

Key Concepts and Skills

The key concepts and skills for the AP Human Geography course are described in the seven content areas discussed in the Course Description. In summary, these areas are:

1. Geography: Its Nature and Perspectives
2. Population
3. Cultural Patterns and Processes

4. Political Organization of Space
5. Agricultural and Rural Land Use
6. Industrialization and Economic Development
7. Cities and Urban Land Use

Topics

Any teacher, and especially new AP Human Geography teachers, should spend a great deal of planning time becoming familiar with the topics outlined in the Course Description. A fundamental piece of the puzzle is *how to think about geography*. Geography sits at the junction of social science, physical science, humanities, and technology. It is essential to look at the topic outline and see geography as a way of thinking. For example, to think geographically, ask yourself, “Can I map it? What are the spatial implications? How are places affected?” The following annotated list of the seven content areas in the topic outline is intended to give new teachers ideas for ways to approach the teaching of these geographical concepts and skills.

I. Geography: Its Nature and Perspectives

Although this section of the course is composed of introductory material and accounts for only 5 to 10 percent of the AP Exam, it can be challenging for AP Human Geography teachers because it contains important geographic concepts: due to its definitional nature, the new geography teacher may have difficulty presenting this material in a manner that students can easily grasp. However, the concepts of location, space, place, scale, pattern, regionalization, and globalization are fundamental to the study of geography, and this section of the course is compulsory. Subsequent sections will provide many opportunities to apply these tools and concepts, thus reinforcing students’ understanding of them. Students learn how to use and interpret maps and to understand the role of mental mapping.

II. Population

If a poll were taken among geography teachers, the population section would probably garner the course’s “most popular” award. Many teachers feel particularly comfortable teaching population issues because they cut across many disciplines. The population section allows students to revisit previous lessons about slavery, migration, or environmental hazards, for example, but this time from a geographical perspective. The process of migration can be demonstrated by using students’ own residential histories or neighborhoods. The interconnections between population and other geographic topics enhance students’ understanding of today’s world. Web sites that offer teachers and students current population data provide opportunities for students to map and/or graph population trends and issues.

III. Cultural Patterns and Processes

The geography of culture is rich with opportunities for students to explore the world on many different scales, from local to global. Schools and communities that are ethnically, religiously, and linguistically diverse offer many occasions for teaching about culture. There are many ways to make the cultural material in the course come to life for students—teachers can identify for students examples of folk culture in the local community, or use photographs to illustrate the homogeneity of the landscape caused by popular culture. They can check signage and phone books for evidence of past migrations through the local area, or they can visit local religious institutions. Teachers in a rural setting or a small town might want to partner with a local arts organization or historical preservation group. The key is to use local cultural dynamics to illustrate the concepts in the topic outline.

IV. Political Organization of Space

This unit allows teachers to discuss political forces that strengthen and weaken states as players on the world stage. Teaching the political organization of space may provide some challenges for AP Human Geography teachers because students may need to relearn the meanings of terms like *nation* and *state*. Although colonialism, imperialism, gerrymandering, alliances, and devolution are all topics with which students may have had some experience, those with a history background are often confused by the differences between a nation, a state, and a nation-state, as used in geography. This part of the course focuses on political units above, below, and beyond the state: regional alliances like the EU and NAFTA, international cooperation, and local issues related to electoral districts, municipal boundaries, and ethnic territories. The key to this unit mirrors that of all of the others: helping students understand these ideas and concepts in a spatial context.

V. Agricultural and Rural Land Use

Most teachers have little or no training in teaching about agriculture, but with a bit of effort and some creative field trips, teachers and students can become well acquainted with the geography of agriculture. Agricultural models and movements come alive with local examples and good textbook resources. Of course, the Web offers a great deal of information useful for instructional purposes. Where possible, teachers should try to visit local industries that process agricultural products. They can cultivate fruitful relationships with key people in these industries, which in turn will provide new opportunities to help students connect models with the real world. Topics in this unit explore four basic themes: (1) the origin and diffusion of agriculture, (2) its characteristics in different parts of the world, (3) rural land use and settlement patterns associated with major agricultural systems, and (4) characteristics of modern agribusiness. All of these themes emphasize concepts and models that help explain diffusion, agricultural location (the von Thünen model), and culture.

VI. Industrialization and Economic Development

This section centers on the spatial aspects of economic systems and the geography of industrialization and development. The concepts and models in this unit are more theoretical in nature and provide significant challenges for students. Most high school students have a limited understanding of supply and demand, bid rent, and other economic ideas. Students need to understand how models of economic development like Rostow's stages of economic growth and Wallerstein's World Systems Theory help to explain why the world is described as being divided into a well-developed core and a less-developed periphery. Teachers will need to strive to connect such theories to the real world, using hands-on approaches that are essential to helping students grasp this demanding material. This will provide them with the tools they need to understand how models of economic development explain concepts of core and periphery, globalization, and the new international division of labor. Students also study the impact of deindustrialization, the disaggregation of production, and the rise of consumption and leisure activities.

VII. Cities and Urban Land Use

Students who live in an urbanized area obviously find the urban material easier to “see.” But students in small towns can connect with urban models and concepts if their teacher downsizes the models to fit their locale. For example, the teacher can talk about bid rent and the central business district (CBD) of a small town. Students can compare the cost of land at the CBD and at the outskirts of town. Teachers should go on a walking tour of their town or city with students. There are geographic treasures to find regardless of size.

The Topic Outline

The topic outline below is the skeleton around which each teacher fleshes out the course through the use of textbooks, Web sites, journals, observations, and possibly fieldwork or class trips. Teachers should be sure to note the percentage goals included in the topic outline for each of the seven content areas on the multiple-choice section of the AP Exam. These percentages are approximate but provide guidance in deciding how much class time to spend on each content area. Note that the topic outline is included as a guide to topics in human geography and is not an exhaustive list of topics. The topics are updated every two years.

<i>Content Area</i>	<i>Percentage Goals for Exam (Multiple-Choice Section)</i>
I. Geography: Its Nature and Perspectives A. Geography as a field of inquiry B. Evolution of key geographical concepts and models associated with notable geographers C. Key concepts underlying the geographical perspective: location, space, place, scale, pattern, regionalization, and globalization D. Key geographical skills 1. How to use and think about maps and spatial data 2. How to understand and interpret the implications of associations among phenomena in places 3. How to recognize and interpret at different scales the relationships among patterns and processes 4. How to define regions and evaluate the regionalization process 5. How to characterize and analyze changing interconnections among places E. New geographic technologies, such as GIS and GPS F. Sources of geographical ideas and data: the field, census data	5–10%
II. Population A. Geographical analysis of population 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 B. Population growth and decline over time and space 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 5. Effects of population policies	13–17%

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- C. Population movement
 - 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
- III. Cultural Patterns and Processes 13–17%
 - A. Concepts of culture
 - 1. Traits
 - 2. Diffusion
 - 3. Acculturation
 - 4. Cultural regions
 - B. Cultural differences
 - 1. Language
 - 2. Religion
 - 3. Ethnicity
 - 4. Gender
 - 5. Popular and folk culture
 - C. Environmental impact of cultural attitudes and practices
 - D. Cultural landscapes and cultural identity
 - 1. Values and preferences
 - 2. Symbolic landscapes and sense of place
- IV. Political Organization of Space 13–17%
 - A. Territorial dimensions of politics
 - 1. The concept of territoriality
 - 2. The nature and meaning of boundaries
 - 3. Influences of boundaries on identity, interaction, and exchange
 - B. Evolution of the contemporary political pattern
 - 1. The nation-state concept
 - 2. Colonialism and imperialism
 - 3. Federal and unitary states
 - C. Challenges to inherited political–territorial arrangements
 - 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

- V. Agricultural and Rural Land Use 13–17%
 - A. Development and diffusion of agriculture
 - 1. Neolithic Agricultural Revolution
 - 2. Second Agricultural Revolution
 - B. Major agricultural production regions
 - 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
 - C. Rural land use and settlement patterns
 - 1. Models of agricultural land use, including von Thünen’s model
 - 2. Settlement patterns associated with major agriculture types
 - D. Modern commercial agriculture
 - 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
- VI. Industrialization and Economic Development 13–17%
 - A. Key concepts in industrialization and development
 - B. Growth and diffusion of industrialization
 - 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
 - C. Contemporary patterns and impacts of industrialization and development
 - 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
- VII. Cities and Urban Land Use 13–17%
 - A. Definitions of urbanism
 - B. Origin and evolution of cities
 - 1. Historical patterns of urbanization
 - 2. Rural–urban migration and urban growth
 - 3. Global cities and megacities
 - 4. Models of urban systems

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- C. Functional character of contemporary cities
 - 1. Changing employment mix
 - 2. Changing demographic and social structures
- D. Built environment and social space
 - 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

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Advice for AP Human Geography Teachers

Every teacher knows that developing and teaching a new course can be a daunting task. Developing an AP course presents several additional challenges, and AP Human Geography is no exception. However, committed teachers can be successful in their efforts—and once begun, teachers will find that AP Human Geography is a special course, one that students will sell to their younger peers because the course is simply that good.

What makes AP Human Geography so different? Put simply, geographers view everything as geography and geography as everything! Human geography covers diverse topics that are of interest to most students. It delves into population, religion, urban development, agriculture, economics, politics, disease, urban planning, and many other interesting topics that are studied through a geographic lens.

Teachers who take on the course often find that it is their most exciting and enthusiastic class. But before getting started, several issues must be addressed to ensure success for both teachers and students.

Basic Start-Up Issues

Fitting AP Human Geography into the Curriculum

Unfortunately, most states do not require students to take any geography after the seventh grade. This puts the prospective AP Human Geography teacher in the position of having to become an advocate and a salesperson for the course. One of the teacher's most difficult but vital tasks will be finding a place in the school's curriculum for the course.

Some teachers wedge AP Human Geography into the curriculum by demonstrating the course's value from a social sciences perspective. Others explain how this course fits into their school's existing requirements for graduation. In many cases, the course is taught as an elective. Although every teacher knows it can be difficult to get students to sign up for new and unknown electives, selling this course as an especially interesting elective is not the impossible task it might seem. In many schools in which it is offered as an elective, AP Human Geography has become the most popular course in the social sciences department. In fact, in some schools AP Human Geography outdraws AP U.S. History and AP World History! AP Human Geography is a course that many students will want to take, given a couple of years of successful recruiting and teaching.

Educate your school's administrators and counselors about the value of geography in an ever-changing and globalizing world. Geography becomes real and exciting through application and analysis. Real-world applications allow teachers to show to administrators and parents, as well as students, that everything is geography and geography is everything. Prospective AP Human Geography teachers can demonstrate

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the linkages the course can provide to any social science curriculum as well as the possible community resources that can be tapped for added context.

Most towns and all cities have a planning commission and a sewage treatment facility, the kinds of places where concepts of urban geography come alive. Is there a museum, church, mosque, synagogue, or Hispanic market in your area? If so, opportunities for applying the concepts of cultural geography are readily available. Do students live in a farming area or near agricultural processing plants? Great! They can apply the models and theories of agricultural geography to real cases. You get the idea. No matter where one teaches, there are wonderful opportunities to *apply* geography. All it takes is some imagination to demonstrate to administrators and parents that AP Human Geography is a special course and deserves a seat at the curriculum table.

AP Human Geography is one of the most important courses students can take in their high school careers because it prepares them to succeed in the real world. This course goes beyond rote memorization and forces students to be analytical and evaluate problems that relate to themselves. Use your communities' particular issues to light the spark in your students. Push them to think spatially through maps, theories, and models. This is a skill that employers are thirsting for. Teach the individual units but interweave them with discussions of world issues. This course, by its nature, connects real-life issues with theories. Use outside resources like the Internet and field trips to reinforce key points. Keep time constraints in mind but know that students are benefiting tremendously. Find the balance between teaching to the test and learning for learning's sake. Geography is the key to our future. Give your students the power to open the door.

—Kelly Swanson, Johnson Senior High School,
St. Paul, Minnesota

Any teacher who truly desires to have a successful AP Human Geography course must be an enthusiastic recruiter. Recruitment can take several forms. You can design a colorful brochure that details what the course offers in terms of content and skills. Aim the brochure at students and parents or guardians, with students being the primary consumers. Another approach is to create, advertise, and then present the course at an AP Social Sciences Parent Night. Coordinating this meeting with the other teachers in your department will help you get started with course planning while learning valuable information from your colleagues. The best outcome of an AP Parent Night is that parents get reliable information about the rigors of AP work and the value of the AP Human Geography course. As a result, you will establish important communication lines with parents. Working with your school counselors is yet another way to ensure success with a new course. Often it is a counselor who suggests that a student take a particular course. When counselors understand AP Human Geography and the benefits it offers, they can direct students into the course.



A typical AP Human Geography student discussion group at Russellville High School in Russellville, Arkansas.

If your school has few or no AP courses, you'll first have to educate everyone about the AP Program. To impart the necessary information about the AP Program in general and the AP Human Geography course in particular, talk with students (and counselors) at feeder schools. The students coming to your school may not know about the opportunities the AP Program offers. If they do not know about AP, they certainly will not know about AP Human Geography. Just remember, it is the teacher's enthusiasm and determination that shapes the success of the AP Human Geography course.

Starting the Course

Teachers should be ready to address administrators' and counselors' concerns about beginning a course that does not directly fit into the curriculum and therefore may have low enrollment. Many schools have scheduling policies that do not allow a course to be taught with an enrollment of fewer than 10 students. To get the course off the ground, then, it may be necessary to ask your administrators and/or counselors for a three-year waiver of this policy. Explain to administrators that getting an AP Human Geography course started takes more time than it does for other new AP courses, and that the teacher needs greater flexibility in order to build up the course's enrollment. For example, teachers and administrators should not be discouraged if only five students sign up the first year the course is offered. For many schools, the tipping point seems to be between the second and third years. If the teacher is willing to lay the proper groundwork and be an enthusiastic recruiter, enrollment in the course will rise.

I obtained a waiver from my district's Secondary Curriculum Coordinator to begin an AP Human Geography course and teach it with fewer than 10 students for three years. The first year I had 7 students sign up for the course. The second year 9 students took the course. The third year 33 students took the course. Sixty-nine students took the course the fourth year, and over 70 are signed up for the fifth year.

—Paul Gray, Russellville High School,
Russellville, Arkansas

The AP Coordinator

The AP Coordinator takes primary responsibility for organizing and administering the AP program at a given school. The Coordinator may be a full- or part-time administrator or counselor, or a faculty member who is not teaching an AP course. The Coordinator agrees to maintain the security of exams when managing the receipt, distribution, administration, and return of AP Exam materials as outlined by the College Board and the AP Program. To avoid any perceived conflict of interest, an AP Coordinator cannot be involved in the handling of any exam materials that an immediate family or household member may take. Questions about exam fees and security, dates and deadlines, giving exams to students with special needs, and exam-specific policies should be directed to your AP Coordinator.

One or Two Semesters?

The question of whether the course should be taught in one semester or two is best answered by the response, "It depends." Block scheduling, teacher training, previous geography offerings, the age of the students, and state mandates are just some of the possible considerations the AP Human Geography teacher must take into account before designing the course.

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Teaching AP Human Geography on a block schedule requires a flexible approach to creating the syllabus. In theory, block scheduling allows teachers the time to develop more in-depth lesson plans. The 80-minute periods are great—there is time for at least two separate activities during each day of teaching. This is critical because each unit must be taught in approximately two to three weeks in order to meet the requirements of the course.

The gap between the course's end and the exam date is a reality that must be addressed so that students can perform successfully on the exam. Unfortunately, the reality of block scheduling is that missing one class for other school activities means the loss of more than one day of teaching. If the option is available, it is best to teach the course in the first semester, although extra sessions throughout the second semester will need to be scheduled to build up to the AP Exam in May. If the course is scheduled for the second semester, over a month of vital instructional time is lost because of the timing of the exam. In this case, the course must be carefully planned to cover all of the material that is necessary for the exam.

—Kelly Swanson, Johnson Senior High School,
St. Paul, Minnesota

I am teaching AP Human Geography on a block schedule and find that it works best when I divide the period in half. In the first half, I introduce the topic (e.g., *Language*) through lecture and discussion. During the second half of the period, students complete an activity that reinforces the lecture topic. For example, I have two activities for the language section: an in-class supplemental reading on languages followed by a discussion period, and data collection, with the creation of a choropleth map depicting the word used for soda pop in different regions of the United States. Splitting the class period in half seems to minimize “down time” that a block schedule can engender. Any leftover time (usually five minutes or less) is given to students to begin reading their homework assignment on the next topic.

—Summer Copeland, Lyman High School,
Longwood, Florida

Almost everyone agrees that the yearlong approach is preferable to a single-semester one, and more advantageous overall. AP Human Geography is a challenging course with concepts that will be new to most students. The more time that is available to present the material, the better it will be for both teachers and students. Advantages to the yearlong approach to teaching AP Human Geography include more available time to:

- introduce, explain, and have students master complex geographic models and concepts;
- include field trips, some hands-on projects, and possibly geographic research; and
- begin intensive review sessions for the AP Exam (teachers using a yearlong format will be able to finish the course two to three weeks before the AP Exam in May).

A school may have a schedule, however, that permits only the one-semester format. Although many veteran teachers will testify that the one-semester approach is extremely taxing even under the best conditions, it *can* work under the following circumstances:

- the teacher has at least one degree in geography (or an extremely strong background in the discipline);
- geography is mandated in the state at several levels, with AP Human Geography being the culminating course;

- the students are juniors and seniors (preferably only seniors) and/or *highly motivated* sophomores; or
- the schedule and/or administrators dictate that AP Human Geography must be taught in one semester.

Let us assume that the fourth bullet point above is true. How can a beginning AP Human Geography teacher successfully teach the course in one semester? First, be comforted by the fact that many veteran AP Human Geography colleagues started the course under identical circumstances. Seek them out and glean from them every available resource, technique, and piece of advice. Second, carefully read this *Teacher's Guide* and implement the strategies that appeal to you. Know that condensing a two-semester syllabus into one semester is common practice, as is scheduling after-school, evening, or weekend AP Exam study sessions in the spring. Third, make sure to get as much training as possible. Finally, remember that the teacher is the most important factor in determining whether an AP Human Geography course will survive its first few years. A teacher's enthusiasm, determination, and willingness to be a "geo-evangelist" can make up for deficits in other areas.

Teachers and Parents

Parents and guardians are the most valuable partners and resources for any AP teacher. Parents want to provide the support that translates into success for their AP student. The key to a successful parent-teacher partnership is information and communication. The normal communication channels of phone calls, conferences, and notes are effective, but other methods can provide even more opportunities and benefits.

Automated Phone Messaging Systems

If your school has an automated phone system, find out how you can use this valuable tool. The AP Human Geography teacher can set up a phone list for the course's students and make one mass call to remind them (and inform their parents) of upcoming exams, project due dates, and other major assignments. You can also use this system to invite parents to an AP Parent Night to learn about other AP offerings in your department.

E-mail Lists

E-mail lists work much the same way as the automated phone messaging system but with more personalization options. E-mail also allows you to attach actual assignments to the messages so that parents can see exactly what is expected.

AP Social Sciences Parent Night

An AP Social Sciences Parent Night, or a larger schoolwide AP Night, is an opportunity for teachers to showcase AP courses and what they offer students. More importantly, they give parents a chance to learn about the expectations, opportunities, and curriculum of all AP offerings in general and your course in particular. Prospective students should be encouraged to attend with their parents. The most effective parent nights have breakout sessions in which individual courses are highlighted.

What can the AP Human Geography teacher do to help ensure a successful AP Parent Night?

- **Choose the best time to hold the event.** Schedule the AP Parent Night with input from counselors and administrators. They can provide guidance with course sign-up dates and other scheduled activities. You might even be able to hold your AP Parent Night in conjunction with another well-attended meeting.

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- **Advertise the event.** You will want to advertise your event effectively. Design a flyer and be creative about how it is disseminated. School bulletin boards are only one of many places to put your flyer. Send it home with students who have already signed up for the course. Send it to the feeder schools that will be sending freshmen to your high school the next year. Give it to the counselors at your school and the feeder schools. Give it to students who did not sign up for an AP course but who you know can do the work (you may be able to change their minds if you invite them personally to take your course). Attach it to e-mail messages. There is no limit to the ways in which you can use a flyer to advertise an AP Parent Night.
- **Talk about the course.** Bring your textbook, copies of your syllabus, and other related handouts to AP Night. Use your breakout session to highlight the expectations, assignments, and demands of the course. Be sure to demonstrate how relevant AP Human Geography is in today's world and how geography connects all the other social science disciplines. Allow time for questions from parents because there will be many.
- **Describe your summer assignment.** If you give a summer assignment, the AP Parent Night provides the perfect opportunity to explain it and its due dates to both students and parents. It also gives students the chance to get a head start on the assignment.
- **Discuss the school's AP course policies.** Use the AP Parent Night to detail school policies about dropping an AP course during the summer. After all, summer assignments become the first grades of the new school year. Schools have different policies on what happens to grades when students drop an AP course during the summer and sign up for another level (e.g., honors, general, etc.) of the same offering.

AP Forms or Contracts

Most teachers want to make sure students and parents or guardians understand the rigor of AP courses. One way to give students and their parents the information they need is through a form or a contract. Here are a few suggestions for developing one:

- **Set the right tone.** Design any form or contract with language and format that are positive and encouraging—do not use the form or contract as a way to scare off undecided students. The basic premise for every AP form or contract should be to promote open access.
- **Explain the policies.** Detail your school's policies and expectations for all AP students. Specific items can include attendance policies, grading scales, drop/add rules, honors graduation requirements and behavior.
- **Request signatures.** Be sure parents or guardians read and sign the form or contract along with the student. After all, they are key to the student's success. The form or contract, when signed, creates a partnership between the teacher, student, and the parent or guardian.

Relations with Other Teachers

In a perfect world every AP teacher would be able to partner with every other AP teacher. But, as teachers, we know that school campuses may be spread out, schedules may conflict, and school cultures may be challenging. And, because we teach different disciplines between departments and different courses within departments, collaboration can be difficult and sometimes impossible. Nevertheless, the AP Human Geography teacher can work effectively with AP teachers of other subjects in several ways.

AP courses are all designed to deliver high-level content material using skills such as researching, listening, writing, collaboration, and countless others. You can work with other AP teachers, as well as school staff and instructors who do not teach AP courses, to promote this idea to students in every venue in the school. Make sure that information about AP courses is readily available to students and their parents. Collaborate with other AP teachers so that all of you are talking about these skills in every AP classroom and at every AP Parent Night. If all AP students hear a common message from every AP teacher in the school, that message will become the standard. As you become more familiar with your school's AP program and the AP Human Geography course, you will begin to see other commonalities among the disciplines that can also be highlighted.

Instructors who are not teaching AP courses can also be a source for recruitment. Ask them to recommend potential students for your course; and once word gets out, you'll find that teachers from your school and feeder schools come to you without being asked. Teachers and school staff understand that the high-level skills that students learn in AP courses can make a difference in all the students' courses and provide a positive example to their fellow classmates.

If your school has an AP Social Sciences Vertical Team, be sure to get a seat at the table. AP Vertical Teams allow teachers of the Pre-AP years to work with high school AP teachers. Here, teachers can align their curriculum, devise a scope and sequence, and decide where skills should be taught, retaught, and mastered. The most important aspect of Vertical Teams is the input AP teachers receive from teachers in the lower grades. Your team's support will help you recognize you're not the only person invested in AP students—these students are an amalgam of all their previous teachers and subjects. Vertical Teams bring this out like nothing else.

Finally, every AP teacher, regardless of discipline or department, can talk about the importance and benefits of taking the AP Exam. Of course, every AP teacher knows that the essential value of any AP course is in the skills and knowledge the course offers, but taking the AP course also allows students to experience a rigorous, college-level exam. The exam gives students feedback on how well they have prepared, and it gives teachers valuable data that can help them determine areas of strength and weakness in the syllabus. When discussing the importance of the AP Exam, give your students an analogy: Taking an AP course and not taking the exam is like the football team practicing all year but playing no games. Encourage all of your AP students to get in the game.

Strategies and Suggestions

It's June. Ms. Jones (the eminent geography teacher in our district) has retired, and I've been told I must teach AP Human Geography in August.

OR

AP Human Geography will be offered as a new course in my district and I'm told in June that I'll be teaching the course in August.

OR

It's September and I'll be teaching AP Human Geography next August. What should I do in the next 11 months to get ready to teach this course?

The first two scenarios are not unusual, and the challenge is often compounded by the fact that most of the teachers who are selected to teach their school's AP Human Geography course have degrees in history and

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political science, not geography. Being directed to teach the AP Human Geography course may create fear and anxiety about the many unknowns. The good news is that you have been directed by your supervisor to teach one of the most exciting courses in the AP Program. It will not take long for you (and your students) to be rewarded by the rich curriculum of AP Human Geography.

If you have several months before you begin to teach the course, as in the third scenario above, you'll have the luxury of time for planning each step of your training and preparation. You can enroll in a graduate course in geography, become active in your state's geographic alliance, write specific lessons plans, take a few field trips to find possible activities for your students, and so on. However, if you have two months or less to prepare for the course, read on.

You have been told that you will begin teaching AP Human Geography starting in two months. Now what? You are already ahead of the game because you are reading this book, which is directed to first-year AP Human Geography teachers. Chapter 3 gives you a place to start planning. It contains syllabi submitted by experienced AP Human Geography teachers; syllabi that have been used successfully in the classroom. Select the syllabus that best fits your needs and teaching style, or meld parts of two or three of the syllabi with your own ideas to form a more personalized syllabus.

Next, go to the AP Human Geography Course Home Page on AP Central at apcentral.collegboard.com/humangeo. Here you will find a plethora of information about the course and exam, which will provide you with further guidance. Also, refer to other publications for AP Human Geography, articles, teacher resources, and Web sites that are suggested on AP Central and the course's home page.

Since your school has directed you to teach the course, it may also be planning to send you to an AP Human Geography Summer Institute or workshop (see the "Professional Development" section in Chapter 5). If one of these opportunities is offered to you, make sure to attend. If you are not offered training, talk to your supervisor about attending. A list of institutes is available on AP Central, at your College Board Regional Office, in the National Council for Geographic Education's *Perspective* newsletter, or through your state's geographic alliance.

Finally, subscribe to the AP Human Geography Electronic Discussion Group (EDG). There are hundreds of teachers online who are happy to answer your general to very specific questions on all aspects of preparing for and teaching the course. These teachers are always eager to help our newest members become part of a growing and collegial community. (See below for more information about the EDG and how to join.)

Choosing a Textbook

Currently, there are at least eight widely available textbooks that are suitable for the AP Human Geography course (see chapter 5 for a list). Select one text to use with your students and then supplement it with information from other textbooks. Studying different approaches to similar topics enriches your—and your students'—understanding of the concepts.

One way to provide students with exposure to different texts is to purchase a classroom set of textbooks. A classroom set lends itself to doing in-class activities. Be creative in funding these texts. Ask local civic organizations or businesses to sponsor the purchase of one or more books and offer to place their logo on the front of each. Be sure to publicize what the organization or business has done for your classroom. You can also contact major publishing houses and ask for review copies for as many as they will give. Another way to acquire other textbooks is to attend an AP Human Geography Summer Institute or College Board workshop. Supplement your chosen text by lecturing on important topics found in texts

other than that of your students. You might also use information from other texts to design computer exercises or lesson strategies for your students. Present these in class, make them technology-centered assignments, or assign them as projects or extended homework.

Summer Reading Assignments

I find that having students read a book (their choice from a list provided) over the summer helps them get a sense of what the AP Human Geography course is about before the course begins in the fall. Books range from general geography guides such as *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Geography* and *Don't Know Much about Geography* to the more in-depth studies of geographical ideas found in *Guns, Germs, and Steel*; *Fast Food Nation*; *Cod*; and *Longitudes and Attitudes*, for instance. The complete list, rationale, and grading guidelines for my summer reading assignment can be found on the AP Human Geography Course Home Page under the *Teaching Resource Materials* heading.

—Kenneth Keller, Danbury High School,
Danbury, Connecticut

Summer reading assignments in AP courses tend to be the norm. However, there is a great deal of variation among course offerings as to the nature of specific summer assignments. AP Human Geography is no exception. Some teachers see no need for any summer assignment since AP Human Geography is a three-hour course (as opposed to AP World History, which is a six-hour course). Other teachers see merit in giving students a summer assignment. Since geography is not a required course in most states, any introduction to human geography before the course starts will help students begin to think geographically. Still others see a summer assignment as absolutely mandatory. This may be to maintain uniformity with their school's other AP offerings, or it may be simply a teacher's desire to use high-level reading and thinking as an introduction to the course. As usual, to read or not to read over the summer should come down to a teacher's comfort level and experience, and school policy.

As an alternative to a summer reading assignment (which is impractical for my students), I have modified an activity created by Martha Sharma (see below). On the second or third day of the term, I assign the essay "Sense of Place," from *Ten Geographic Ideas That Changed the World*. I ask students to read the selection and then write a paper in which they apply the key concepts to either a book they have read or a place they have visited. Students who choose to write about a book must show how the author established a sense of place; students who write about a place they have visited must describe how what they saw, heard, or experienced on the trip aided in the identification of the place. This exercise helps students think "geographically" and to observe a familiar place, either in a book or a location, in a different way.

—Debra Lange, A&M Consolidated High School,
College Station, Texas

Sample Summer Reading Assignment

This summer reading assignment was created by Martha Sharma, a retired AP Human Geography teacher from the National Cathedral School in Washington, D.C. Looking ahead to the fall, she asked the students enrolled in her course to read an essay and one book from a list she gave them. The essay was assigned to all students before reading the book; students could choose any book from the list to read.

Required Essay: The essay is "Sense of Place," by Edward Relph. It can be found in *Ten Geographic Ideas That Changed the World*, edited by Susan Hanson, a geography professor at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts (New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 1997).

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Free-Choice Book: One of the abiding themes in human geography is *sense of place*, the topic of the required essay. To that end, the books in the following list evoke a strong sense of place, are rich in description of place, and leave you with a strong sense of what that place is like in terms of both tangible and intangible characteristics. You can fulfill this reading requirement with almost any type of book that you enjoy reading: fiction, nonfiction, serious, humorous, even detective/mystery or science fiction. The key is the author's ability to create a rich picture of a place using words.

Nonfiction

Angus, Colin, and Ian Mulgrew, *Amazon Extreme* (Brazil)
Bryson, Bill, *A Walk in the Woods* (Appalachian Trail)
Crane, George, *Bones of the Master* (Mongolia)
Ehrlich, Gretel, *This Cold Heaven* (Greenland)
Elliot, Jason, *An Unexpected Light* (Afghanistan)
Gallmann, Kuki, *I Dreamed of Africa* (Kenya)
Heat-Moon, William Least, *Blue Highways* (United States)
Hessler, Peter, *River Town* (China)
Jenkins, Peter, *Across China* (China)
Lansing, Alfred, *Endurance* (Antarctica)
Larson, Erik, *Isaac's Storm* (Galveston, Texas)
Lopez, Barry, *Arctic Dreams* (Canadian Far North)
Nzenza-Shand, Sekai, *Songs to an African Sunset* (Zimbabwe)
Taylor, Jeffrey, *Facing the Congo* (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
Webster, Fred, and Marie S. Webster, *The Road to El Cielo* (Mexico)
Zeppa, Jamie, *Beyond the Sky and the Earth* (Bhutan)

Fiction

Cather, Willa, *Death Comes for the Archbishop* (New Mexico)
Grisham, John, *A Painted House* (United States)
Hillerman, Tony, any of his books set in New Mexico
L'Amour, Louis, *Last of the Breed* (Siberia)
LaPierre, Dominique, *City of Joy* (Calcutta)
Stewart, George, *Earth Abides* (United States)

Your Assignment: When we think about a place, any place, we visualize more than just location; we also think about what that place contains—or what we *think* that place contains. Geographers refer to this mental picture as *sense of place*. The essay “Sense of Place,” by Edward Relph, explores this idea in some detail. For your free-choice summer reading, you selected a book that evokes a strong sense of place. Use your understanding of sense of place as you complete this assignment:

Write a 500- to 750-word typed and double-spaced essay. The first paragraph should be a concise synopsis of the book. Develop the rest of your essay around the following:

- How does the author create a sense of place?
- What spatial concepts does the author use to create a sense of place? (Refer to the basic concepts handout.)
- Select two or three short quotes from the book that illustrate the sense of place painted by the author (include parenthetical page references).
- How well does the author create a “well-defined geographical sense of place” as defined by Relph on pages 212 and 222 in his essay?

Field Trips

First and foremost, please understand that field trips are not necessary for your students to be successful on the AP Human Geography Exam. The Development Committee does not ask questions that only students who have had field trip experience can answer. Having said that, field trips can be a wonderful way to make real the textbook's concepts, models, and ideas.

Try to find field trip opportunities that play to your local resources and advantages. For example, if your school is in an urban area, try to take a field trip from the central business district out to the suburbs. This field trip can be done in reverse if your school is in a suburb. The urban models, development issues, migration, “white flight,” ethnic issues, and other urban topics will come alive for your students. If you teach in a rural or town setting, take a field trip to a farm or agricultural processing plant. Here your students will see the geographic issues in their own back yard. Agribusiness, organic agriculture, and Thünian patterns are just a few items for discussion on a field trip.

Of course, there are many other possible field trips. The key is to be creative and do your homework. Many factories, such as poultry processors, will allow you to tour their facilities. Please note that a great deal of planning can be required. For example, many large food processors are now under the protection of the Homeland Security Act of 2002. These facilities will require paperwork, releases, and other documents to be signed before you and your students enter. You will also need to prepare students for what they will see on a field trip. Have them brainstorm about possible questions to ask. Field trips are much more effective if students are thinking about the issues they are engaging in, rather than simply “looking out the window” or walking about the city. Finally, make sure you scout out the field trip before you take your students. This will provide you with a framework from which to teach the important issues you want your students to learn from the experience.

Professional Development Opportunities

AP Human Geography Summer Institutes and Workshops

An AP Human Geography Summer Institute is highly recommended for new AP teachers. Institutes are run by veteran AP Human Geography teachers who present the latest research and best practices in teaching geography. Teachers of all levels of experience attend, and new teachers have the most to gain. Here teachers learn tips for teaching the course as well as content material from experts who have already taught it or from university professors in the field. AP Human Geography teachers can get additional training at College Board–sponsored one- or two-day workshops. See the Professional Development section of chapter 5 for more information on AP Summer Institutes and workshops.

Professional Organizations

Two organizations can provide support for the new AP Human Geography teacher: the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) and the teacher's state geographic alliance. NCGE is an organization made up of K–12 teachers and college and university faculty. It has one main purpose: to advance geographic education. In this organization, instructors work side by side to promote geography and geographic education. It is this collegial activity from all levels of academia that makes NCGE truly special. New AP Human Geography teachers should join NCGE to take advantage of the annual conference (and its popular field trips); its *Journal of Geography, Perspective* newsletter, and other publications; and the many networking opportunities among its membership. See chapter 5 for contact information.

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Geographic Alliances

One of the best resources available to many AP Human Geography teachers is their state's geographic alliance. State alliances are the result of an initiative from the National Geographic Society and they are active in each state with Summer Institutes, online discussion groups, publications, grants, workshops, teacher training, travel opportunities, written lesson plans, and teacher consultants who can help beginning teachers. In fact, many state alliances sponsor AP Human Geography Summer Institutes. Most alliances are headquartered at a college or university in the state. Go to www.ngsednet.org to access the individual home pages for each state's alliance.

Regional Offices

The College Board's Regional Offices offer a myriad of services and resources for AP teachers. Talking to Regional Office personnel on the phone is a way to get clarification on issues, find information about conferences, and locate resources and other materials. The most important service a Regional Office offers new AP teachers is a list of upcoming AP Human Geography institutes and workshops. Your Regional Office selects the presenters for and coordinates each of these high-quality events. It also helps teachers become College Board workshop consultants. To find your Regional Office, see the list on the inside back cover of this Teacher's Guide.

AP Central (apcentral.collegeboard.com)

The College Board developed and maintains AP Central to support professional development for AP teachers. AP Central provides teachers with a wealth of information and an online home for their course. Here teachers can search for information about professional development opportunities, purchase publications from the College Board store, send e-mail queries about the AP Program or the course to the College Board, create a personalized page with links to the content that is most important to them, visit the AP Human Geography Course Home Page for the most recent Course Description and up-to-date information about the course, and subscribe to the AP Human Geography Electronic Discussion Group (EDG) (see chapter 5).

The course home page on AP Central is where AP Human Geography teachers can find the most recent *AP Human Geography Course Description*, teaching tips, sample syllabi and lesson plans, articles related to the course, and teacher resources, as well as links to the AP Human Geography Discussion Group (EDG) and the AP Human Geography Newsletter, information about the AP Exam, and sample free-response questions and Scoring Guidelines. To get to the course home page from AP Central, go to apcentral.collegeboard.com/humangeo. See chapter 5 for more about AP Central, including the EDGs.

Chapter 3

Course Organization

Create Your Own Syllabus

One of the most daunting questions for any new teacher involves pacing: How much time should I dedicate to religion? How long should my unit on agriculture be? While experience may be the best teacher, that is not very helpful for first-time teachers. Therefore, we will share the process we went through to create a syllabus during our first year as AP Human Geography teachers and what we learned from the experience.

Since both of us were teaching the AP Human Geography course in its inaugural year, we were really working from scratch. In creating a syllabus, we allowed two things to guide us. The first and most important was the topic outline provided by the Development Committee in the *AP Human Geography Course Description*. The outline includes the seven major units, the subtopics for each unit, and the percentage of multiple-choice questions on the AP Exam that will address that topic. With our school calendars in hand, we simply allowed the same percentage of teaching days as indicated in the topic outline for each unit.

For testing purposes, we decided each unit would include one multiple-choice test and one free-response question that would take two days to administer and review. Then we looked at our second guide, the textbooks we had selected, and decided which chapters corresponded with each unit. If a chapter appeared later in the textbook but was within an earlier unit, we had our students read it within the context of the unit. This is where we allowed for some “fudge factoring,” changing the number of teaching days in a unit where needed. We expanded or contracted the teaching days originally planned by looking at the length and number of chapters relating to each topic.

What Did We Learn?

The benefit of any syllabus is that it keeps you on task. We sometimes found that, even if we had not sufficiently covered a topic in class, we had to switch gears—the syllabus forced us to move on in order to ensure that students had the opportunity to see the whole of human geography as opposed to just one topic. By following the topic outline, we made sure students received the breadth and depth that the course intended. While some students wished we had spent more time on a particular topic, they almost all agreed that they felt better for having covered all of the units without rushing at the end.

As we taught, we consistently found that lessons and activities either worked well or failed. This is part of the excitement of teaching a course for the first time; do not be discouraged by it. Spend a lot of time evaluating and reevaluating activities and lessons. Even seek suggestions from students, asking them, “What did you like about this unit? What didn’t you like?” This will help you refine your course.

Overall, our first-year experience led to two very important lessons. The first is that the students entering our classes were ill-prepared to handle the concepts of geography. They lacked geographic knowledge and understanding. Most of them had been trained in history and chronological thinking.

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Learning geography terms and spatial thinking was difficult for them. They therefore struggled in the first unit. In speaking with other AP Human Geography teachers, we found they had similar experiences with their students.

Based on this experience, we opted to increase the time spent on the first unit in order to lay a solid geographic foundation for our students. Essentially, we went through the first unit and even the second unit more slowly in the second year of teaching than we did during the first and then proceeded to pick up the pace, or raise the bar, as the year continued and our students more readily grasped the underlying concepts of the course. Other teachers choose to approach this problem by keeping the first unit shorter and reinforcing the concepts in subsequent units.

In hindsight, we should have been able to predict the second obstacle—the lack of prior knowledge or experience students will bring to any given unit. We teach at very different high schools: a suburban school in Chicago and a rural school in Arkansas. Chicago-based students have a geographic advantage for discussions pertaining to urban models (some of which are based on Chicago) or suburbanization. Living in an urban environment, their life experiences afford them prior knowledge or connections to the urban section of the curriculum. Hence, teaching them urban geography is easier because they “get it.” Students in rural Arkansas have a geographic advantage in agricultural geography. They understand something about poultry production before they enter the classroom; they know someone involved in agriculture and therefore they have an easier time grasping the geographic concepts of agriculture.

We both changed our approaches in urban and agricultural geography based on our students’ experiences. Agricultural geography is going to be the most difficult unit for students in suburban settings. Slowing the pace in this unit can improve their understanding. To that end, set the unit up as a challenge: “This is going to be new material. This will be harder for you because you haven’t had to think about these concepts before.” By acknowledging the hurdle, the teacher shows sympathy for the students as they strive to overcome it.

While experience may be the best teacher, there *are* ways to prepare for the first year. Hopefully, teachers can try to predict where students might have prior knowledge and where they will be lacking, adjusting the syllabus accordingly. Using the topic outline and the textbook as guides for preparing the syllabus will enhance your chances for a successful year.

Four Sample Syllabi

The following syllabi possess solid pedagogical approaches that will be useful to any teacher. The real strength of this set of syllabi is that it contains such varied approaches that one of the syllabi will probably fit your teaching style and you will be able to use it with only minor modifications to pattern your initial course. Alternately, you can pick and choose different parts from some or all of the syllabi to form your own syllabus. However you decide to proceed, you’ll have these exemplary syllabi with which to work.



AP Human Geography teacher Paul Gray and his students discuss population pyramids at Russellville High School in Russellville, Arkansas.

- **Syllabus 1** is a university syllabus written by a professor who teaches in Texas. It demonstrates what is expected in an introductory human geography course for college students. It is important to remember that you, the AP Human Geography teacher, are not teaching a college-*like* course; you are teaching a college-*level* course. It is therefore very important that you pay close attention to this university syllabus regarding its content, a benchmark to which you should aspire.
- **Syllabus 2** is a high school syllabus written by an AP Human Geography teacher in South Carolina. This syllabus will appeal to the teacher who prefers to have every day of the week well planned out. It has unit planners that show how lessons, lectures, activities, and so on can be put into a calendar format. The pedagogical techniques it offers are strong, and teacher-ready activities are included along with a handy resource list.
- **Syllabus 3** is a high school syllabus written by a teacher of AP Human Geography in Connecticut. This syllabus will appeal especially to teachers who enjoy providing many activities, though the quantity may be overwhelming for a new AP Human Geography teacher. It will help new teachers guide students through reading books, doing activities, and watching video clips, while tying the activities back to the textbook and the course outline.
- **Syllabus 4** is a high school syllabus written by a teacher in Utah who teaches the AP Human Geography course. This syllabus will appeal to teachers who are comfortable with the “big picture” approach and who have lots of their own creative ideas. It is highly innovative in nature and lends itself to the AP Human Geography teacher who wants to cover the material in a unique way. One of its main themes is teaching through the case-study approach. Like the other three syllabi, it uses student activities and strong pedagogy.

Important note: The AP[®] Course Audit

The syllabi included in this Teacher's Guide were developed prior to the initiation of the AP Course Audit and the identification of the current Curricular Requirements. These syllabi contain rich resources and will be useful in generating ideas for your AP course. In addition to providing detailed course planners, the syllabi contain descriptions of classroom activities and assignments, along with helpful teaching strategies. However, they should not necessarily be used in their entirety as models that would be authorized under the guidelines of the AP Course Audit. To view the current AP Curricular Requirements and examples of syllabi that have been developed since the launch of the AP Course Audit and therefore meet all of the AP Human Geography Curricular Requirements, please see AP Central.

<http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/courseaudit/resources>

Sample Syllabus 1

Sarah Witham Bednarz

Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas

School Location and Environment: Texas A&M University is located in a low-density urban setting in southeast Texas, roughly the same distance from Houston and Austin (120 miles) and Dallas/Fort Worth and San Antonio (180 miles). The Department of Geography is part of the College of Geosciences, along with the Departments of Atmospheric Sciences, Geology and Geophysics, and Oceanography.

Type: Texas A&M is a large Research I, land-, sea-, and space-grant university.

Total Enrollment: Texas A&M enrolls approximately 44,000 students across 10 colleges.

Ethnic Diversity: Minorities make up 14 percent of the student body. Seeking a more diverse student body is a key campus issue in a state that is 32 percent Hispanic/Latino and 12 percent African American.

Personal Philosophy

As a child and adolescent, I traveled widely in the United States and lived abroad. I was always acutely interested in the places I visited and wanted to know more about them. While studying in New Zealand, I took my first formal geography course. I knew immediately that I had found the discipline that suited my natural curiosity about people, places, and environments. I majored in geography in college and, after a career turn, received an MAT in geography the next year (1974). I have been teaching geography (picking up a Ph.D. along the way) at the middle school, high school, and university levels ever since because I believe, passionately, that geography is a vital subject that can help people become knowledgeable world citizens.

Geography for Life: National Geography Standards 1994 cites four reasons why geography is needed in the school curriculum: (1) the existential reason (humans need to understand the nature of their home); (2) the ethical reason (knowing geography can help people to protect their home); (3) the intellectual reason (humans are curious about and interested in Earth and its inhabitants); and (4) the practical reason (survival in a highly interconnected world requires knowledge of that world and the skills to solve its problems). These reasons fuel my enthusiasm for teaching geography.

Philosophy of the Department

The Department of Geography at Texas A&M is housed in the College of Geosciences. The department is committed to providing its undergraduate students with the spatial analytical skills they need to understand both physical and human systems.

Class Profile

Introduction to Human Geography (GEOG 201) is an introductory course that fulfills a social science requirement in the university's core curriculum. It is part of the degree plan for interdisciplinary education (students preparing for a career in elementary and middle school education), international studies, environmental studies, and geography. In addition, it attracts a broad range of students from a variety of majors seeking a social science course. Each semester about 450 students take the Introduction to Human Geography course. The typical class size ranges from 150 to 180 students, but it can be much larger.

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Since relatively few students enter university declaring geography as their major, this course (along with the introductory physical geography course, Earth System Science) is considered a key tool for recruiting majors. I have taught this course on a regular basis since 1989.

The course section(s) I teach are typically 1 hour and 15 minutes long on a Tuesday/Thursday schedule. A semester at Texas A&M is 14 weeks long, producing about 35 hours of class time. I schedule two tests, one during a class meeting time about midsemester and one final exam at the end of the semester. While the final exam is not comprehensive, I remind students that they should not forget the material they learned for the first exam.

Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for Introduction to Human Geography.

Course Overview

The purpose of Introduction to Human Geography is to provide students with an understanding of the spatial and ecological perspectives and key skills of geography in the context of human systems. An overarching theme throughout the semester is the formation and development of the world system. This is used to explain patterns and processes of change in different world regions. While it takes about five class periods to complete, I begin the course with an introduction to *thinking like a geographer*.

The goal is for students to begin to use the fundamental perspectives (spatial and ecological), themes (location, place, human–environment interaction, movement, and regions), and concepts (perception, change, pattern/association, systems, and scale) of geography to study the human systems of culture (including religion and language), politics, economics, and population. The class mantra becomes *Patterns? Processes? Interrelationships?*

The key ideas discussed in each topical unit can be found below in the section “Introduction to Human Geography Topics.” Despite the fact that population is the second chapter of almost all human geography texts, I find that covering it later in the course facilitates both student’s synthesis of what they have learned about culture, economics, and politics and their generalizations about patterns and processes of development and competition for scarce resources.

I think it is important to teach this course as a narrative, as a story. One key story line is that geography offers a unique perspective and set of problem-solving skills that can help students better understand the world. Since September 11, 2001, I have chosen to spend several class periods helping students to understand the world from the perspective of the development of the world system and its implications on a range of human systems, in part to explore with students the tensions that contributed to 9/11. As a result, in the last several years we have not managed to address the last two topics, urbanization and human–environment interaction, in any depth.

The textbook for the course is the third edition of *Places and Regions in Global Context: Human Geography*, by Paul L. Knox and Sallie A. Marston. I have created a Web site to support the course: geog.tamu.edu/sarah/humangeog/humangeog.html. The site consists of eight main pages:

- Syllabus
- Assignment Schedule
- Activities in Human Geography (an explanation and helpful hints for each activity)

- Update, Class News, Reminders (a place for me to communicate on a weekly basis with students)
- Tests and Study Questions
- Course Topics (objectives for each topic, outline notes, and links to additional resources)
- Geography for Life (a list of the 18 standards)
- Grades (grades are posted using a student-generated personal identification number)

Course Planner

Date	Topic	Text Readings	Activities Assigned	Deadlines
1/20	What Is Geography?	Chapter 1	Activity 1 Activity 3	
2/3	Cultural Geography	Chapter 2, pp. 42–57; Chapter 4, pp. 131–54; Chapter 5; Chapter 6	Activity 2	Activity 1 due Thursday, 2/12, at the beginning of class
2/17	Cultural Geography: Language		Activity 2 (cont.)	
2/24	Cultural Geography: Religion	Chapter 5, pp. 183–89; Chapter 6, pp. 229–31	Activity 2 (cont.)	Activity 2 due Thursday, 2/26 Exam 1 on Thursday, 3/4, on all material covered to this date, workbook activities, and all assigned readings. Bring Scantron (MARS Standards Grey).
3/23	Political Geography	Chapter 9; Chapter 12	Activity 4	
3/30	Economic Geography	Chapter 2, pp. 57–83; Chapter 7; Chapter 8	Activity 5	Activity 4 due Thursday, 4/1, at the beginning of class
4/13	Population Geography	Chapter 3	Activity 6	
March/ April	Migration (self-study) available online at geog.tamu.edu/sarah/humangeog/migration8.html			Activities 5 and 6 due Thursday, 4/15, at the beginning of class
4/20	Urban Geography	Chapter 10; Chapter 11	Activity 7	Activity 3 due Thursday, 4/22, at the beginning of class
4/27	Human Impact on the Environment	Chapter 4, pp. 154–73		Activity 7 due Thursday, 4/29, at the beginning of class
				Exam 2 on Wednesday, 5/12, 1:00–3:00 p.m., on all material covered since last test, workbook activities, and all assigned readings

Introduction to Human Geography Topics

What follow are brief descriptions of the topics discussed in the Introduction to Human Geography course. I provide this to students to help them study for exams, asking them, “Are you familiar with each concept/generalization?”

Chapter 3

Unit 1. What Is Geography?

Definitions of geography as 2 perspectives (spatial and ecological), 5 themes (location, place, human–environment interaction, movement, and regions), 5 amplifiers (pattern, perspective, scale, change, and systems), and 18 national standards. Developing a sense of *where*. Issues of scale: understanding the world from the local scale to the global. Developing a fluency in considering issues and problems at a variety of scales—local to global, core to periphery.

Unit 2. Cultural Geography

Definitions of culture: mentifacts, sociofacts, artifacts; institutions, beliefs, technology, language. Collectivist versus individualist cultures: distribution, characteristics. Using these definitions of culture to explain world culture patterns, including variations in gender roles. Culture change: independent invention and diffusion. Diffusion of culture traits. Acculturation, assimilation, syncretism. Cultural convergence and interdependence with improved global communication and transportation networks. Globalization and impact on traditional societies. Culture regions: local to global scale.

Unit 3. Cultural Geography: Language

Taxonomy of languages. Distribution of languages worldwide. Language as a clue to cultural diffusion and interchange: Africa. Toponyms. Language as a clue to culture: structure, vocabulary, social status, gender differences. Multilingualism in the United States and other nations. Causes of multilingualism. Lingua franca and pidgin. Language, territoriality, and identity.

Unit 4. Cultural Geography: Religion

Types of religions: universal, ethnic, animist. Distribution, origin, and diffusion of specific religions. Effects of religion on patterns of life (daily schedule, food preferences, role of women, importance of education, work ethic and business practices, political conflicts, etc.). Cultural landscapes produced by specific religions, including burial practices, attitudes toward the environment, calendar.

Unit 5. Political Geography

Evolution of the modern state. Nation versus state versus nation-state. Centripetal and centrifugal forces in modern nations: the rise of supranationalism, nationalism, regionalism. Political systems at a variety of scales: local to global. Characteristics of states: shape, size, location of capital, core versus periphery. Types of boundaries and boundary disputes. Analysis of current world crises using the above concepts.

Unit 6. Economic Geography

The world system(s) of making a living: subsistence, market, planned. World distribution of economic systems. Agriculture: variations among systems in different world regions. Von Thünen theory of agricultural location. Location of economic activities in each system. World economic systems: specialization, comparative advantage, interdependence, trade, movement of capital to peripheral regions. Characteristics of core and peripheral world. Sustainability.

Unit 7. Population Geography

Basic concepts of population: distribution, density, growth rate, interpreting population pyramids. Historical patterns in population growth: the J curve and the S curve. Demographic transition: will it predict future patterns of population growth? Factors that affect population growth in the developing world: the cycle of doom. Gender roles and world population growth.

Unit 8. Migration

Migration as an enduring theme of human history: migrations in ancient times, the historical past, and the present. Migration at a variety of scales: local, regional, and international. Types of migrations. Patterns of

migration: step migration, chain migration, channeled migration. Role of distance decay and information flow in migration patterns. Barriers to migration; inducements to migration. How is the decision to migrate made? Push and pull factors, voluntary and involuntary migration. Rules of migration: who, what, when, and why.

Unit 9. Urban Geography

What is a city?: functions and purposes. Land value and urban growth in the United States. Systems of cities and central place theory: threshold and range. World patterns in urban growth: links between economic development and urbanization. World urban morphology: diversity in the United States, Europe, South America, Africa, and Asia. The primate city versus rank size rule. Social areas in North American cities.

Unit 10. Human Impact on the Environment

Interaction of human systems and physical systems. Ways humans adapt to, modify, and use the environment. Issues of pollution, resource use and management in the core, semiperipheral and peripheral regions of the world. Perceptions of natural hazards at a variety of scales. Cultural reactions to hazards: planning for disaster in Japan versus Southern California. Variations in world patterns of technology and consequent effects on environment. Global solutions to global problems: climate change, ozone depletion, land degradation.

Teaching Strategies

This is a large lecture course, and as such, the teaching strategies I use focus on giving students opportunities to “think-pair-share” in class, to write mini-essays of 50 words or so reacting to provocative statements, and to do short role-play simulations. The goal in each class is to include one break from the monotony of lecture. Examples of the types of things students do during a class period include the following:

- Present students with five maps showing the distribution of economic activities (flour milling, steel manufacturing, vegetable canning, copper smelting, textiles) and challenge them to match the map to the activity and explain their spatial reasoning (thinking spatially).
- Give students five minutes to list aspects of culture that originated in another culture but are commonly used in the United States, and aspects of U.S. culture used commonly by people in other cultures; students share their lists with the whole group (cultures change through diffusion and innovation).
- Present students with a series of choropleth maps showing the consumption of wine, beer, vodka, and other spirits in Europe. Students analyze the patterns, match the beverage type to the map, and discuss patterns and processes.
- Show the *National Geographic* video *Cultures: A Tapestry of Life* and have students write a mini-essay in response.
- Collect class data on residential preference (“If you could live anywhere but Texas, where would it be?”), asking the class to speculate and then create a quick and dirty map, which is then compared to the preferences of college students at UCLA, Penn State, and the University of Toronto.
- Hand out different sections of that day’s newspaper and ask students to analyze them for geographic issues. Students report by “region” of the classroom: What is the issue? How is it geographic?

Chapter 3

You get the idea—anything to involve students actively in some brief, hands-on fashion. I also spend time at the beginning of the semester discussing study strategies that are appropriate for geography. For example, I suggest they:

- pay special attention to the maps and illustrations when reading the text;
- “spatialize” concepts by sketching maps to remember ideas in context;
- practice active listening in class; and
- review the notes from each class, using good reading strategies (e.g., asking and answering questions about the material, summarizing it in their own words, explaining concepts to friends, and drawing concept maps linking ideas).

I reinforce these ideas as needed throughout the semester.

To deliver instruction and to structure class time (and keep me on track), I use a blend of overhead transparencies that project each lecture’s outline in large-point font along with illustrations, graphs, maps, and other supplemental visuals. I also use *PowerPoint* presentations of slides I have taken to illustrate key concepts at several points during the semester. To discuss place and landscape, I use a series of slides I took on two trips to Korea. To examine political change, traditional culture, and development in a semiperipheral country, I use slides I took in South Africa. When we discuss the relationship among landscape, culture, and religion, I use slides taken in distinct regions of the world. When studying political conflicts and transnational border issues, I use slides I took in Lebanon, Mexico, and Korea. I think the judicious use of illustrations is effective, and students enjoy the glimpse into my life and travels.

Student Evaluation

Students are evaluated on their performance on two multiple-choice tests (60 percent of a student’s total grade for the course) and the seven activities collected at intervals throughout the semester (40 percent of the total grade). At the end of the semester I assign grades following a normal distribution: about 12 to 15 percent As and Ds, and approximately 30 to 35 percent Bs and Cs. Typically I curve a little at the A–B line to get a high enough percentage of As; the rest of the population has always distributed normally. Class size prevents me from using free-response questions.

Teacher Resources

General Resources

Geography Education Standards Project. *Geography for Life: National Geography Standards 1994*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Research and Exploration, 1994.

Haggett, Peter. *Geography: A Global Synthesis*. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 2001.

Knox, Paul L., and Sallie A. Marston. *Places and Regions in Global Context: Human Geography*. 3rd ed. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 2003.

Multimedia

ARGWorld: Activities and Resources for the Geography of the World. N.p.: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1998. CD-ROM.

Used in quick, five-minute vignettes to illustrate key concepts like site and situation, population density, and so on. Available for purchase from the publisher’s Web site, go.hrw.com/hrw.nd/hrw_catalog/ (click on *Social Studies*, then on *Geography*).

Cultures: A Tapestry of Life. N.p.: National Geographic Society, n.d. Video.

Used to drive home discussion of culture along with a mini-essay and other activities as time allows. Available for purchase from the Audiovisual Division of the National Geographic Society, 1145 17th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20036-4688; 202 775-7803.

The Power of Place: Geography for the 21st Century series. N.p.: Annenberg/CPB, 1996. Video.

Individual vignettes are shown to illustrate a point (e.g., an episode showing the nature of manufacturing work in China). Available for purchase from the publisher's Web site, www.learner.org/resources/series180.html#program_descriptions; or call 800 228-8030 or 802 862-8881.

World Population: A Graphic Simulation of the History of Human Population Growth. Washington, D.C.: Population Connection, n.d. Video.

Used to illustrate population growth patterns. Available in video or DVD for purchase from the organization's Web site, www.populationeducation.org/pages/0,productdetail,productdetail,00,ecs?contentid=175; or call 800 767-1956 or 202 332-2200.

Internet Resources Used in Activities

Human Development Reports

The data is used in Activity 5. Available at hdr.undp.org/.

International Data Base (IDB)

The data is used in Activity 6. Available at www.census.gov/ipc/www/idbnew.html.

National Agricultural Statistics Service Census of Agriculture

Has both 1997 and 2002 statistics. Used for distribution maps and in discussing economic geography. Available at www.nass.usda.gov/Census_of_Agriculture/index.asp.

U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Resident Population

Used for Activity 1. Available at www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/respop.html.

Current Resources

I read two daily newspapers and a news magazine to keep up to date. As sources of maps, graphs, and charts, I highly recommend the *Economist* (www.economist.com) and the *New York Times* (www.nytimes.com). In addition, I read the local newspaper and the *Houston Chronicle* to be able to give students examples that bridge global and local issues.

Professional Journals

As a college-level geography professor—and that is what you are when you are teaching AP Human Geography—you should join the Association of American Geographers (www.aag.org) and peruse their two journals regularly, the *Professional Geographer* and the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*. In addition, the National Council for Geographic Education (www.ncge.org) is a significant resource. Their premier publication is the *Journal of Geography*. I also find *Geography*, a publication of the United Kingdom's Geographical Association (www.geography.org.uk/index.asp), especially useful for background on key topics. For example, the April 2001 issue had a superb article that critiqued urban land use models (Pacione, M. "Models of Urban Land Use Structure in Cities of the Developed World." *Geography* 86, no. 2 [2001]: 97–119).

Professional Development

There are numerous forms of professional development that are appropriate for AP Human Geography teachers, including the formal AP Summer Institutes organized by the College Board. Reading journals and understanding current research in human geography is a second form of professional development. The annual meetings of the National Council for Geographic Education feature special sessions primarily focused on pedagogy for AP Human Geography teachers. The annual meetings of the Association of American Geographers provide AP Human Geography teachers with information and a chance to meet the authors of textbooks, but the meetings do not offer much specific assistance in teaching an AP Human Geography course.

Student Activities

An important part of the course is the development of geography skills. Students learn by doing, so I make my students *do* a little geography. The seven activities they complete during the semester are designed to compliment the topics being discussed in class and to provide them with practice in the application of geography's perspectives. The activities are graded according to a scoring guideline. Before students hand in each activity they are encouraged to bring a draft version for review during office hours to help ensure a good grade. Less than a quarter of the students in any semester take advantage of this service.

Activity 3 is a special activity that requires students to write a brief paper applying their understanding of geography to an interview of an international student. It is assigned on the first day of class, and throughout the semester I encourage students to identify an international student, think about questions to ask, and so on. The assignment is due near the end of the semester to allow students to develop some experience in human geography. The criteria I use for grading are included with the activity.

Students purchase a course packet including all seven of the activities. The activities are also posted as .pdf files on the course Web site (geog.tamu.edu/sarah/humangeog/humangeog.html). AP Human Geography teachers are invited to download and adapt these activities for their own use.

Activity 1

Students produce a map showing states with above and below population density and another map with five categories of population density. They then answer a series of questions to interpret the maps. The activity is introduced in this manner:

Introduction

There are several objectives to this activity. You will

1. think geographically (the spatial perspective),
2. produce and interpret two maps, and
3. review the locations of the states of the United States (which you already know—that is why it is called a review!!).

In class we discussed two key ideas: (1) that geographers “see the world in spatial terms” and (2) that the scale of analysis (one category versus four; local scale, state scale, national scale) determines the patterns and relationships we can observe. We also discussed the tools geographers use to see patterns and to understand why things are where they are. One of the most important tools is the map. As you produce the maps for this activity, remember that you are not “just coloring maps,” you are organizing spatial information into categories in order to better analyze it and draw conclusions.

Activity 2

Students use an almanac (or Internet-based almanacs) to find information about each of the 25 most populous nations in the world according to U.S. government sources. Based on the evidence of the number of ethnic groups, religions, and languages spoken in a country, students decide if it is uni- or multicultural and justify their response. The activity is introduced in this manner:

Introduction

One culture or many—unicultural or multicultural? That is an important issue to consider when viewing different nations of the world. As we discuss culture, language, and religion, this activity should provide you with an opportunity to look at the 25 most populous nations in the world and observe whether they are unicultural or multicultural.

Activity 3

Texas A&M is host to a large population of students from all over the world. One of the best ways (other than travel) to develop a global perspective is to get to know peers from other nations. The activity is introduced in this manner:

Procedure

Seek out a TAMU *student* from another country and interview/become acquainted with that student. View this individual as a *resource*. Be sure that the person you select to interview is a native of another country, not an American who lives overseas. If you have any doubt, speak to me.

From your research/discussions with this student you should produce a working document, no longer than three pages, that reflects *the application of geography to an understanding of a different culture*. Try to make the interview personally relevant by asking some questions about things that may be of special interest to you.

Your grade will be based on two things:

1. meaningful contact and sharing of ideas with an often untapped resource on *this* campus—our international students, and
2. how well you can *apply the geographic concepts and generalizations* we have learned to understanding a different culture and way of life.

Scoring Guideline

A (27–30 points)—Thorough and complete analysis of the interviewee's culture using geography terms and concepts; use of many key vocabulary terms; rich and detailed application of the geographic perspective (spatial and environmental/ecological); source appendix; very well-written, clear, no punctuation errors.

B (24–26 points)—Some analysis of the interviewee's culture using geography terms and concepts; several key vocabulary terms used; application of the geographic perspective (spatial and environmental/ecological); source appendix; well-written, clear, only one or two punctuation/spelling errors.

C (21–23 points)—A partial analysis of the interviewee's culture using geography terms and concepts; a few or no specific vocabulary terms used; some concepts used; incomplete application of the geographic perspective (spatial and environmental/ecological) and some misunderstandings of concepts; source appendix; unclear and uncertain quality of writing.

Chapter 3

Activity 4

Students use a map of an idealized nation, along with Web research and class notes, to answer a series of questions exploring geopolitical relationships and situations. The activity is introduced in this manner:

Introduction

A number of problems can arise from the intersection of geography and politics. Use the map of the idealized nation of Bednarzia to begin to understand some of the situations in the world today that present challenges to peace at a variety of scales, local to global. Answer each question marked with [graphic showing a hand writing with a pencil] by typing an answer on a separate sheet of paper. The Hints section on the course Web site (geog.tamu.edu/sarah/humangeog/activities.html#Anchor22538) provides links to help you answer the questions.

Activity 5

Students use data collected by the United Nations to calculate the Human Development Index for a selection of countries by averaging the index for life expectancy, education, and GDP. They then map the values of each country using a set category and analyze the map by answering a series of questions. The activity is introduced in this manner:

Introduction

The Human Development Index (HDI) prepared by the United Nations is acknowledged to be a good quality-of-life indicator in today's world context. The index takes into account education (adult literacy and school enrollment), life expectancy (a surrogate for various health data), and economic well-being (gross domestic product per capita, or GDP) to determine a measure of "standard of living." Raw data are converted into an index to make them comparable, then averaged to produce an overall index, the HDI. The HDI ranges between 0 and 1.

Activity 6

Students construct a population pyramid and analyze it by answering these questions:

1. Analyze the pyramid and describe the structure of this country's population now and in the next few decades.
2. Discuss the implications of this population pyramid:
 - What is the population of this country going to be like in the future? Young? Old? Balanced? Growing or stagnate?
 - What kinds of goods and services will the people need?
 - Is it a growing market or a declining market? (see pages 100–101 in the textbook).

The activity is introduced in this manner:

Introduction

A population pyramid is a graphic way to show the age/gender composition and structure of a population. The structure describes the relative number of people at different ages by gender. Population pyramids are used to provide a visual impression of the age and sex (gender) composition of a country's population and to show trends. The shape of a population pyramid is a result of migration, births, and deaths. It also reflects historical, socioeconomic, and political events like the baby boom that followed World War II.

Activity 7

Students calculate the percent increase in population from 1980 to 2000 for each of 25 urban agglomerations using this formula:

$$\text{Percent Change} = [(\text{Population 2000} - \text{Population 1980}) / \text{Population 1980}] \times 100$$

Next, they rank the urban agglomerations from highest to lowest based on percent change in population and classify the agglomerations into one of four categories based on maps of the level of economic development in the nation in which they are found and on the level of human development.

Once students have completed these tasks, they answer the question, “What conclusions do you draw about the expected rate of growth of these urban agglomerations and the level of economic and human development of these nations? Explain your conclusions here.”

Sample Syllabus 2

Cheryl Jenkins Guy

Spring Valley High School
Columbia, South Carolina

School Profile

School Location and Environment: Spring Valley High School is a public, suburban high school located in northeast Columbia, South Carolina. Columbia is the state capital and home of the University of South Carolina and several smaller colleges. Fort Jackson, a basic training facility for the U.S. Army, is located nearby. Many Spring Valley students have parents who work for the government and the local universities. The school also experiences a high turnover of students whose parents are stationed at Fort Jackson. These students are transient, but this is a bonus for teaching geography because so many of them have lived in other states and even other countries and can share their experiences with the class.

Grades: 9–12

Type: Public high school and district magnet school for math and science

Total Enrollment: 1,906 students

Ethnic Diversity: African Americans comprise 46.98 percent of the student population. Asian Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, and other minority groups have expanded recently and currently make up 7.28 percent of the student population.

College Record: After graduation, 66 percent of the students go on to four-year colleges or universities, 25 percent enroll in two-year colleges, and 3 percent enter the military.

Personal Philosophy

I want students to look at the world differently after studying AP Human Geography. I want them to see things and patterns they might not have previously noticed. I want them to ask questions such as *why* and *why there*.

Class Profile

Spring Valley offers two sections of AP Human Geography each year. The classes typically have between 20 and 30 students in each section. The course meets every day of the school year for 45 minutes (or 39 minutes on Wednesdays due to a late-start schedule for students). The school year begins in early August and ends before Memorial Day.

Course Overview

The course is structured according to the course outline found in the *AP Human Geography Course Description* published by the College Board. There are seven units of study. At the beginning of each unit, students receive a unit calendar that indicates the lecture topics or activities for each day, the reading assignments, the quiz dates, and other information about the unit.

The primary textbook for the course is the seventh edition of *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography* by James M. Rubenstein. Students also use the third edition of *Human Geography*

in Action by Michael Kuby, John Harner, and Patricia Gober. A class set of these books, as well as the seventh edition of *Human Geography: Culture, Society, and Space* by H. J. de Blij and Alexander B. Murphy, is available for students to take home. I use additional textbooks to prepare my lectures (see “Teacher Resources” below).

Course Planner

Topic	Multiple-Choice Coverage on the AP Exam	Readings	Time
I. Geography: Its Nature and Perspectives	5–10%	Rubenstein, Ch. 1 Kuby, Ch. 1, 3 de Blij, Ch. 1	4 weeks
II. Population	13–17%	Rubenstein, Ch. 2–3 Kuby, Ch. 4–5 de Blij, Ch. 4–7	5 weeks
III. Cultural Patterns and Processes	13–17%	Rubenstein, Ch. 4–7 Kuby, Ch. 2 de Blij, Ch. 2–3, 8–13, 29, 31–32	6 weeks
IV. Political Organization of Space	13–17%	Rubenstein, Ch. 8 Kuby, Ch. 12–13 de Blij, Ch. 14–17	5 weeks* (2 weeks before Winter Break, 3 weeks after)
<i>Semester Exam</i>	Includes Units I–III		December (the week before Winter Break)
V. Agricultural and Rural Land Use	13–17%	Rubenstein, Ch. 10, 14 (Key Issue 3) Kuby, Ch. 8 de Blij, Ch. 18–20, 30	4 weeks
VI. Industrialization and Economic Development	13–17%	Rubenstein, Ch. 9, 11, 14 (Key Issues 1 and 2) Kuby, Ch. 6–7, 14 de Blij, Ch. 24–27, 33–35	4 weeks
VII. Cities and Urban Land Use	13–17%	Rubenstein, Ch. 12–13 Kuby, Ch. 9–11 de Blij, Ch. 21–23, 28	4 weeks
Exam Review			2 weeks

Unit Calendars

Unit I. Geography: Its Nature and Perspectives

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Welcome, introduction to the course Review syllabus HW: Syllabus signed by parents	Definitions of geography, why geography matters HW: Read Rubenstein, Ch. 1: “Thinking Geographically”	Historical development of geography	Four traditions of geography HW: Read Pattison article, “The Four Traditions of Teaching” (from <i>Annual Editions: Geography</i>)	Reading Quiz on Ch. 1 Review four traditions
Week 2	Five themes of geography	Video: <i>Geography: A Voyage of Discovery</i> Defining locations (survey systems, latitude-longitude)	Begin township and range exercise (ARGUS, Activity FX)—complete for homework (due on Friday)	Place names (toponymy) Video: <i>Power of Place</i> series, #1: “One Earth, Many Scales”	Township and range exercise due Introduction to map making HW: Read “Map Scale and Projections” (from Rubenstein, Appendix, pp. 488-93)
Week 3	Map making continued HW: Map analysis essay (due next week)	Kuby, Ch. 1: “True Maps, False Impressions: Making, Manipulating, and Interpreting Maps” (computer lab)	Complete Kuby, Ch. 1	Discuss Kuby lab and review map design Answer questions about maps for analysis essay	Introduction to GIS Practice free-response question (20 minutes)
Week 4	Map analysis essay due <i>Mapping Our World</i> , Module 1: “ArcView: The Basics” (computer lab)	Complete <i>Mapping Our World</i> , Module 1 Work on unit review note cards	Unit review; tips on answering free-response questions	Unit I Free-Response Test (2 questions, 45 minutes)	Unit I Multiple-Choice Test (50 questions) Note cards due

Unit II. Population

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Return Unit I tests and debrief Population map assignment (finish for homework)	Turn in population maps Demography vocabulary HW: Read Rubenstein, Ch. 2: "Population"	Video: <i>World Population: A Graphic Simulation</i> Malthus on overpopulation	Demographic transition model	Reading Quiz on Ch. 2 Graph population pyramids
Week 2	Video: <i>Human Geography: People, Places, and Change</i> series, #6: "Population Transition in Italy" Population pyramids due	Kuby, Ch. 5: "One Billion and Counting: The Hidden Momentum of Population Growth in India" (computer lab)	Complete Kuby, Ch. 5 HW: Read Mitchell article, "Before the Next Doubling" (from <i>Annual Editions: Geography</i>)	Pro- and antinatalist government policies	The baby boom
Week 3	<i>Mapping Our World</i> , Module 4: "Generation Gaps" (computer lab)	Complete <i>Mapping Our World</i> , Module 4	Spatial patterns of health and disease HW: Read Rubenstein, Ch. 3: "Migration"	Video: <i>Power of Place</i> series, #21: "Population Geography"	Reasons to migrate; voluntary and involuntary migrations
Week 4	Global migration patterns; obstacles to migration	Migrations within a country	Reading Quiz on Ch. 3 Kuby, Ch. 4: "Newton's First Law of Migration: The Gravity Model"	Complete Kuby, Ch. 4 Short-term, local movements, and activity space	Population and natural hazards
Week 5	<i>Mapping Our World</i> , Module 4: "Regional Case Study: Growing Pains" (computer lab)	Complete <i>Mapping Our World</i> , Module 4 Work on unit review note cards	Review Unit II	Unit II Free-Response Test	Unit II Multiple-Choice Test Note cards due

Chapter 3

Unit III. Cultural Patterns and Processes

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Return Unit II tests and debrief Virtual field trip to Amish country (from <i>Human Geography: Culture, Society, and Space AP Student Companion</i>) (computer lab)	Concepts of culture Review diffusion HW: Read Rubenstein, Ch. 4: "Folk and Popular Culture"	Folk and popular culture	Kuby, Ch. 2: "Layers of Tradition: Culture Regions at Different Scales" Complete Activity 1 in computer lab	Complete Kuby, Ch. 2 (provide postcard set to use in class)
Week 2	Video: <i>A Hot Dog Program</i>	Finish video and discuss Assign essay on U.S. culture regions	Reading Quiz on Ch. 4 Globalization of popular culture	Essay due Housing styles Assign architectural styles for project	Research architecture styles in Media Center (presentations next week)
Week 3	Language definitions; origin and diffusion of English language HW: Read Rubenstein, Ch. 5: "Language"	Video: <i>In Search of the First Language</i>	Distribution of language families; official languages and multilingualism	Architecture presentations	Architecture presentations
Week 4	Reading Quiz on Ch. 5 Overview of religions and their distribution HW: Read Rubenstein, Ch. 6: "Religion"	Judaism	Christianity	Islam	Hinduism, Buddhism
Week 5	Confucianism, Taoism, Shintoism, and other religions	Field study to houses of worship	Field study debriefing Essay assignment	Reading Quiz on Ch. 6 Conflict over Jerusalem	Ethnicity and race HW: Read Rubenstein, Ch. 7, (Key Issue 1)
Week 6	Video: <i>Power of Place</i> series, #25: "Ethnic Fragmentation in Canada"	Gender issues Work on note cards	Review Unit III	Unit III Free-Response Test	Unit III Multiple-Choice Test Note cards due

Unit IV. Political Organization of Space

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Return Unit III tests and debrief Introduction to political geography HW: Read Rubenstein, Ch. 7: "Ethnicity"	Nationalities and nation-states Video: <i>Power of Place</i> series, #2: "Boundaries and Borderlands"	Kuby, Ch. 13: "The Rise of Nationalism and the Fall of Yugoslavia: Nations, States, and Nation-States"	Complete Kuby, Ch. 13	Reading Quiz on Ch. 7 Defining <i>states</i> HW: Read Rubenstein, Ch. 8: "Political Geography"
Week 2	Territorial morphology Video: <i>Power of Place</i> series, #3: "Supranationalism and Devolution"	Boundaries and the law of the sea	<i>Mapping Our World</i> Module 5: "Crossing the Line" (computer lab)	Complete <i>Mapping Our World</i> , Module 5	Reading Quiz on Ch. 8 Assign political issues research project (due in January)
	Exam Week End of Semester I Review Units I–III	(May show additional videos from <i>Power of Place</i> series, depending on schedule)			→ Winter Break begins
Week 3	State political organization; centripetal and centrifugal forces (review)	Research projects (Media Center)	Research projects (Media Center)	Kuby, Ch. 12: "Do Orange and Green Clash? Residential Segregation in Northern Ireland" (computer lab)	Complete Kuby, Ch. 12 Prepare project handouts
Week 4	Political, economic, and military cooperation	Political issues project presentations	Political issues project presentations	Political issues project presentations	Political issues project presentations
Week 5	Internal organization of states	Electoral geography Work on note cards	Unit IV Review	Unit IV Free-Response Test	Unit IV Multiple-Choice Test Note cards due

Unit V. Agricultural and Rural Land Use

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Return Unit IV tests and debrief Farming facts HW: Read Rubenstein, Ch. 10: “Agriculture”	Agricultural revolutions (origins, 2nd Rev. and Green Rev.)	Whittlesey’s agricultural regions—interpreting regions activity	Atlas activity U.S. agricultural production regions	Kuby, Ch. 8: “Food for Thought: The Globalization of Agriculture” (computer lab) Activity 1 and Activity 2 for homework over weekend (visit grocery store)
Week 2	Reading Quiz on Ch. 10 Complete Kuby, Ch. 8 Activity 3 (computer lab)	The dark side of the Green Revolution	Rice: the global crop (present as an example for agricultural products study)	Video: <i>Power of Place</i> series, #16: “Rural and Urban Contrasts” Assign agricultural products for study	Media Center for research
Week 3	von Thünen’s model	Industrialized agriculture (agribusiness); poultry	Agricultural products project presentations	Agricultural products project presentations	Agricultural products project presentations
Week 4	Rural settlement systems	Regional primary activities (<i>ARGUS</i> , Activity K) Work on note cards	Review Unit V	Unit V Free-Response Test	Unit V Multiple-Choice Test Note cards due

Unit VI. Industrialization and Economic Development

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Return Unit V tests and debrief Classification of economic activities HW: Read Rubenstein, Ch. 9: “Development”	Measures of development Use Internet to collect data for chart of five countries (from <i>Human Geography: Culture, Society, and Space AP Student Companion</i>)	Review measures of development Human development index	Kuby, Ch. 7: “Rags and Riches: The Dimensions of Development”	Reading Quiz on Ch. 9 Complete Kuby, Ch. 7
Week 2	Strategies for development Rostow’s model	Core-periphery distinction HW: Read Rubenstein, Ch. 11: “Industry”	The Industrial Revolution; distribution of industrial production	<i>ARGUS</i> , Activity L— “Locating Heavy Industry”	Site and situation factors; Weber’s Industrial Location Theory

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 3	Reading Quiz on Ch. 11 Video: <i>Power of Place</i> series, #18: “Oil and Water” HW: Read Rubenstein, Ch. 14 (Key Issues 1 and 2)	Should a developing country have free trade? (Activity from <i>Focus: International Economics</i>)	Kuby, Ch. 6: “Help Wanted: The Changing Geography of Jobs”	Foreign exchange rates (Activity from <i>Focus: International Economics</i>)	Reading Quiz on Ch. 14 Kuby, Ch. 14: “Preserving the Planet: Human Impact on Environmental Systems”
Week 4	Complete Kuby, Ch. 14	Video: <i>Power of Place</i> series, #15: “Global Interaction” Work on note cards	Review Unit VI	Unit VI Free-Response Test	Unit VI Multiple-Choice Test Note cards due

Unit VII. Cities and Urban Land Use

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Return Unit VI tests and debrief Types of services HW: Read Rubenstein, Ch. 12: “Services”	Origin and evolution of cities	Christaller’s Central Place Theory	Kuby, Ch. 9: “Take Me Out to the Ball Game: Market Areas and the Urban Hierarchy”	Complete Kuby, Ch. 9 Reading Quiz on Ch. 12
Week 2	American urban system (Borchert) HW: Read Rubenstein, Ch. 13: “Urban Patterns”	Models of urban structure	Suburbanization and edge cities	Video: <i>Power of Place</i> series, #24: “Cityscapes, Suburban Sprawl”	Built environment and social space
Week 3	Models outside of North America	Video: <i>Power of Place</i> series, #11: “A Challenge for Two Old Cities” Reading Quiz on Chapter 13	Field study preparation	Field study in the Congaree Vista (downtown)	Field study debrief
Week 4	<i>Mapping Our World</i> , Module 6: “Live, Work, and Play” (computer lab)	Complete <i>Mapping Our World</i> , Module 6 Work on note cards	Review Unit VII	Unit VII Free-Response Test	Unit VII Multiple-Choice Test Note cards due

Teaching Strategies

Attending a summer institute or training workshop before beginning the course is an invaluable experience. To prepare for teaching the course, I also organized a series of seven notebooks for each of the seven units of study. In each notebook, I included:

- a unit description and outline from the *AP Human Geography Course Description*;
- a copy of an article from the special issue of *Journal of Geography* 99, no. 3/4 (May–August 2000);

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- lecture outlines;
- test questions from various review books and teacher's guides;
- maps, diagrams, and graphics of models for use on an overhead projector;
- labs and other activities and answer keys; and
- articles and other resources.

My course features a mixture of lecture, instructional video, and student activities (e.g., *Human Geography in Action* labs and *ArcView* projects from *Mapping Our World*). Students use a Blackboard class Web site to take reading quizzes, communicate with classmates and me, and find class information. The Blackboard, which is an integrated, schoolwide software system, features a discussion board, links to external Web sites (which I select), class lecture notes, and assignments.

I use two types of writing assignments in the class. Since free-response questions compose 50 percent of the AP Exam, all unit tests include free-response questions. Students also practice writing free-responses from time to time throughout the year. These responses are graded using a scoring guideline in the same manner as the AP Exam is scored. I use a second type of writing assignment, analytical essays, periodically during the year. These essays, which are organized around a thesis statement and usually contain at least five paragraphs, help students develop their analytical writing skills. Most of the students will enroll in the AP U.S. History course the following year, so this work helps them prepare for a different type of free-response question.

Lab Component

Students have access to a computer lab where they complete the *Human Geography in Action* lab activities and use *ArcView* GIS software for *Mapping Our World* modules. The lab has Internet access for research and for use of the Blackboard Web site.

Student Evaluation

Each unit of study includes reading quizzes for chapters in the text, several daily grades like labs or other activities, one major paper or project, and the unit test. I use the Blackboard assessment manager to write the reading quizzes. Each quiz consists of 10 challenging multiple-choice items that require careful reading of the chapter in preparation for the quiz. The reading quizzes are worth 20 points each; labs and activities are worth 30 points each. At the conclusion of each unit of study, students are required to create note cards for studying vocabulary, models, and famous people. The completion of note cards is worth 15 points. Major grades like projects, papers, or unit tests are worth 100 points. The unit test has the same format as the AP Exam.

On the first day of a unit test, students complete two free-response questions in the 45-minute class period. They write their responses in college blue books that I purchase from a local university bookstore. The questions are scored using a scoring guideline that is similar to those used at the AP Reading. Each question is worth 6 to 12 points, and the students' test grade is calculated as a percentage of points earned. The free-response portion counts as a 100-points grade. On the second day of the unit test, students answer 50 multiple-choice questions (5 choices), which also count as a 100-points grade. Grades are reported quarterly and are based on the percentage of total points earned out of the total points possible. Students take a semester exam in December before the winter break.

Teacher Resources

Allen, John L. *Student Atlas of World Politics*. 5th ed. Guilford, Conn.: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin, 2002.

ARGUS: Activities and Readings in the Geography of the United States. Washington, D.C.: Association of American Geographers, 1999.

Davidson, Fiona, et al., eds. *Teaching Political Geography*. The Pathways in Geography series, no. 19. Indiana, Penn.: National Council for Geographic Education, 1998.

de Blij, H. J., and Alexander B. Murphy. *Human Geography: Culture, Society, and Space*. 7th ed. New York: John Wiley, 2003.

Fellmann, Jerome D., Arthur Getis, and Judith Getis. *Human Geography: Landscapes of Human Activities*. 6th ed. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2001.

Gabrys-Alexson, Randy. *Advanced Placement Student Companion*. New York: John Wiley, 2003.
Accompanies the seventh edition of *Human Geography: Culture, Society, and Space*, by H. J. de Blij and Alexander B. Murphy.

Geography: A Voyage of Discovery. N.p.: National Geographic Society, 1987. Video.

Glassner, Martin Ira, and Chuck Fahrer. *Political Geography*. 3rd ed. New York: John Wiley, 2004.

A Hot Dog Program. N.p.: PBS Home Video, 1996. Video.

Human Geography: People, Places, and Change series. Produced by the BBC. N.p.: Annenberg/CPB, 1996. Video.

In Search of the First Language. N.p.: NOVA, 1994. Video.

Jackson, Robert. *Annual Editions: Global Issues*. 20th ed. Dubuque, Iowa: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin, 2005.

Jordan-Bychkov, Terry G., and Mona Domosh. *The Human Mosaic: A Thematic Introduction to Cultural Geography*. 9th ed. New York: W. H. Freeman, 2003.

Knox, Paul L., and Sallie A. Marston. *Places and Regions in Global Context: Human Geography*. 3rd ed. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 2004.

Kuby, Michael, John Harner, and Patricia Gober. *Human Geography in Action*. 3rd ed. New York: John Wiley, 2004.

Lynch, Gerald J., Michael W. Watts, and Donald Wentworth. *Focus: International Economics*. New York: National Council on Economic Education, 1998.

Malone, Lyn, Anita M. Palmer, and Christine L. Voigt. *Mapping Our World: GIS Lessons for Educators*. Redlands, Calif.: ESRI Press, 2002.

Marran, James. *Advanced Placement Student Companion*. New York: John Wiley, 2000.
Accompanies the sixth edition of *Human Geography: Culture, Society, and Space*, by H. J. de Blij and Alexander B. Murphy.

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Nunley, Robert E., George W. Ulbrick, and Bernard O. Williams. *Study Guide*. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson Education, 2003.

Accompanies the seventh edition of *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography*, by H. J. de Blij and Alexander B. Murphy.

Pitzl, Gerald, ed. *Annual Editions: Geography*. 19th ed. Guilford, Conn.: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin, 2004.

The Power of Place: Geography for the 21st Century series. N.p.: Annenberg/CPB, 2003. Video.

Rubenstein, James M. *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography*. 7th ed. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 2002.

World Population: A Graphic Simulation of the History of Human Population Growth. Washington, D.C.: Population Connection, 2000. Video.

Student Activities

Unit I. Map Analysis Essay

Students select a map from a newspaper, magazine, the Internet, or another source (the map or a photocopy of it must be turned in with the essay). Students examine the map carefully and think about the choices the cartographer made. They must consider the map's projection, colors, symbols, data classification, scale, and overall design. In a five-paragraph essay, they must evaluate (stressing both advantages and limitations) the map's usefulness.

Unit II. Population Map Assignment

Students read Rubenstein, Chapter 2, Key Issue 1: "Where Is the World's Population Distributed?" On the world outline map that has been provided, they color each of the five population-concentration regions a different color and identify. On the back of the map or on a separate page, students write a bulleted list of facts about each region (taken from the reading). Using a pencil, they lightly shade the areas on the map that are sparsely populated. Students use the vocabulary word *ecumene* in a sentence to describe the work they just completed. They then use their own words (or graphics) to describe the three types of population densities (arithmetic, physiological, and agricultural). (This assignment comes from Jerry Clem of Lower Richland High School in Columbia, South Carolina.)

Unit III. A Hot Dog Program and Essay

Students watch the video *A Hot Dog Program* in class. The video focuses on the different ways hot dogs are prepared and served in different regions of the United States. After the video we have a discussion about other regional differences students have experienced (foods, customs, speech patterns, etc.). Many of the students in the class have moved to South Carolina from other parts of the country, so this is usually a very interesting conversation. For example, we have learned that the tooth fairy operates differently in some communities; in some parts of the country, children leave a glass of water beside the bed for the fairy to dip her wings in, turning the water blue!

Students select one category of regional differences and write an essay about the differences. They are asked to speculate about the origins of the differences. Topics students have described include pizza toppings, terms used for carbonated beverages, Christmas (or other holiday) customs, and sports and hobbies.

Unit III (or Unit VII). Architecture Project

Students are assigned a style of residential architecture to research. They make a five-minute oral presentation to the class (using *PowerPoint*, the overhead projector, or ELMO visual presenter) that must include:

- a photograph or drawing of a classic example of the style,
- a list of distinguishing features (they use the picture to point these out),
- background history (e.g., when and where the style originated and diffused), and
- if possible, a photograph and the address of a local example.

Unit III. Houses of Worship Field Study

After selecting a date, I contact several local houses of worship to arrange for the students to visit. I speak with the minister, rabbi, or other leader to schedule a time and discuss the purpose of the visit. We typically go to five different houses of worship in a single day (e.g., Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Protestant, Jewish synagogue, Hindu temple, and Muslim mosque), spending 45 to 60 minutes at each location. I charter a bus from a local tour company and arrange for lunch at a local restaurant that can accommodate our large group. I map the route and provide an itinerary for the bus driver as well as for the students and parents. Usually a number of parents volunteer to accompany us on the trip, and I make the necessary arrangements with the school (e.g., field trip permission forms, attendance lists).

After the trip, students write an essay based on the following question: How does the cultural landscape of a house of worship reflect the beliefs and practices of a particular religion?

- *Option 1:* Analyze a single house of worship and how it relates to religious beliefs and practices. Cite specific examples of material culture found and how they are reflective of that religion.
- *Option 2:* Compare or contrast two houses of worship and show with specific examples how their similarities/differences are evident in the landscape and are reflective of their similarities/differences in belief.

Extra Credit: Students make a list of all the religious structures/houses of worship (other than those we visit) that are visible from the bus windows as we travel. This activity keeps them busy observing the landscape as we go from one house of worship to the next. Many students comment after the trip that they were previously unaware of how many houses of worship we have in our community.

Unit IV. Political Issues Project

Students select a current political issue (e.g., war, civil conflict, border dispute, independence movement) to research. *Teaching Political Geography* is an excellent resource for project topic ideas. Each student makes an oral presentation to the class, using appropriate maps and providing classmates with copies of a one-page summary handout.

Unit V. Agricultural Products Project

Students research a specific agricultural product, crop, or animal. They present their findings to the class in an oral presentation that includes:

- the history of the domestication and diffusion of the plant or animal,
- the growth cycle and climatic considerations,

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- a world (or appropriate region) map that shows production areas and flows to consumption areas, and
- a discussion on the utilization (e.g., food or industrial raw materials?) and cultural considerations (e.g., taboos? areas of preference?).

Unit VII. Field Study in the Congaree Vista

Students take a field walk in downtown Columbia. They walk approximately six blocks on Gervais Street, mapping the distribution of restaurants, art galleries, clothing stores, or vacancies. A written guide is provided that describes the history of selected buildings as well as their interesting architectural features. Students respond to a series of questions on the handout. These questions include:

- What is your first impression of the street?
- Is the “Vista” an appropriate name for this area? What is being viewed in the distance?
- Do you feel safe during our walking tour? Are there unsafe places or times in the Vista?
- Do you see any evidence of “gendered space” in the Vista? If so, give an example.
- Do you see any evidence of racial patterns in the Vista? If so, describe.
- Do you see homeless people? Where would you look for them?
- Can you identify any buildings where the facades have been altered?
- What industry is located in the Vista?
- A *palimpsest* is a “shadow” of history left on the landscape. How is the palimpsest concept illustrated in the Vista?
- Is there any evidence of an agglomeration of similar businesses in the Vista?
- Can the Vista be made more pedestrian friendly and bicycle friendly? How?
- What is absent in the Vista? What should be added?
- How does the McDonald’s on the corner differ from most others? Why was it built this way?
- What are your reflections at the end of our walking tour?

Sample Syllabus 3

Kenneth H. Keller

Danbury High School

Danbury, Connecticut

School Profile

School Location and Environment: Danbury High School is located in a suburban, residential neighborhood atop a hill that overlooks most of the city. The school is approximately two-and-a-half miles from I-84, the east–west highway that connects Scranton, Pennsylvania, to the Connecticut–Massachusetts border. The city of Danbury has a population of approximately 80,000 residents. It is home to Western Connecticut State University, one of the four branches of the Connecticut State University system.

Danbury High School is the second largest high school in the state. Many of the students come from homes in which English is not the dominant spoken language. Therefore, the school offers a wide variety of ESL programs in many different subject areas. Walking through the halls of the school, it is possible to hear over 50 different languages and associated dialects being spoken by the students. Likewise, many of the students will be the first in their family to go on to college. The school’s culture and classes are definitely enriched by the diverse student population and the experiences they bring to their education.

The school operates 12 fully networked computer labs with 25 machines in each. The newly renovated library/media center houses two complete labs. In addition, there is a computer in every classroom in the building. In total, there are in excess of 650 computers for student use. Danbury High School also offers a large number of AP courses in a wide variety of curricular areas. For example, in the Social Studies Department, AP courses are offered in Human Geography, Government and Politics, European History, Micro and Macro Economics, Psychology, and U.S. History.

Grades: 9–12

Type: Public high school

Total Enrollment: 2,850 students

Ethnic Diversity: Hispanics/Latinos compose 21 percent of the student population; African Americans, 9.9 percent; Asian Americans, 8.9 percent; and Native Americans, 0.01 percent.

College Record: Approximately 84 percent of the graduating seniors go on to attend college.

Personal Philosophy

“Geography is in everything and everything is in geography.” This is what I say to my students on the first day I see them at the beginning of the school year. I believe that this course is the most relevant to real-life course students have the opportunity to enroll in during their career at Danbury High School. By taking this course, students get a clearer sense of how humans use this space we call Earth and why the events they see and hear on the news and observe around them every day turn out the way they do.

The course curriculum’s design, along with the format of the AP Exam, allows me to interconnect the many different content area subjects such as culture, demographics, land use, and economics. The design of the course allows me to give my students an exciting and engaging look at spatial diffusion and the imprint

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of human activities on our environment. Likewise, the opportunities this course offers with regard to using state-of-the-art technology and the Internet—along with discussion, debate, and field studies—are above and beyond what other AP courses can provide.

It has been my experience that once students see how powerful this course is and how passionate you are about teaching it, they will feel the same way, leading to an exciting year of learning. Obviously, with the added benefit of scoring well on the AP Exam and gaining the advantages that AP credit can offer students in their post-high school experience, schools and students alike should be encouraged to embrace this course.

Class Profile

The year this syllabus was taught, I had two periods of AP Human Geography with 15 students in the first class and 17 students in the second. Class time was allocated for students to work on labs that came from the third edition of *Human Geography in Action* textbook, lab book (referred to as HGIA in this syllabus), and CD-ROM. There were some labs for which students needed Internet access.

For some HGIA activities, students were required to finish on their own time. This could be done because the school has a site license for HGIA to be accessed from our computer labs, and I have five copies of the lab software that students can sign out to use on their home computers. Early in the school year I gave students a list of all the Web sites that would be used throughout the year in labs that required Internet access. This gave them ease of access from computers outside of the school.

Course Overview

This is an active-learning course with plenty of opportunities for discussion, which I encourage students to take a full part in. The discussions are geographic and spatial in nature, and students are expected to read the textbook and take notes. They apply the knowledge they gain by creating their own maps, looking at case studies, participating in field studies, and engaging in outside research projects.

The curriculum for AP Human Geography consists of material from seven interrelated units of study. For each unit that is covered, students receive an outline that includes information on the key concepts, terms, and skills that they will be required to know and develop. They also receive a list of required readings from their text and other resources. Students are required to complete journal writing prompts/case studies from each unit and to answer the questions from the AP student companion that comes with their text.

Each unit consists of homework assignments, quizzes, debates and discussions, and computer labs. At the end of each unit, students take a test that follows the format of the AP Exam given in May. This end-of-unit exam includes multiple-choice questions as well as a free-response question(s). (Some quizzes also include free-response questions.) Students are provided with a separate handout that explains the criteria the Readers who score the AP Exam use to evaluate the free-response questions.

The primary text for this course is the seventh edition of *Human Geography: Culture, Society, and Space*, by H. J. de Blij and Alexander B. Murphy. The student companion for this text is also used.

Course Planner

The unit sequencing for the course is as follows:

- Nature and Perspectives
- Population
- Culture
- Agriculture and Rural Land Use
- Political Organization of Space
- Urban Land Use
- Economics and Industrialization

Taking into account our mercurial Northeast weather, this weekly schedule may need adjustment. As the teacher of an AP course, one has to continually find creative ways to make sure all of the pertinent material is covered. It should always be the AP teachers' most important goal to ensure that their students are as well prepared for the AP Exam and its inherent comprehensiveness as possible.

Readings from a variety of sources are assigned throughout the course. Their titles appear in the Course Planner, and full citations for most can be found in the Teacher Resources section below.

Unit 1—Nature & Perspectives

Week #1

Discuss Course Outline and procedures. Review geography trivia. Give nongraded map quiz. Discuss reading of ancillary texts/student companion. Discuss use of *ARGUS* software. Give out text reading list. Discuss outside books read for summer work. HW: Read Laura Hebert's article "Do Maps Create or Represent Reality?"

Week #2

Introduce *The Power of Place* video series: "One Earth, Many Scales" (#1) and "Boundaries and Borderlands" (#2). HW: Answer questions from the videos. Introduce *Human Geography in Action* (HGIA) computer lab software program. In Lab Book, #1: "True Maps, False Impressions: Making, Manipulating, and Interpreting Maps." Make notes on time zones and map scale.

Week #3

Discuss transparencies of different styles of maps. Talk about mental (perceptual) maps. Students create and share their own personal mental maps (this assignment, lesson 1, is described in more detail below). Students find maps in the media and answer questions related to their perceived effectiveness. *ARGUS*, Activity U: "Designing Maps to Persuade." Give vocabulary quiz on terms from Chapter 1 in de Blij.

Week #4

ARGUS, Activity S: "Site and Situation." Students work in groups on an activity that looks at why people might migrate from one area of the world to another. Vocabulary quiz on terms from Chapter 3 in de Blij. Students work in groups on an activity to determine how regions are created. Specifically, the activity looks at the evolution of the regions of Canada. Unit 1 exam.

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Unit 2—Population

Week #5

Show video: *World in the Balance*. After watching this video, students compare the implications of population growth in developed versus less-developed states. Make notes on the concept of doubling time. Hand out physical and population density maps of Japan. Discuss competition for land in Metro Tokyo and the impact mountainous areas have on population and economic growth. HW: ARGUS, Activity E: “Interpreting Population Pyramids.”

Week #6

HGIA. In Lab Book, #5: “One Billion and Counting: The Hidden Momentum of Population Growth in India.” Vocabulary quiz on chapters 4 and 5 in de Blij and a free-response question on analyzing population pyramids. Hold computer lab using the U.S. Census Bureau’s Web site. Students analyze U.S. and foreign population pyramids: What do they tell you about population concerns in our country, present and future? (This assignment, Lesson 2, is described in more detail below.)

Week #7

To coincide with my attendance at the NCGE annual meeting (three class days). Show video and give questions from *The Power of Place* series, “Oil and Water” (#18, on Egypt and Oman). Show video and give questions from *The Power of Place* series, “Population Geography” (#21, on Mexico and Guatemala). After watching these programs, students will have a clear sense of the important relationship between demographics, land use, and economic development. ARGUS, Activity AX: “Population Proportional Map Making.” Give vocabulary quiz on chapter 6 from de Blij and chapters 2 and 3 from Rubenstein.

Week #8

Students read John Pomfret’s article “China Losing ‘War’ on Births.” Discuss China’s “One Child Rule.” Offer computer lab on population growth and female literacy, using the Internet. Students create a scattergram to show the correlation between literacy and total fertility rates (this assignment, Lesson 3, is described in more detail below). Lecture on the demographic transition model. HW: Students answer the free-response question from the 2000, 2001 *AP Human Geography Course Description* from the inaugural year of the course; it is discussed in class the next day. Make notes on voluntary migration (relate back to video questions on Mexico and Guatemala). Discuss refugees: Who are they? Where do they come from? Discuss Proposition 187 and similar laws.

Week #9

Give vocabulary quiz on Chapter 2 from Knox related to world systems and the concept of globalization. HGIA. In Lab Book, #4: “Newton’s First Law of Migration: The Gravity Model.” Do reading on gravity model and make notes on Reilly’s law of gravitation related to economic location. Make notes on Malthusian, neo-Malthusian, and Bosserup theory. Prepare for class debate on the topic “Is the World Overpopulated?” Hand out debate grading guidelines, rules, and so on. Allot two days of class time for debate preparation.

Week #10

Give vocabulary quiz on chapters 7 and 34 from de Blij. Allot two to three class days to the class debate on whether or not the world is overpopulated. On the third or fourth day, judges announce the winner and their rationale for their decision. Debrief with students. Give population unit exam.

At this point in the course I introduce the Danbury Planning Commission Report, an assignment that students have until Spring Break (mid-April) to complete (this assignment, Lesson 4, is described in detail below). Students who cannot attend a Planning Commission meeting (meetings are held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month) are given an alternate assignment.

Unit 3—Culture

Week #11

Introduce field study project: “How to Become a Windshield Geographer.” Students receive an assignment overview and see a sample of what a good presentation might look like. Introduce surprise culture comparison (toilets of the world!). HW and class discussion: Peter Menzel’s article “What’s for Dinner?” Students analyze and evaluate the cultural differences seen in an activity taken from Peter Menzel’s book *Material World: A Global Family Portrait* and from associated 12 posters. Through this activity and related questions, students compare the mentifacts, artifacts, and sociofacts from various places around the world. Make notes on subtypes of culture and on pop versus folk culture.

Week #12

Give vocabulary quiz on chapters 2, 8, 9, and 10 from de Blij and chapters 4 and 5 from Rubenstein. Administer free-response question asking students to define mentifacts, artifacts, and sociofacts and to give examples of each from different parts of the world. Discuss popular, pop, and folk culture and examples. Make notes on styles of music and different house types, and on the different types of diffusion and examples. Show video segment from *The Gods Must Be Crazy* (to show stimulus diffusion; approximately the first 30 minutes, from the beginning to the point where the tribesman leaves his family to return the Coke bottle to its owner). Offer computer lab: “What’s in a Name?” Using various Web sites, students work on nine different activities related to various aspects of cultures around the world.

At this point in our school calendar there is a four-and-a-half-day break to celebrate Thanksgiving.

Week #13

Show language video: *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (Episode 102). This video shows the relationship of the importance of language to one’s culture and respective understanding. Discuss *Star Trek* episode and related questions that students answered. Have groups give *PowerPoint* presentations of “How to Be a Windshield Geographer.” Show video from *The Power of Place* series: “Ethnic Fragmentation in Canada” (#25, on Vancouver and Montreal). Discuss video.

Week #14

Give computer lab: Internet activity using the Global Connections Web site. Students answer questions related to a comparison of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Show video from *The Power of Place*: “Sacred Space, Secular States?” (#17, on Jerusalem and Turkey). Discuss video. Vocabulary quiz on chapters 11, 12, and 13 from de Blij, chapters 6 and 7 from Rubenstein, and chapters 5 and 6 from Knox. Introduce the concept of medical geography.

Week #15

Work on computer lab. HGIA. In Lab Book, #3: “Tracking the AIDS Epidemic in the United States: Diffusion through Space and Time.” Analyze gender roles. Introduce activity related to students’ roles as men and women, based on a typical 24 hours. Discuss single female households and a “woman’s place” in society. Give Unit 3 exam. Show video: *A Hot Dog Program* (this video is a great, fun way to show students how the cultural landscape of a place is shaped by what people eat on a day-to-day basis). Discuss whether or not Danbury has eating establishments similar to those seen in the video.

Winter Break falls at this point in our school calendar. Students are required to read the first 28 pages of Dominique Lapierre’s book *City of Joy* over the break. We discuss what they have read after we come back from vacation.

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Unit 4—Agriculture and Rural Land Use

Week #16

Introduce Unit 4. Students come up with a list of their favorite foods and answer the following questions: Where are they produced? How do these foods reach the consumer? What factors influence our production and consumption of food? HGIA. In Lab Book, #8: “Food for Thought: The Globalization of Agriculture.” Give examples from local, national, and global scales. Make notes on the importance of corn production. Students do an agricultural analysis using *Goode’s Atlas*.

Week #17

Discuss *City of Joy*. Give vocabulary quiz on chapters 18, 19, and 20 from de Blij, chapter 10 from Rubenstein, and chapter 8 from Knox. Students read excerpts from Eric Schlosser’s book *Fast Food Nation*. Discuss the impact of the globalization of fast food. Discuss the significance of obesity in America. Give notes on and discuss food supply flow chart in chapter 8 (page 350) in Knox. What are the elements that go into the agricultural process of seed to consumer?

Week #18

Give notes and introduce group activity related to von Thünen’s isolated state, economic, and locational rent. Discuss and give examples of what a commodity chain is. Discuss the impact of the three agricultural revolutions throughout history. Using the Internet, have students compare the process of producing rice—specifically, the process in Indonesia vs. the process in California.

Week #19

Show video and give questions from *The Power of Place*: “Small Farms, Big Cities” (#12, on Japan and Tokyo). Using the Internet, have students research Green Revolution and biotechnology, including cross breeding, genetically engineered crops, and U.S. agricultural policy and its impact on the rest of the world. Students complete this activity on the Green Revolution and biotechnology by answering the free-response question related to this topic taken from the 2001 AP Human Geography Exam. Their response to this question counts toward their midterm exam grade. Midterms are held during Week #20.

Week #20

Midterm Exams. Each exam period is two hours long. The first exam period is from 7:20 a.m. to 9:20 a.m. The second exam period is from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Students are dismissed at 11:30 a.m. all week. Because the timing of the midterm exam falls at a point in the course where a unit exam would be called for, a large percentage of the midterm includes questions related to agriculture and rural land use. The midterm is created to model the format of the AP Exam. Students answer 75 multiple-choice questions and three free-response questions selected from a list of 10, allowing them to answer questions from the first four units with which they may feel more comfortable. The free-response questions are taken from previous AP Exams and from those I have written myself.

Unit 5—Political Organization of Space

Week #21

Assign HGIA. In Lab Book, introduce #13: “The Rise of Nationalism and the Fall of Yugoslavia: Nations, States, and Nation-States.” This lab is a paper lab and is due on the day of the unit exam. Students receive handouts of the reading and associated questions related to theories of geopolitics. This is discussed later in the unit. Discuss what boundary changes students think will take place in the next 10 years. Make notes of key terms related to the nature and significance of political boundaries. Give out notes and worksheet related to the concepts of centrifugal and centripetal forces. HW: Answer related questions. Discuss and give examples.

Week #22

Computer lab: Use the Internet to explore “How Is Citizenship Assigned?” Give notes on and discuss international conflict over shared natural resources, focusing on international bodies of fresh water. Discuss the future of the nation-state in the twenty-first century. Give vocabulary quiz on chapter 14 from de Blij and chapter 8 from Rubenstein. Administer free-response question taken from the 2001 AP Exam. Introduce *Goode’s Atlas* activity. Look at examples of state morphology. Analyze impacts.

Week #23

Discuss concepts of shatter belts, irredentism, and chokepoints, having students look at current and past examples. Students take their first of four political geography quizzes that require them to locate countries and know their capital cities. Give countries and capitals quiz on Europe. Discuss compulsory voting, formation of election districts, and gerrymandering. *ARGUS*, Activity F: Land division—based on cultural and land division systems—Westward migration.

Week #24

Give countries and capitals quiz on Africa and Southwest Asia. Read and discuss Rome BC versus Rome AD article. This article, which appeared in the *Guardian* (9/18/02), takes a look at whether or not modern-day American civilization can be compared to that of ancient Rome. Students write about whether that comparison is valid. Give class time to work on research project on the topic “How Long Should We Stay in Iraq? Political and Electoral Impact.”

Week #25

Give countries and capitals quiz on Asia. Discuss status of research project. Highlight breakdown of political map of Europe from World War I to the present. Discuss future historical significance of Congress of Vienna and Berlin Conference of 1884-85. Discuss role of United Nations, League of Nations, and their perceived effectiveness throughout history. Give vocabulary quiz on chapters 15, 16, and 17 from de Blij and chapter 9 from Knox. Show video from *Frontline*: “Arab and Jew in the Promised Land.” Assign analysis of video for extra credit.

Week #26

Discuss video related to Arab/Israeli conflict. Have students present research projects; engage class discussion on findings. *Danbury News-Times* is invited to do a story based on this class discussion. Give countries and capitals quiz on the Americas. Discuss geopolitics readings and questions. Analyze how geopolitics could be addressed as a free-response question on the AP Exam. Give Unit 5 exam.

Unit 6—Urban Land Use

Week #27

Show Robert Crumb slides: students analyze slides made from a poster of a 1970s comic strip depicting the evolution of the American city. Give introductory notes on why we should study cities. Introduce urbanization, relating it to the topics of site and situation and why students think Danbury is located where it is. Make notes and show transparencies on what the functions of cities are. Students go through the process of answering questions in the book *Places Rated Almanac* to determine where they would rather live and to discover how their findings relate to their personal preferences and previous mindset.

Week #28

Discuss importance of Greece and Rome to city building. Give notes on the rates of growth in urbanization and the percent of the world’s population that is urban. Give notes and examples of primate cities and the rank size rule. Students answer the 2003 AP Exam free-response question that is related to Argentina and

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Germany and show how the topics just covered could be used as part of a proper response. Show video and associated questions from the *We Built This City* series. Students compare the evolution of the three cities featured in the series: New York, London, and Paris.

Week #29

Give notes, show transparencies, and lead discussion related to Central Place Theory. Students look at a Lights of North America map and discuss application and validity of theory. Students discuss the general patterns and flaws related to Central Place Theory and then answer a free-response question related to this theory that could be on the AP Exam. Computer Lab. HGIA. In Lab Book, #9: “Take Me Out to the Ball Game: Market Areas and Urban Hierarchy.” Give vocabulary quiz on all de Blij chapters that are related to urban land use.

Week #30

Introduce computer lab from HGIA, Lab Book, #10: “Reading the Urban Landscape: Census Data and Field Observation.” Lead walking tour of Danbury. Make notes related to urban models and how they are exhibited in different areas from around the world. Show video from *The Power of Place: “Cityscapes, Suburban Sprawl”* (#24, on Boston and Chicago). Discuss significance of King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. Discuss and give notes on urban sprawl: What is urban sprawl? Why were suburbs created? Are they really preferable to so-called urban living?

Week #31

Read and discuss the articles about urban sprawl: “Home from Nowhere” and “Car-Less in New York.” Give vocabulary quiz on all chapters from Rubenstein and Knox related to urban land use. Make notes on accessibility, bid-rent, urban structure model. Give notes and introduce maps on planning and zoning regulations and purpose. Pay specific attention to local regulations. Give Unit 6 exam.

Unit 7—Economics and Industrialization

Week #32

Students receive handouts and related instructions for take-home quizzes and exams. Discuss when AP Exam reviews will occur. I typically hold three Saturday morning reviews. During school, hold review sessions during the week of the administration of the Connecticut Academic Performance Test. After-school reviews begin two to two-and-a-half weeks before the exam for two to three days a week and, based on student comfort level and my after-school schedule and responsibilities, continue until the day before the exam. Review sessions are held in the evening if there is enough interest. Assign *The U.S. Role in a Changing World* reading and lead discussion related to U.S. impact on global economy. Concentrate on NAFTA, maquiladoras, and the EU. Give notes on developmental principles; haves and have-nots; Rostow’s stages of development. Introduce *Goode’s Atlas* group activity related to levels of development (this assignment, Lesson 5, is described in detail below). Take-home exam is due on de Blij chapters and chapter 9 in Rubenstein.

At this point in the school calendar, students have a week off for Spring Break.

Week #33

Give notes and examples related to David Ricardo and comparative and absolute advantage. Give notes on economic and industrialization models. Discuss Weber’s Least Cost Theory and location of industry, Wallerstein’s world systems/core and Periphery, and Reilly’s Law of Retail Gravitation. Explore the impact of growth on China and India, including analysis of current articles from *National Geographic* and the *New York Times*. Show video from *The Power of Place: “The Booming Maritime Edge”* (#10, on Guangdong and

Taiwan). Give notes on “Where in the World is Wal-Mart?” (*Frontline* episode) and on the changing labor force in the United States. Highlight the impact of tourism on the environment and economy of an area. Students go through the process of answering the related free-response question from the 2003 AP Exam. Take-home exam is due on de Blij chapters, chapter 11 from Rubenstein, and chapter 7 from Knox.

Weeks #34 and #35

Conduct in-class AP Exam Review.

Wednesday, May 5

AP Exam—Morning Session!

Monday, May 10

Begin Independent Study (this assignment, Lesson 6, is described in detail below).

Monday, May 24

Take field trip: walking tour of New York City.

After the AP Exam

After students have taken the AP Exam and, depending on how long your school year lasts (in Danbury we are typically in school until June 15), teachers can do a number of different activities with their students. As part of my efforts to replicate a typical university course for my students, I have them work on an independent study program, which I have found to be very effective. This two-pronged assignment is described in detail below, along with specific instructions that ask students to write a three-page review of a book taken from a list I provide. Students must also complete a *PowerPoint* presentation. If you have more or less time than I do after the exam, you can easily modify this assignment to fit your needs.

Teaching Strategies

Class Initiation

As an initiation to each class, I have found that a brief, five- to seven-minute discussion on a current event topic that has some geographic relevance is a very effective way to allow students to experience my course mantra of “geography is everything and everything is geography.” For example, I use articles from *National Geographic* or *Smithsonian* magazines for discussion. Likewise, I encourage students to read the *New York Times* and watch CNN, MSNBC, PBS, and FOX News, because I bring in topics from those sources as well. As the year goes on, students find their own sources for discussion, such as these resources’ Web sites or other publications and news programs. Finally, local sources of news like our daily newspaper also create avenues for discussion.

Examples of topics I have used for class initiations range anywhere from discussing a *60 Minutes* segment on a Muslim comic from the United Kingdom who does her stand-up routine dressed in a traditional *hijab*, to a local story in the *Danbury News Times* about the changing of zoning laws to account for the city’s influx of immigrants and the associated illegal housing that has sprung up, to an article in the May 2004 issue of *National Geographic* that deals with the evolution of the city of Hanoi over the last 100 years due to the imprints made on the city by the Vietnamese, French colonialism, and American forces during the Vietnam War.

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Field Trips

During my four years of teaching AP Human Geography, I have taken students on two field trips per year. One trip is a field study, where students go on a walking tour of Danbury. On this walk, the students examine two distinct areas, the CBD and a mixed use/residential area, where zoning laws have had a major effect on their use over the last 40 years. The other trip is a post-AP Exam excursion to New York City, where students are asked to study land use and the infrastructure related to the evolution of New York City, a Tier 1 world city.

Lecture versus Student Presentations

Regarding the breakdown of lecture versus student presentations in the AP Human Geography classroom, I feel that even though this is an introductory-level university course, the amount of lecture time should be limited in favor of activities that will engage students in a continual analysis of spatial relationships. Therefore, I lecture and/or have students take notes approximately 35 percent of the time; the rest of the class time is reserved for computer labs, discussions, debates, videos, field studies, and group work.

With regard to group work, I have found this method to be very effective with my students. Specifically, atlases like *The Penguin Atlas of Women in the World*, *The Penguin Atlas of Food*, and *Goode's Atlas* (which every AP Human Geography classroom should have) can be great resources for the creation of group and collaborative learning activities. In one activity, I ask students to use *Goode's Atlas* and both of the Penguin atlases to determine the level of development of 12 selected countries.

AP Exam Preparation

To help prepare my students for the AP Exam, almost every quiz assessment and exam that I give them has some form of free-response question presented in the same format as those on the AP Exam. Likewise, unit exams are comprehensive in nature, meaning they include not only questions from the section of the course we have most recently covered but also questions from earlier parts of the course.

With regard to how much time I allot for review before the AP Exam, it is important when planning my units that I take into consideration the constant reality of New England weather and the loss of class time to snow days. I try to allow for at least two weeks of review time after factoring in the loss of five to six school days due to inclement winter weather. The year this syllabus was taught I stayed mostly on track, while the year before I lucked out because the AP Exam was scheduled as the last exam on the last day of testing, giving us extra time. So even though there were many more snow days the year this syllabus was taught, I still had approximately two weeks of in-class review time after finishing formal lessons on content.

Before going into review mode, I ask my students to outline the major vocabulary terms from each unit along with all the models and theories we have covered throughout the year so that we can specifically address these points during review sessions. Review sessions are typically held after school and on Saturday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. If students specifically request it, review sessions can also be held in the evening. I have found over the four years of teaching this course that by the time students get to 48 hours before the exam, they are ready and tend to lack focus during the final review sessions. At that point, one might consider having the remaining review sessions after school for those students who really want it and keeping the class atmosphere a bit less formal. Obviously, this decision must be made by individual teachers based on their own class dynamics.

Lab Component

If at all possible, the use of technology in the AP Human Geography classroom is highly recommended. It is clear from the activities described in this syllabus that I include many varied uses of technology in my

classroom. Typically, the juniors and seniors who enroll in AP Human Geography at Danbury High School have a great deal of technological skill before they enter the class—they have a high comfort level with Microsoft's *PowerPoint*, *Word*, and *Excel*, and other widely used programs. My school's state-of-the-art computer network allows students to access their teachers' Web sites and save work to designated folders, making the students and teachers' academic life much less stressful.

Computer lab time is set up in relation to how the HGIA and Internet labs fall in the weekly breakdown of the course. Based on how the labs work in my school and their popularity with other teachers, I typically have to sign up for lab time approximately one month in advance. With regard to the relative number of computer labs in relation to classroom-centered labs, 65 percent of my course's labs originate in the computer lab and 35 percent originate in the classroom. That said, students' access to the HGIA software as well as to Internet sites may make this percentage fluctuate over time. Students usually work on in-class labs in groups of three to four, whereas labs completed using HGIA and the Internet are done individually.

Due to time constraints, the completion of HGIA and labs related to the use of the Internet can sometimes become problematic. Therefore, I have obtained a site license for the HGIA software that allows our technology department to include a link to the program that can be accessed when each of my students logs onto our computer network, which can be done outside of class. I have also purchased five copies of the HGIA lab book and its accompanying CD-ROM, which students can use at home. With regard to lab assignments that use the Internet, at the beginning of the year students receive a list of all the Web sites they will be accessing throughout the course.

Student Evaluation

Grades are calculated on a percentage system:

Class participation in discussions, debates, in-class assignments, being prepared for class	7%
Computer labs	11%
Quizzes and AP student companion questions	25%
Journals (free-response writing)	17%
Exams and projects	40%

The format of unit tests and the midterm exam is modeled on the AP Human Geography Exam. Students are given a maximum of 20 minutes to answer the one free-response question required on the exam when it is taken during a 45-minute class period. They are typically given more than one free-response question from which to choose. During a normal 45-minute class period, students can begin the multiple-choice section of the exam (usually 50 to 60 questions) as soon as they are done with the free-response question. For the midterm exam, they are given one hour to answer 75 multiple-choice questions and one hour to answer 3 free-response questions. For all exams, the multiple-choice and free-response questions are both weighted at 50 percent, which mimics the scoring process of the AP Exam. Finally, whenever students are asked to answer a free-response question, they are required to turn in an outline before they sit for the quiz or exam. In this way students grow used to creating an outline before beginning to write their answer. This is a practice that I hope will be automatic by the time they take the AP Exam in May.

Teacher Resources

Textbooks

de Blij, H. J., and Alexander B. Murphy. *Human Geography: Culture, Society, and Space*. 7th ed. New York: John Wiley, 2003.

Make sure students use the associated AP student companion.

My students read chapters or sections in the following textbooks, depending on the material covered.

Fellmann, Jerome D., Arthur Getis, and Judith Getis. *Human Geography*. 7th ed. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2003.

Jordan-Bychkov, Terry G., and Mona Domosh. *The Human Mosaic: A Thematic Introduction to Cultural Geography*. 9th ed. New York: W. H. Freeman, 2003.

Knox, Paul L., and Sallie A. Marston. *Places and Regions in Global Context: Human Geography*. 3rd ed. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 2004.

Rubenstein, James M. *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography*. 8th ed. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 2004.

Supplemental Textbooks and Lab Books

Kuby, Michael, John Harner, and Patricia Gober. *Human Geography in Action*. 3rd ed. New York: John Wiley, 2004. Book and CD-ROM.

Pearce, Margaret W. *Exploring Human Geography with Maps*. New York: W. H. Freeman, 2003.

Videos

Frontline series. PBS. Various years.

Titles in this series can be found at www.pbs.org.

The Gods Must Be Crazy. CBS/FOX Video, 1990. Video.

A Hot Dog Program. PBS Home Video, 1996.

For more information about this video, go to www.pbs.org.

The Power of Place: Geography for the 21st Century series. Annenberg/CPB, 2003.

For more information about this 26-video series and its accompanying teacher's guide, go to www.learner.org.

Star Trek: The Next Generation. Episode 102. Darmok, 1987. Video.

We Built This City series. Discovery Channel, 2003.

For more information about this series on New York, London, and Paris, go to www.discovery.com.

"World in the Balance," shown on NOVA. PBS, 2004.

For more information about this video, go to www.pbs.org.

Atlases

Goodall, Brian. *The Penguin Dictionary of Human Geography*. New York: Penguin Books, 1987.

Hudson, John C., ed. *Goode's World Atlas*. 20th ed. N.p.: Rand McNally, 2000.

This atlas is a *must* for any teacher of AP Human Geography.

Millstone, Erik, and Tim Lang. *The Penguin Atlas of Food: Who Eats What, Where, and Why?* New York: Penguin Books, 2003.

Seager, Joni. *The Penguin Atlas of Women in the World*. 3rd ed. New York: Penguin Books, 2003.

Software

ARGUS: *Activities and Readings and the Geography of the United States*. Washington, D.C.: Association of American Geographers, 1999. Book and CD-ROM.

Books and Journals

Alagona, Peter S., and Meredith Marsh. *How to Prepare for the AP Exam in Human Geography*. Hauppauge, N.Y.: Barron's, 2003.

Be very careful when using this resource. While the multiple-choice questions and unit reviews are definitely appropriate, the strategies for answering the free-response questions on the AP Human Geography Exam are *not* in line with what the Readers look for when they score the AP Exam.

American Geographical Society. *FOCUS on Geography*. Published quarterly.

Becker, Jasper. "China's Growing Pains: More Money, More Stuff, More Problems, Any Solutions?" *National Geographic* 205, no. 3 (March 2004): 68–95.

Brunn, Stanley D., Jack F. Williams, and Donald J. Zeigler, eds. *Cities of the World: World Regional Urban Development*. 3rd ed. Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield, 2003.

Clemmons, Joan, and Tom L. McKnight. *Teacher's Guide: AP Human Geography*. New York: College Entrance Examination Board, 1999.

Crumb, Robert. "A Short History of America." Reprint. Amherst, Mass.: Denis Kitchen, 1991. Poster
This is available from the publisher's Web site, deniskitchen.com (click on *Go Shopping in Our Store*, then click on the *Posters & Signs* button and scroll down).

Davis, Kenneth C. *Don't Know Much about Geography: Everything You Need to Know about the World but Never Learned*. New York: William Morrow, 1992.

Diamond, Jared. *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*. New York: W. W. Norton, 1999.
This book is one of the choices on my summer reading list.

Foner, Eric. *Who Owns History? Rethinking the Past in a Changing World*. New York: Hill & Wang, 2002.

Friedman, Thomas L. *The Lexus and the Olive Tree: Understanding Globalization*. Rev. ed. New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2000.

Friedman, Thomas L. *Longitudes and Attitudes: The World in the Age of Terrorism*. New York: Anchor Books, 2003.

Chapter 3

Garreau, Joel. *Edge City: Life on the New Frontier*. New York: Doubleday, 1991.

Hanson, Susan, ed. *Ten Geographic Ideas That Changed the World*. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 1997.

This is a very good book, but it is also very difficult to find because it is currently out of print.

Heatwole, Charles A. "Car-Less in New York." *American Association of Geography annual meeting publication* (Fall 2001).

Hebert, Laura. "Do Maps Create or Represent Reality?" *Geography*. geography.about.com/library/misc/ucmaps.htm.

To find this article, type its title in the search box. It will appear about halfway down on the page that comes up.

Herzog, Brad. *States of Mind: A Search for Faith, Hope, Inspiration, Harmony, Unity, Friendship, Love, Pride, Wisdom, Honor, Comfort, Joy, Bliss, Freedom, Justice, Glory, Triumph, and Truth or Consequences in America*. Winston-Salem, N.C.: John F. Blair, 1999.

"Home from Nowhere." *The Atlantic Monthly* 278, no. 3 (September 1992): 43–66.

Jackson, Kenneth T. *Crabgrass Frontier. The Suburbanization of the United States*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1985.

Kunstler, James Howard. *The Geography of Nowhere: The Rise and Fall of America's Man-Made Landscape*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1993.

Lamb, David. "Hanoi." *National Geographic* 205, no. 5 (May 2004): 80–97.

Lapierre, Dominique. *City of Joy*. New York: Warner Books, 1992.

Lockwood, Catherine, ed. *Focus on Human Geography*. Jacksonville, Ala.: National Council for Geographic Education, 2004.

Menzel, Peter. *Material World: A Global Family Portrait*. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 1994.

Menzel, Peter. "What's for Dinner?" *Smithsonian* (January 2002): 70–75.

Monmonier, Mark. *How to Lie with Maps*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1991.

National Council for Geographic Education. *The Journal of Geography* 99, no. 2/3 (May–August 2000).

On a consistent basis teachers can find information in this journal that can be used in the AP Human Geography classroom. This special issue provides a good, broad overview of the different units of study covered in the AP Human Geography course. It is a *must read* for any new teacher of the course.

Places Rated Almanac: Your Guide to Finding the Best Places to Live in America. Chicago: Rand McNally. Published annually.

Pomfret, John. "China Losing 'War' on Births: Uneven Enforcement Undermines One-Child Policy." *Washington Post Foreign Service*, May 3, 2000, A01. www.unlv.edu/faculty/jewett/China_losing_population_war.html.

Schlosser, Eric. *Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2001.

Sherer, Thomas E., Jr. *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Geography*. New York: Alpha Books, 1997.

The U.S. Role in a Changing World. 2nd ed. The Choices Program series. Providence, R.I.: Choices for the 21st Century Education Program, Watson Institute for International Studies at Brown University, 2004.

Zakaria, Fareed. *The Future of Freedom: Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad*. New York: W. W. Norton, 2003.

Professional Organizations

Being a member of the following professional organizations has had a significant positive influence on my teaching of AP Human Geography. Membership in these organizations provides professional development opportunities for AP Human Geography teachers. It is extremely valuable to network with members of the AP Human Geography Development Committee and other AP Human Geography teachers.

The Connecticut Geographic Alliance (CGA). www.ctgeoalliance.org.

National Council for Geographic Education. www.ncge.org.

Every AP Human Geography teacher should become a member of this organization. NCGE is committed to helping AP Human Geography teachers become as proficient as possible at teaching the course.

Web Sites

About Geography
www.geography.about.com/

American Cities Atlas Project
<http://130.166.124.2/library.html>

The Amish and Plain People
www.800padutch.com/amish.shtml

Amsterdam
www.bmz.amsterdam.nl/adam/index_e.html

AP Central
<http://apcentral.collegeboard.com>

The Aral Sea: Interactive Map
http://visearth.ucsd.edu/VisE_Int/aralsea/aral_ismap.html

Ask Asia
www.askasia.org/teachers/lessons/

Australian Idiom and Slang
<http://cooperfamily.ourfamily.com/idiom.htm>

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Brit-Speak

<http://esl.about.com/library/vocabulary/blbritam.htm?once=true&terms=british-american>

CIA. The World Factbook

<http://cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html>

This URL will take you to the most current World Factbook. Teachers can also access prior editions of the World Factbook for use in an activity in which students analyze/correlate the changes in data and impact over time (e.g., the correlation between TFR and the literacy rates of women throughout the world).

Cities and Agglomerations

www.citypopulation.de/cities.html

Citizenship Requirements

www.dss.mil

Classical Geopolitics

www.nwc.navy.mil/press/Review/1999/autumn/art3-a99.htm

Comparative Religions

www.ias.berkeley.edu/orias/slideshow/Slide.htm

Countries A to Z

www.atlapedia.com/online/country_index.htm

Cultural Landscapes around the World

www.greatmirror.com

Demographic Transition Model

www.uwmc.uwc.edu/geography/Demotrans/demtran.htm

European Union

http://europa.eu.int/index_en.htm

German Names

www-lib.iupui.edu/kade/nameword/apend-a.html

Global Connections

www.pbs.org/wghb/globalconnections

Global Connections: The Middle East (Judaism, Christianity, Islam)

www.pbs.org/wgbh/globalconnections/mideast/index.html

Greatest Cities (a searchable site)

www.greatestcities.com/

Green Revolution

www.chs.edu.sg/~nancy/GreenQ_files/frame.htm

Las Vegas

www.nmhu.edu/region/lvhist.htm
www.nevadaindex.com/3lvhistory.htm
<http://lasvegas.about.com/od/facts/history/>

Madrid: History

www.eurotravelling.net/spain/madrid/madrid_history.htm

MapQuest

www.mapquest.com

Moscow

<http://sunsite.cs.msu.su/moscow/history.html>

Multilingual Newspaper Translator

www.humanitas-international.org/newstran/index.html
This is a really good site for looking at foreign newspapers that can then be translated into English.

Museum of the City of New York

www.mcny.org/

National Center for Health Statistics

www.cdc.gov/nchs/

National Geographic

www.nationalgeographic.com/

New York City: The Five Points Site (urban archaeology)

<http://r2.gsa.gov/fivept/fphome.htm>

New York City: Immigration

www.cis.yale.edu/amstud/inforev/riis/title.html

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

www.nato.int/

Population and Demography

<http://demography.anu.edu.au/VirtualLibrary/CensusData.html>

Population Reference Bureau

www.prb.org

Pop vs. Soda

www.popvssoda.com/

Post-Green Revolution

www.icrisat.org

Slanguage

www.slanguage.com

Chapter 3

Time and Its Impact on Culture

www.nelson-atkins.org/art/PastExhibitions/tempusfugit/default.htm

UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division (world population, world urbanization)

www.un.org/esa/population/unpop.htm

UN Development Programme. Human Development Reports

<http://hdr.undp.org/reports/default.cfm>

UN FAO. Food and Agriculture Organization

www.fao.org

UN High Commission for Refugees (statistics)

www.unhcr.org

University of Michigan Documents Center. Statistical Resources on the Web: Foreign Government Data Sources

www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/stforeig.html

University of Virginia. Cultural Maps (in American Studies)

http://xroads.Virginia.edu/~MAP/map_hp.html

Urban Studies

<http://library.gc.cuny.edu/RESEARCH/urban.asp>

U.S. Census Bureau. American FactFinder

<http://factfinder.census.gov>

I have made great use of this site when having students compile an analysis of the cultural landscape of our local area.

U.S. Census Bureau. County and City Data Book

www.census.gov/statab/www/ccdb.html

U.S. Census Bureau. Foreign Trade Statistics

www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/

U.S. Census Bureau. International Data Base (IDB)

www.census.gov/ipc/www/idbnew.html

Students use this site to create and analyze population pyramids on American and international levels. They develop hypotheses about the impact of population growth on both current and future cultural, political, and economic concerns based on the data they find on this site.

U.S. Department of Agriculture. Major World Crop Areas and Climatic Profiles

www.usda.gov/oce/weather/pubs/other/MWCACP/

U.S. Department of Agriculture. 2002 Census of Agriculture

www.nass.usda.gov/Census_of_Agriculture/index.asp

U.S. Department of Labor. Bureau of Labor Statistics

www.bls.gov

U.S. State Department
www.state.gov

World Bank. Data & Statistics
www.worldbank.org/data

World Census Information
www.cyndislist.com/census2.htm

Student Activities

Lesson 1: Mental Map of Danbury

Your goal is to get some sense of what is where in your head regarding where you live.

On a piece of paper no larger than a poster board and no smaller than an 8.5×11 sheet of plain white paper, draw your mental map of the Danbury area. Please make sure you include the Danbury Fair Mall, your home address, and Danbury High School. Show as much detail as you can and remember to make the map accurate in terms of what is important to you (e.g., the places you eat, work, walk, recreate, etc.). Leave off things that are not important. Finally, make sure you include your own made-up symbols for Landmarks (prominent points of interest), Pathways (streets, routes to . . .), Districts (downtown, WCSU), Nodes (meeting places, centers where streets or pathways cross), and Edges (obvious breaks or boundaries between areas).

I don't want a road map, so don't even look at one! Just draw what you know in your head.

When your map is complete, answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper:

1. Of the features you drew on your map, which do you personally consider to be the most important? Why?
2. Are there blank areas on your map? If so, why? What do you guess are in these empty spaces?
3. How long have you lived in the Danbury area? How has this affected your mental map?
4. Do you have a car, a bicycle? Has this affected your mental map?
5. Take a look at a street (cartographic) map of the Danbury area. A good source of online city maps is the MapQuest Web site (be aware that at times it can download a bit slowly). When you get there:
 - Click on the orange globe labeled *Maps*
 - Find a street map by city
 - Type in *Danbury* for the city and *CT* for the state
 - Zoom in on the map until you get a street map of Danbury
6. How does your mental map compare to the street map? Consider differences in detail, distances, directions, and so on.
7. What do the differences between the way you think of the Danbury area and the way it actually is on a street (cartographic) map imply?

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Note for Teachers: When students are done drawing their maps and compiling their information, I have them share their maps with the other students in the class. I ask them to determine whether or not they could find their way around Danbury based on their fellow students' maps. I also ask them to determine what aspects of the cultural landscape can be observed from looking at each other's maps. We have a final discussion about the significance of the mapmaker with regard to the perspective one gets from looking at a map. I am then able to introduce such topics as propaganda maps and perceptual and vernacular regions, as well as different types of maps and the messages they are trying to send. This lesson can be adapted to your own locality.

Lesson 2: Using the U.S. Census Bureau to Analyze Population Pyramids

Analyzing U.S. Population Pyramids: 1950–2050

Based on your knowledge of population pyramids, please analyze the U.S. pyramids and discuss what you feel the implications and consequences to the country are based on your analysis and observation of the data.

Impacts on:

- Families:
- Health Care:
- Elderly:
- Education:
- Social Services:
- Employment/Income:

Analyzing Census Data

Go to the U.S. Census Bureau's International Data Base at www.census.gov/ipc/www/idbnew.html and click on *Population Pyramids*. Pick one country whose population/age structure you would like to analyze over a period of three years. For example, if you choose Sri Lanka, you would then need to look at a minimum of three different years. Once you have found the information for those three years, print out your pyramids and answer the same question for your chosen country as you did for the U.S. pyramids. The Web site will allow you to look at these pyramids in different formats. Please feel free to choose whichever format is to your liking. *Helpful hint:* When choosing years on the Web site, if you hold down the control key you can see more than one pyramid.

Note for Teachers: Before having students go through this activity, they need to have a good understanding of what a population pyramid represents (age and sex), how they can put one together, and the geographic idea of dependency ratio. By going through the process of analyzing population pyramids, students are able to interrelate knowledge from various units of the course, such as (but not only) demographics, public policy and its ramifications on traditional culture, the status of women, levels of development, and current and future impact of population growth on society. This interconnectedness of geographical concepts is something AP Human Geography teachers should be consistently instilling in their students—it is something that will definitely be addressed on the AP Exam.

Lesson 3: Population Growth and Female Literacy, 1993–2003

What follows is a lesson I have found to be very successful. It allows students to use the Internet to correlate the relationship between literacy rates and total fertility rates throughout the world. This lesson also provides students with a good example of the theme of interconnectedness of geographic themes that runs through this course.

Collecting the Data

1. Rank the regions of the world of mostly underdeveloped and developing states (countries) that you have found have seen their fertility rates decrease the most.
2. Select *one* region for which to collect 2002 data.
3. Create a database with the following information for the states/countries of that region. Pick a minimum of five countries for your region. Find information from the CIA's 2002 *World Factbook* on the Internet (www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/docs/gallery.html) or on my Intranet site by clicking on *World Factbook 2002*. For 1992 data, please go to www.umsl.edu/services/govdocs/wofact93/index.html.

(Round data off to one [1] decimal point)

State/Country	1992	2002	1992	2002	1992	2002
	Total Fertility	Total Fertility	Female Literacy	Female Literacy	Male Literacy	Per Capita
	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	GDP

Note for Teachers: Students are to use graph paper to create a scatter gram (plot) based on the 1992 fertility rates and female literacy. To determine if there is a relationship between two variables, data points are displayed in a graph called *scatter grams (plots)*. Scatter grams are two sets of data plotted as ordered pairs in a coordinate plane to model real-life data. Through a scatter gram a correlation is determined as positive, negative, or none at all. Predictions can also be made through scatter grams by using a *best-fit line*. A best-fit line is a line that is drawn passing close to most of the data points. A best-fit line determines whether the correlation is strong or weak.

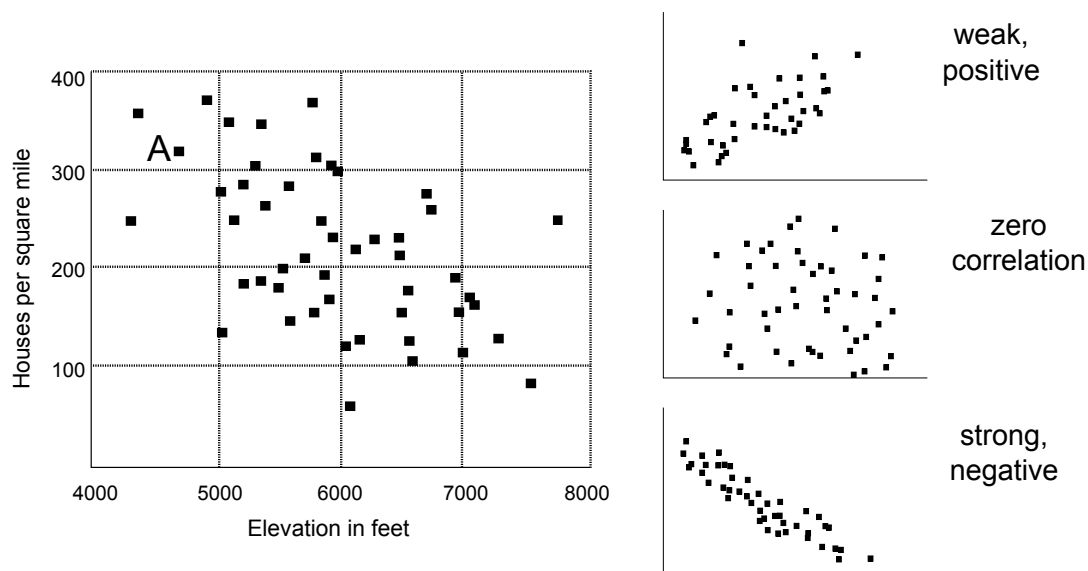
To help students understand the idea of correlation and the associated use of scatter grams, teachers will probably want to go through a sample activity with their students. A good sample activity is the correlation between teenage motherhood and infant mortality rate activity, which can be found in *ARGUS*, Activity T: "Domestic Tranquility, Correlating Map Patterns." The concept handout that is reprinted on the next page from the *ARGUS* software program can also be used to bring forth the idea of correlation to your students.

CONCEPT PAGE T1 – THE IDEA OF CORRELATION

There are several ways to see if maps have similar patterns. The easiest is by *visual comparison*—just look at the maps and judge their similarity. This method has three problems. First, people may not all see the same relationships. Second, a map maker can manipulate symbols to increase or decrease apparent similarity. Third, accuracy seems to decline as map patterns get more complex.

Another way to compare maps is by *graphic correlation*. This method works with maps that use quantitative symbols such as dots, isolines, graduated symbols, or choropleth shading. The procedure has five steps:

- 1) *Sample the maps.* Find between 30 and 60 sample points or areas. Mark their locations on each map. You could use a dot grid, as in Activity D. Or for maps of the United States, you can use the states.
- 2) *Tabulate the values.* Determine the value for each sample area on each map.
- 3) *Set up the graph axes.* Inspect your data and find the largest and smallest value for each variable. Then choose some convenient values to label the major lines of the graph. Pick intervals so that the values for every sub-area on the maps fit on the graph, and yet the graph can “spread” sub-areas out for visual analysis. For example, suppose the elevation lines on the graph below were labeled from 0 to 10,000 feet. The dots would all be packed in a small part of the graph, which would make it hard to see relationships between variables.
- 4) *Plot the values.* Put a dot on the graph to show the value of each sub-area on both maps. For example, the **A** on the graph below represents a location with 4700 feet of elevation and 320 houses per square mile. When you have plotted the dots, count them to verify that you have graphed every sub-area.
- 5) *Interpret the graph.* A line of dots stretching upwards to the right indicates a strong *positive correlation* between the map patterns. A positive correlation means only that a high value on one map is associated with a high value on the other (corn and hogs, for example). A line sloping downward from left to right indicates a *negative correlation*—high values on one map are associated with low values on the other (e.g., this example of elevation and population density). Loose bands of dots indicate weak relationships. Finally, a random scatter of dots all over the graph shows there is *no relationship* between the map patterns.



ARGUS: Activities and Readings in the Geography of the United States (Washington, D.C.: Association of American Geographers, 1999), T-7. Permission granted by Association of American Geographers, Washington, D.C.

Graphing the Data

1. Plot the 1992 points, using a symbol for 1992. After you have plotted the 1992 points, neatly write the name of the country next to the point.
2. Plot the points for 2002, using a different symbol. Draw a neat arrow from the 1992 point for the country to the 2002 point, showing the change; *or* draw two different colored lines that evenly divide the points for both years. Choose the method you think is the most visually effective.
3. Create a title for your new scatter gram and develop a key, identifying your two different point symbols for 1992 and 2002.
4. For what region did you collect data?
5. What was the average fertility rate for your region in 1992?
6. What was the average fertility rate for your region in 2002?
7. What was the change in the average fertility rate for your region from 1992 to 2002?
8. Mexico's fertility rate dropped from 3.3 in 1992 to 2.6 in 2002. Were there any countries in your region where the fertility rate declined as much as Mexico's? If so, which countries?
9. Did any of the countries you collected data for increase in population? If so, which countries?
10. What patterns do you see in your data and the scatter gram you created?
11. Which data and patterns from the scatter gram surprised you?
12. How would you assess population growth in the region you researched? Is population growth increasing or declining? Is your region in trouble? Why or why not?
13. In which countries of the region were females educated at a much lower rate than males?
14. In the countries with low levels of female literacy, do you think that was caused by the country being too poor to educate girls or by something else? If so, what?
15. Based on your scatter gram, do you feel there still continues to be a relationship between female literacy and population growth (fertility rates)? Explain.

Lesson 4: Planning Commission Observation Report

Please stay for at least the first hour of the meeting. From your observations of the Danbury Planning Commission's meeting, complete the following tasks.

1. Set the scene (e.g., How many people are on the commission? How is the room set up? How well is the meeting attended?).
2. What do you think the purpose of this commission is?
3. Briefly describe the expectations you had before the meeting about what you were going to observe.
4. Were you correct in your assumptions or was the meeting much different than you had anticipated? Explain. (Answer this one after you have left.)
5. Pick one of the topics on the agenda and discuss the comments being brought forth by proponents and detractors. Which side do you agree with based on their arguments and your own personal knowledge? Give examples to support your argument.

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6. Finally, if you could make a suggestion to Danbury's Planning Commission on any aspect of urban planning or any specific concern related to the future growth of Danbury, what would that suggestion be? (e.g., adding another mall, widening Route 37, keeping fast food restaurants out of certain neighborhoods). Please give rational and logical reasons to support your point of view.

Alternate Observation Report Assignment

Pick one of the following areas of Danbury, go on a walking tour, and look at the planning and zoning maps.

- Main Street
- Federal Road
- Newtown Road
- South Street
- Mill Plain Road
- Padanarum Road

Answer the following questions:

1. What do you think the neighborhood looked like 100 years ago?
2. Ask at least three storeowners why they have located their business there and if their original plan for success has panned out. If their answer is yes, briefly summarize their plan. If no, ask them why and tell me if you agree with their analysis.
3. What impact do you think the building of I-84 had on this neighborhood?
4. What impact do you think the building of the mall had on this neighborhood?
5. Do you think the neighborhood, as currently planned out, is being used to its utmost potential? Likewise, are there any other neighborhoods in Danbury that need to be looked at with regard to urban development of some sort? Please elaborate as to which neighborhoods and what you would change.
6. Finally, if you could make a suggestion to Danbury's Planning Commission on any aspect of urban planning or any specific concern related to the future growth of Danbury, what would that suggestion be? Examples of suggestions could include adding another mall, more parks and ball fields, another golf course, more Dunkin Donuts; widening Route 37; keeping fast food restaurants out of certain neighborhoods; zoning more residential areas or more commercial areas; and so on. Please give rational and logical reasons to support your point of view.

Lesson 5: Goode's Atlas Activity—Have and Have Nots

Take a look at the maps in *Goode's Atlas* on pages 30 through 65 and the maps in the *Penguin Atlas of Food*. Concentrate on the following countries:

- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Mexico
- Nepal
- Brazil

- Ethiopia
- United States of America
- Egypt
- Japan
- Bolivia
- Australia
- Sweden
- China

Come up with three variables and associated data for each country that allow you to determine whether or not you think the country is currently underdeveloped (3), developed (4), or developing (5). Some of the variables you can zero in on to help you make a call on these countries are:

- Literacy rates
- Per capita GDP
- Population per physician
- Life expectancy
- Calorie supply
- Energy production versus energy consumption
- Rate of natural increase
- Percent urban
- Economic alliances
- Steel production
- Concentrations of manufacturing
- Exports and imports

Lesson 6: Post-AP Exam Independent Study

Final Exam Requirements: You need to complete the following two assignments as your *final exam* responsibility: a *PowerPoint* presentation and a book review.

PowerPoint Presentation

You may do this part of your independent study in groups of two or as individuals. As of May 10, the media center will be signed out for you during Periods 1 and 6. I will be there to make sure you are there during class time. Please save your completed *PowerPoint* to a CD-ROM or send it to me as an e-mail attachment. Your presentation can be related to any aspect of geography. It must have:

- at least 10 slides, with at least 7 of them having some form of graphic and/or image and some form of text description;
- a one-page typed and double-spaced explanation of why you picked this topic (i.e., what is the topic's personal relevance?); and

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- a one-page typed and double-spaced explanation of the topic's geographic relevance (e.g., why would it be helpful for either a person who is not knowledgeable in geography, or someone who is, to view this presentation?).

Presentation Due Date: No later than June 7.

Book Review

From the attached list, choose one book that you have not read. Please let me know which book you have chosen, because I want only one person reviewing each book. Review the book based on the following questions:

- What do you feel are the major points of view of this book? List and explain. Make sure you touch on at least three main ideas. (one page typed and double-spaced)
- What is the significance of this book as it relates to geographical concepts and themes? (1 page typed and double-spaced)
- Do you feel this book would be a worthwhile read for somebody else? Why or why not? Please give examples from the book to support your reasoning. (one page typed and double-spaced)

Many of these books can be found in the school's library as well as at the Danbury Public Library. If there is a book *not* on this list that you feel includes some form of geographic relevance, please let me know and we will determine if it is appropriate for this assignment.

Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart*. New York: Anchor Books, 1994.

Ambrose, Stephen E. *Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the American West*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996.

Becker, Jasper. *Hungry Ghosts: Mao's Secret Famine*. New York: Henry Holt, 1998.

Brown, Dee. *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West*. 30th anniversary ed. New York: Henry Holt, 2001.

Carter, Jimmy. *Talking Peace: A Vision for the Next Generation*. New York: Penguin Books, 1993.

Cather, Willa. *O Pioneers!* New York: Barnes & Noble Classics, 2003.
Also published in 2002 by Vintage Books.

Conrad, Joseph. *Heart of Darkness*. Old Saybrook, Conn.: Tantor Media, 2002.

Conroy, Pat. *The Water Is Wide*. New York: Bantam Books, 1987.

Diamond, Jared. *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*. New York: W. W. Norton, 1999.

Frazier, Charles. *Cold Mountain*. New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 1997.

Friedman, Thomas L. *The Lexus and the Olive Tree: Understanding Globalization*. Rev. ed. New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2000.

- Friedman, Thomas L. *Longitudes and Attitudes: The World in the Age of Terrorism*. New York: Anchor Books, 2003.
- Garreau, Joel. *Edge City: Life on the New Frontier*. New York: Anchor Books, 1992.
- Garrett, Laurie. *The Coming Plague: Newly Emerging Diseases in a World Out of Balance*. New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1994.
- Giardina, Denise. *Storming Heaven*. New York: W. W. Norton, 1987.
- Gordon, Sheila. *Waiting for the Rain*. N.p.: Laurel Leaf, 1996.
- Hamner, Earl. *The Homecoming*. Cutchogue, N.Y.: Buccaneer Books, 2000.
- Hamner, Earl. *Spencer's Mountain*. Cutchogue, N.Y.: Buccaneer Books, 1995.
- Heat Moon, William Least. *Blue Highways: A Journey into America*. Boston: Little, Brown, 1982.
- Herzog, Brad. *States of Mind: A Search for Faith, Hope, Inspiration, Harmony, Unity, Friendship, Love, Pride, Wisdom, Honor, Comfort, Joy, Bliss, Freedom, Justice, Glory, Triumph, and Truth or Consequences in America*. Winston-Salem, N.C.: John F. Blair, 1999.
- Hugo, Victor. *Les Miserables*. New York: Pocket Books, 1998.
- Jackson, Kenneth T. *Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1985.
- Jenkins, Peter. *Across China*. N.p.: Scott Foresman, 1988.
- Jenkins, Peter, and Barbara Jenkins. *The Walk West: A Walk Across America 2*. New York: William Morrow, 1981.
- Joubert, Elsa. *Poppie Nongena*. New York: Henry Holt, 1987.
- Kuntsler, James Howard. *The Geography of Nowhere: The Rise and Fall of America's Man-Made Landscape*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1993.
- Kuralt, Charles. *On the Road with Charles Kuralt*. New York: Fawcett Books, 1995.
- Laird, Elizabeth. *Kiss the Dust*. London: Puffin Books, 1994.
- Lapierre, Dominique. *City of Joy*. New York: Warner Books, 1992.
- Leopold, Aldo. *Sand County Almanac*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1986.
- Lord, Bette Bao. *Spring Moon*. New York: HarperTorch, 1990.
- Markandaya, Kamala. *Nectar in a Sieve*. New York: Signet Classic, 2002.
- Marshall, Catherine. *Christy*. New York: Avon Books, 1976.

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- Marshall, James Vance. *Walkabout*. N.p.: Sundance, 1984.
- Muir, John. *My First Summer in the Sierra*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1998.
- Ngor, Haing. *Cambodian Odyssey*. New York: Macmillan, 1987.
- Orwell, George. *1984*. New York: Signet Classic, 1990.
- Paton, Alan. *Cry, the Beloved Country: A Story of Comfort in Desolation*. New York: Scribners, 1948, 2003.
- Pillai, Thakazhi. *Chemmeen*. Columbia, Mo.: South Asia Books, 1999.
- Renault, Mary. *The Persian Boy*. New York: Vintage Books, 1988.
- Rolvaag, Ole Edvart. *Giants of the Earth: A Saga of the Prairie*. N.p.: Perennial Classics, 1999.
- Rolvaag, Ole Edvart. *Peder Victorious: A Tale of the Pioneers Twenty Years Later*. Lincoln, Neb.: University of Nebraska Press, 1982.
- Rolvaag, Ole Edvart, and Trygve M. Ager. *Their Fathers' God*. Lincoln, Neb.: University of Nebraska Press, 1983.
- Schlosser, Eric. *Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2001.
- Scott, Willard, and Daniel Paisner. *America Is My Neighborhood*. Thorndike, Me.: Thorndike Press, 1988.
- Singh, Khushwant. *Train to Pakistan*. N.p.: Grove Press, 1961. Reissued in 1990.
- Sobel, Dava. *Longitude: The True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of His Time*. New York: Walker, 1995.
- Steinbeck, John. *Grapes of Wrath*. N.p.: Arrow, 1990.
- Steinbeck, John. *Travels with Charley: In Search of America*. New York: Penguin Books, 1980.
- Stilgoe, John R. *Outside Lies Magic: Regaining History and Awareness in Everyday Places*. New York: Walker, 1998.
- Theroux, Paul. *The Old Patagonian Express: By Train through the Americas*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1997.
- Theroux, Paul. *Riding the Iron Rooster: By Train through China*. New York: Putnam's, 1988.
- Thom, James Alexander. *Follow the River*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1986.
- Thom, James Alexander. *From Sea to Shining Sea*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1986.
- Uris, Leon. *Exodus*. New York: Bantam Books, 1983.
- Uris, Leon. *The Haj*. New York: Bantam Books, 1985.

Book Review Due Date: No later than June 7.

Sample Syllabus 4

Christopher Hall

Woods Cross High School

Woods Cross, Utah

School Profile

School Location and Environment: Woods Cross High School is located in a northern suburb of Salt Lake City, Utah. It is the smallest of seven high schools in an academically competitive district. The school district's boundaries run from the foothills of the Wasatch Mountains to the Great Salt Lake, encompassing several very affluent neighborhoods and some areas of poverty. Most students, however, come from middle-class homes.

Students register for eight classes and attend four of them on alternating days for 90-minute periods. Woods Cross prides itself on offering a wide variety of AP courses despite the relatively small size of the school; the social studies department offers seven AP options. Many AP courses are offered for only one period, however, in order to accommodate a rich curriculum with a small faculty. Social studies courses are very popular at the school and it is not uncommon for seniors to register for two or three AP courses, all in the social studies department, during their senior year. Furthermore, a policy of open enrollment and a commitment to smaller class sizes in AP courses has resulted in an increasing number of students who have not been honor students in the past registering for AP courses. Our pedagogy increasingly moves toward better serving those students who arrive in class with less experience and fewer skills.

Grades: 10–12

Type: Public high school

Total Enrollment: 1,253 students

Ethnic Diversity: The student population is 7 percent minority, primarily Hispanic/Latino and Pacific Islander.

College Record: Seventy-five percent of the students go on to college.

Personal Philosophy

The majority of students will never become professional geographers, and so it is vital for the geography teacher to give them a geographic perspective that will serve them throughout their diverse lives. The most important thing is to help students learn to appreciate and enjoy the landscape and to work toward improving and preserving the landscapes they appreciate. I believe that newspapers and news magazines can and should be a geography teacher's most important resources because they are what students will likely spend their lives reading and analyzing. I try to teach my students to *find the geography* that is present in their reading and to enjoy interpreting it. Finally, I hope to encourage the proliferation of mapped material by helping students to see how much more powerfully some data can speak when it is presented spatially rather than merely as text or in a graph.

Class Profile

Woods Cross offers only one section of AP Human Geography each year, with an average enrollment of about 18 students. Classes meet every other day for 90 minutes (on an A/B block schedule). It should

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be noted that Davis School District requires a full year of geography, usually taught as a world regional geography course in the ninth grade, for graduation. Consequently, all students attending Woods Cross have some background in geographic education when they register for high school.

Course Overview

AP Human Geography is a yearlong course that focuses on the distribution, processes, and effects of human populations on the planet. Units of study include population, migration, culture, language, religion, ethnicity, political geography, economic development, industry, agriculture, and urban geography. Emphasis is placed on geographic models and their applications. Case studies from around the globe are compared to the situation in both the United States and Utah. CD-ROM and Internet activities are used to explore certain topics.

Course Objectives

- To introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface
- To learn about and employ the methods of geographers, especially including observation, mapmaking, data gathering and reporting, and technical writing
- To employ spatial concepts, geographic vocabulary, and landscape interpretation to a variety of locations and situations around the globe and in local areas: Bountiful City, Davis County, and the state of Utah
- To develop a geographic perspective with which to view the landscape and understand current events

Texts and Study Materials

Hudson, John C. *Goode's World Atlas*. 20th ed. N.p.: Rand McNally, 1999.

Kuby, Michael, John Harner, and Patricia Gober. *Human Geography in Action*. 1st ed. New York: John Wiley, 1998.

The Power of Place: Geography for the 21st Century series. N.p.: Annenberg/CPB Project, 1996. Video.

The programs in this series are used for the video case studies. Annenberg/CPB renamed some of these programs in their updated 2003 version of the series. However, teachers who use the 2003 version should have no trouble converting the programs named in this syllabus to the updated series.

Rubenstein, James M. *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography*. 7th ed. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 2003.

Course Planner

Weeks 1–3: The Nature of Geography

Reading Assignments

- Rubenstein, Chapter 1: "Thinking Geographically"
- Kuby, Chapter 1: "True Maps, False Impressions"
- Rubenstein, Appendix, pp. 488-93

Unit Objectives and Activities

1. Define geography, human geography; explain the meaning of the spatial perspective.
2. Explain how geographers classify each of the following and provide examples of each:
 - a) distributions
 - b) locations
 - c) regions
3. Identify how each of the following plays a role in mapmaking:
 - a) simplification
 - b) categorization
 - c) symbolization
 - d) induction
4. Identify types of scale and projections used in mapmaking; identify advantages and disadvantages of different projections.
5. List different types (models) of diffusion and provide examples/illustrations of each in the real world.
6. Distinguish between different types of maps and mapped information (e.g., dot distribution, choropleth, etc.) and provide explanations of strengths and weaknesses of each.

Weeks 4–6: Population

Reading Assignment

- Rubenstein, Chapter 2: “Population”
- Kuby, Chapter 7: “The Hidden Momentum of Population Growth”

Unit Objectives and Activities

1. Map major and emerging population concentrations and describe demographic characteristics of each.
2. Consider the concepts of ecumene and non-ecumene and consider:
 - a) Why do most people live where they do?
 - b) For what reasons have humans historically avoided certain areas?
 - c) Where do nonexamples of each exist? Why?
3. Calculate arithmetic, agricultural, and physiological densities and describe the strengths and weaknesses of each for demographic analysis.
4. Explain the elements of a population pyramid and distinguish between characteristic shapes.
5. Explain the demographic transition model:
 - a) What are its components?
 - b) Which countries does it describe in each phase?
 - c) Why might it not predict the future for developing countries today?
6. Give examples of pro- and antinatalist policies and their effects in example countries.
7. Define key demographic terms and identify regions in which high and low extreme examples of each can be found.

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8. Concerning natural hazards, do the following:
 - a) list various types of natural hazards and disasters
 - b) map the areas most affected by them
 - c) compare with the map of population distribution
 - d) hypothesize the degree of danger in various regions
 - e) discuss methods that are taken to adapt to these dangers

Video Case Study

- Program 18-1, “Egypt: Population Overload”

Weeks 7–9: Movement

Reading Assignments

- Rubenstein, Chapter 3: “Migration”
- Kuby, Chapter 4: “Newton’s First Law of Migration”

Unit Objectives and Activities

1. Distinguish between and give characteristics of the following types of human movement:
 - a) circulation and migration
 - b) forced and voluntary migration
 - c) push and pull factors
2. Discuss the contributions of Ravenstein to the study of human movement and migration.
3. Use the gravity model to predict migration and evaluate its efficiency and usefulness.
4. Map specific examples of historic and contemporary forced migrations, explaining push and pull factors associated with each.
5. Characterize a refugee and refugee populations.
6. Discuss the migration history of the United States through the following:
 - a) immigration history
 - b) immigration policy
 - c) historic and contemporary streams of migration
 - d) internal migration patterns
7. Explain how distance decay, intervening obstacles, and migration selectivity factors affect migration and circulation patterns.
8. Correlate migration patterns to the demographic transition model.

Video Case Studies

- Program 14-1, “Mexico: Motive to Migrate”
- Program 19-1, “Ivory Coast: The Legacy of Colonialism”

Weeks 10–11: Culture

Reading Assignments

- Rubenstein, Chapter 4: “Folk and Popular Culture”
- Kuby, Chapter 2: “Cactus, Cowboys, and Coyotes: The Southwest Culture Region”

Unit Objectives and Activities

1. Define culture and cultural geography.
2. Compare and contrast the following aspects of folk and popular culture:
 - a) origins
 - b) methods of diffusion
 - c) culture regions
3. Examine specific examples of folk culture and regions.
4. Examine examples of specific popular cultural traits and discuss their diffusion.
5. Discuss ways in which cultural traits are affected by and affect the natural environment.
6. Discuss the role of racism and ethnocentrism in the understanding of the cultural landscape.

Video Case Study

- Program 26-1, “Indonesia: Tourist Invasion”

Weeks 12–13: Geography of Language

Reading Assignment

- Rubenstein, Chapter 5: “Language”

Unit Objectives and Activities

1. Discuss the importance and role of language as an element of culture.
2. Explain how languages are classified and related.
3. Map the distribution of major language families worldwide.
4. Show the division of Europe into the following language groups and give specific examples from major groups:
 - a) Germanic
 - b) Slavic
 - c) Romance
5. Describe the following characteristics of English:
 - a) origin and historical development
 - b) worldwide diffusion
 - c) spatial variation
 - d) role in cultural convergence
6. Explain the how, why, and where of language change.
7. Discuss the regional and local variety in language using the following terms:
 - a) slang
 - b) isogloss
 - c) accent
8. Explain how toponyms are derived and classified and give various examples.

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Video Case Study

- Program 10-1, “Quebec: An Island of French”

Weeks 14–16: Geography of Religion

Reading Assignment

- Rubenstein, Chapter 6: “Religion”

Unit Objectives and Activities

1. Identify the following characteristics of all major religions:
 - a) point of origin
 - b) method of diffusion
 - c) current distribution
 - d) landscape expression
2. Map the religious regions of the United States.
3. Discuss the major branches, their origins, and their current distributions for the following religions:
 - a) Christianity
 - b) Islam
 - c) Buddhism
4. Distinguish between ethnic and universalizing religions:
 - a) holy sites
 - b) holy days
 - c) methods of diffusion
5. Describe ways in which the environment influences religion and ways in which religions affect the natural environment.
6. Discuss various specific religious conflicts around the world in terms of the following:
 - a) religion versus politics
 - b) religion versus religion—interfaith conflicts
 - c) religion versus religion—intrafaith conflicts

Video Case Study

- Program 17-1, “Jerusalem, Sacred Space Under Siege”

Weeks 17–19: Ethnicity, Gender, and Geography

Reading Assignment

- Rubenstein, Chapter 7: “Ethnicity”

Unit Objectives and Activities

1. Describe the distribution of major ethnicities within the United States:
 - a) identify states/regions in which they are clustered
 - b) identify regions in which they are mostly absent
 - c) provide reasons for the present distribution

2. Examine case studies of ethnic conflicts from different regions.
3. Consider ways in which gender-related issues are expressed spatially, particularly:
 - a) economic roles and activity
 - b) health and reproduction
 - c) level of education
4. Discuss various nation-state configurations and illustrate them with examples:
 - a) nation-state
 - b) part-nation state
 - c) multinational state
 - d) stateless nation

Video Case Studies

- Program 9-1, “Boston: Ethnic Mosaic”
- Program 7-1, “Dagestan: Russia’s Southern Challenge”
- Program 20-2, “South Africa: This Is My Land”

Weeks 20–22: Political Geography

Reading Assignment

- Rubenstein, Chapter 8: “Political Geography”

Unit Objectives and Activities

1. Explain the concept of *state* by:
 - a) identifying necessary qualifications and characteristics
 - b) listing examples of states in various regions
 - c) describing quasi-states
2. Describe the problems of multinational states and stateless nations.
3. List advantages and disadvantages of different types of boundaries and provide real-world examples:
 - a) natural/physical boundaries
 - b) cultural boundaries
 - c) geometric boundaries
4. List advantages and disadvantages of different shapes of states and provide examples.
5. Discuss the concepts of imperialism and colonialism and illustrate some of their consequences on the contemporary political map.
6. Define irredentism and devolution and illustrate with examples.
7. Summarize the history of the United Nations and identify issues of current importance regarding it.

Video Case Studies

- Program 25-1, “Laos: Isolated Heart”
- Program 3-2, “Slovakia: New Sovereignty”

Chapter 3

Weeks 23–25: Economic Development

Reading Assignments

- Rubenstein, Chapter 9: “Development”
- Kuby, Chapter 8: “From Rags to Riches: The Dimensions of Development”

Unit Objectives and Activities

1. Use examples of human welfare indicators to distinguish between relatively developed and less developed countries.
2. Use examples of economic indicators to classify countries as less developed or relatively developed.
3. Draw the Brandt line on a world or regional map.
4. Compare and contrast different theories and models of economic development and the relationship between less developed and relatively developed countries.
5. Provide examples of the different sectors of a country’s economy and explain the economic relationship between them.

Video Case Study

- Program 18-2, “Oman: Looking Beyond Oil”

Weeks 26–28: Geography of Agriculture—Primary Economic Activities

Reading Assignments

- Rubenstein, Chapter 10: “Agriculture”
- Rubenstein, Chapter 14: “Key Issue 3”

Unit Objectives and Activities

1. Explain how agriculture originated and identify its various hearths.
2. Describe the evolution of agricultural practices from their first use until today.
 - a) Neolithic Revolution
 - b) Second Agricultural Revolution
 - c) Green Revolution and biotechnology
3. Consider how each of the following correlates with specific agricultural regions:
 - a) climate
 - b) terrain
 - c) culture
 - d) situation with regard to world markets
4. Describe and apply the von Thünen model to both small- and large-scale situations.
5. Identify the predominant agricultural practices associated with various regions of the world.
6. Use agricultural practice to differentiate between less developed and relatively developed countries.
7. Compare and contrast different types of rural landscapes and settlements:
 - a) linear villages
 - b) cluster villages
 - c) dispersed settlements

Video Case Studies

- Program 25-2, “Vietnam: Fertile Dreams”
- Program 16-2, “Chile: Pacific Rim Player”
- Program 12-1, “Northern Japan: Protecting the Harvest”
- Program 21-2, “Dikhatpura: Help through Irrigation”

Weeks 29–31: Geography of Industry—Secondary Economic Activities

Reading Assignments

- Rubenstein, Chapter 11: “Industry”
- Rubenstein, Chapter 14: “Key Issue 1”
- Rubenstein, Chapter 14: “Key Issue 2”
- Kuby, Chapter 6: “Help Wanted”

Unit Objectives and Activities

1. Explain the Industrial Revolution by:
 - a) describing its origin
 - b) describing its diffusion and current pattern of industrial regions
2. Map regional manufacturing zones in each continent and identify the following for each:
 - a) origin and resources
 - b) current strengths and/or problems
3. Compare and contrast preindustrial, industrial, and postindustrial life and landscape.
4. Describe how site and situation factors influence the location of manufacturing and give examples.
5. Discuss the problems created by or associated with industrialization in:
 - a) developed countries
 - b) developing countries
6. Make graphic models that describe the inputs and connections of various industries.

Video Case Studies

- Program 8-2, “Bratsk: The Legacy of Central Planning”
- Program 11-2, “U.S. Midwest: Spatial Innovations”
- Program 23-1, “Shanghai: Awakening the Giant”

Weeks 32–34: Urban Geography—Tertiary Economic Activities

Reading Assignments

- Rubenstein, Chapter 12: “Services”
- Rubenstein, Chapter 13: “Urban Patterns”

Chapter 3

Unit Objectives and Activities

1. Contrast European and North American cities:
 - a) Central business districts
 - b) Suburbs and suburban growth
2. Compare and contrast elements of the following urban models:
 - a) concentric zone
 - b) sector
 - c) multiple-nuclei
 - d) galactic city/edge cities
3. Describe the move of retail and industry to the suburbs.
4. Explain the growth of suburbs in terms of social, transportation, and economic changes.
5. Differentiate between three models of North American cities.
6. Compare and contrast spatial characteristics of cities in the following regions:
 - a) Latin America
 - b) Africa
 - c) Southeast Asia
7. List and evaluate the problems of the inner city.
8. Explain and illustrate important models dealing with the urban hierarchy:
 - a) central-place theory
 - b) rank-size rule and primate cities

Video Case Studies

- Program 16-1, “Sao Paulo: The Outer Rim”
- Program 9-2, “Chicago: Farming on the Edge”
- Program 12-2, “Tokyo: Anatomy of a Mega-City”

Weeks 35–36: Review

I review for the AP Exam by providing students with a copy of the Course Outline from the *AP Human Geography Course Description* and asking them to define, illustrate, or comment on each item.

Teaching Strategies

I have structured my class around four main activities: (1) discussion of key terms and concepts, (2) examination of case studies, (3) practice of key geographical skills, and (4) practice of written expression via free-response questions. A typical day includes at least three of these activities (examples are given below). For instance, a 90-minute period might consist of 30 minutes of classroom discussion focused on new concepts covered in the previous reading assignment, 30 minutes of presentation of illustrative case studies (video, teacher presentation, or readings from newspaper/magazine), and 30 minutes of practice writing an answer to a free-response question and reviewing a scoring guideline that might be used to grade it. The fourth main activity is the one I use most commonly—practice of key geographical skills. Nearly every day I ask students to examine a map(s) or graphed or textual information and respond to it using concepts like scale, region, location and place, or association and interconnection.

Homework in the form of a reading assignment and study guide is assigned daily. Video case studies always include a pre-viewing focus activity and a debriefing activity. Class discussions (lectures) are always accompanied by listening guides. For the reading of articles from newspapers or journals, I require students to fill in a generic reader-response form or annotate a map.

Student Evaluation

Students' grades are based on the completion of assignments and study guides (40 percent), organized notebooks (10 percent), and exams (50 percent). Half of the exam grade is for multiple-choice questions and the other half for free-response questions. Grades are assigned as indicated here:

	B+ 87–89%	C+ 74–79%	D+ 57–59%
A 93–100%	B 83–86%	C 67–73%	D 53–56%
A– 90–92%	B– 80–82%	C– 60–66%	D– 50–52%

Teacher Resources

While *The Cultural Landscape* and *Human Geography in Action* are the primary textbooks for this course, I often refer to other popular human geography textbooks for supplementary information and/or ideas. I also use the 20th edition of *Goode's World Atlas*.

I believe, however, that some of the best material for illustrating concepts and ideas can come from newspapers. I subscribe to our local (county) newspaper, one of the major papers in Salt Lake City, and the *New York Times*. I try to use examples from the local, state, and national levels whenever I can. I have found that the *New York Times* is especially good at providing mapped and graphed information of interest to geographers. Additionally, most of our in-class readings are taken from the *Economist*, a magazine that is even organized by region! I value the articles because they are current, relevant, fairly easily understood by students, and brief.

The best series of videos I have found is *The Power of Place*. Although organized for a world regional course, the videos do a wonderful job of presenting case studies that illustrate concepts we deal with in AP Human Geography. Students enjoy them and remember them better when they are accompanied by a discussion or activity conducted in class.

I have little time (or need) to venture beyond these three major resources—newspapers, the *Economist*, and *The Power of Place* video series. Still, the following Web sites are ones I use to find and make maps that illustrate concepts; the sites also give students a chance to explore and learn from the information available there.

- U.S. Census Bureau
www.census.gov/
- Digital Atlas of the United States
<http://130.166.124.2/USpage1.html>
- 1997 Agricultural Atlas of the United States
www.nass.usda.gov/census/census97/atlas97/
- nationalatlas.gov
www.nationalatlas.gov/

Student Activities

Essential Skills Activity: Associations Among Phenomena

Required Resource

The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography, 7th ed.

- The map on page 285 is a choropleth map of the world depicting the percent of the labor force engaged in agriculture.
- The map on page 318 is a choropleth map of the world depicting tractors per hectare.
- The map on page 291 is a choropleth map of the world depicting caloric intake.

Objective

Students will identify differences between less developed and more developed countries in terms of agricultural production and food consumption.

Conducting the Activity

Ask students to consider three maps in their textbook, read the captions, and respond to questions about them. Sometimes I simply write the prompt on the board, sometimes I use a data projector connected to the computer, and sometimes I hand it out on a sheet of paper. Allow students time to work. Sometimes I ask them to work in groups, other times alone. I have found that varying the way the information is presented to them and whether or not they work in groups or alone adds an element of variety to the class. Discuss the answers to the questions together.

Associations Among Phenomena: Farmers and Productivity

The maps on pages 285, 291, and 318 depict information about farmers, food production, and food consumption.

- How are the types of information portrayed in the maps on pages 285 and 318 related? How is development a part of understanding the relationship between them?
- Describe the inverse relationship between the information portrayed on the maps on pages 285 and 291. What does this say about the efficiency of farmers in various regions?
- Can these maps be used to mark the boundary between commercial and subsistence agriculture?

Essential Skills Activity: Interconnections

Required Resource

The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography, 7th ed.

- The map on page 27 illustrates the concept of space-time compression by contrasting the time it took Columbus, Lindbergh, the *Titanic*, and the *Apollo* spacecraft to cross the Atlantic.
- The map on page 28 illustrates the network of Delta Airlines, which has a hub in Salt Lake City.

Objective

Students will practice the skill of characterizing and analyzing the changing interconnections among places (see I.D.5 of the topic outline in the Course Description) and illustrate with a relevant example.

Conducting the Activity

Ask students to consider two maps in their textbook, read the captions, and respond to questions about them. Sometimes I simply write the prompt on the board, sometimes I use a data projector connected to the computer, and sometimes I hand it out on a sheet of paper. Allow students time to work. Sometimes I ask them to work in groups, other times alone. I have found that varying the way the information is presented to them and whether or not they work in groups or alone adds an element of variety to the class. Discuss the answers to the questions together.

Changing Interconnections: Salt Lake City, Utah

The map on page 27 illustrates regions that become connected over time.

- How does the drawing demonstrate a growing connectedness? How has this connectedness continued to grow?
- Consider the map that shows Salt Lake City on page 28. Describe its connectedness today and contrast it with that of 100 years ago and then 150 and 200 years ago.
- What changes has connectedness brought to Salt Lake City?

Cartographic Generalization: Subjectivity in Maps and Mapped Data

Required Resources

- *Goode's World Atlas*, 20th ed.
- Several maps of the same place (e.g., satellite, transportation, land use)
- *Human Geography in Action*, 1st ed.

Objective

Students will understand how cartographers make important decisions when mapping information that results from a series of forced generalizations. Maps that are good at showing one thing may do a poor job of showing something else. No map is able to accurately portray everything about a place.

Activity

Assign students to read the section “Cartographic Communication” in *Goode's World Atlas* (pages vi–viii). They should be instructed to carefully define the terms *simplification*, *classification*, *symbolization*, and *induction*. (I have students do this as homework the night before I conduct the activity.)

Begin a class discussion in which you define the term *subjective* and contrast it with the concept of *objectivity*. Remind students that most people assume that maps and mapped data are objective, that they have no point of view. Ask if they have held this belief in the past.

Continue your discussion by defining and illustrating, with actual maps, the concept of cartographic generalization using the terms students defined from their reading. I use a simple map of land use in Hong Kong contrasted with a satellite image of the region, but you can use any region for which you can find suitable maps. Students are able to easily understand how the cartographer made decisions in terms of what to show and how to show it as you review the terms together while viewing and discussing the maps. As an assessment, I show a transportation map of Hong Kong and ask students to specifically identify what the cartographer has done in each case (e.g., simplification, classification).

Conclusion/Extension

To conclude and/or extend the activity, have students complete Part II (Thematic Maps) of Chapter 1 (“True Maps, False Impressions”) in *Human Geography in Action*.

Chapter 3

Folk and Popular Culture: Indonesia

Required Resource

Program 26-1, “Indonesia: Tourist Invasion” from video #26 in *The Power of Place* video series

Objective

Use this activity to help students understand the “battle” that is occurring across the world, but especially in less developed countries, between folk and popular culture. At the conclusion of the video, students should be able to illustrate the differences between the two and propose some ways in which each plays an important role in a society. Additionally, students should be able to propose ways in which the two might peacefully coexist.

Before Viewing the Video

Take a few minutes to locate Indonesia on a world map. Discuss its relative location, climate, and main cultural characteristics. Let students share what they know, or the impressions they have, of the country. Tell the class that as they watch the video, they should note any specific examples that they see of folk and popular culture.

After Viewing the Video

Debrief by having students share responses. My experience is that they will have plenty. Then ask questions to help them focus on the conflict between the two types of culture. Some suggestions include:

- Which type of culture, folk or popular, is growing the fastest?
- What explanation can you offer for this growth?
- What efforts are being made with regard to the other type of culture?
- What were the positive and negative effects of the expansion of one type of culture as the other contracts?
- To what degree is a similar situation present in more developed countries like the United States?

Assessing the Activity

Use a free-response question that asks students to deal with the terms *cultural convergence*, *folk culture*, and *popular culture*. They should be able to discuss the terms and describe current issues surrounding them. You may ask students to illustrate with specific examples.

A Changing Economic Structure: Oman

Required Resource

Program 18-2, “Oman: Looking Beyond Oil” from video #18 in *The Power of Place* video series

Objective

This activity demonstrates to students a success story with structural change in a country’s economy. Students should understand why and how the Omani government is actively promoting a move away from dependence upon petroleum export. The activity gives students a chance to practice identifying which economic activities are primary, secondary, and tertiary.

Before Viewing the Video

Students need to have a good understanding of the difference between primary, secondary, and tertiary economic activities. Let students know that they will see examples of all three during the course of the video and that they should make mental notes of them.

After Viewing the Video

Distribute information on the economy of Oman, as shown in the chart below. Ask students to identify the sector of the economy (primary, secondary, or tertiary) illustrated by each activity on the chart. They should then determine a total for each category in each year.

Consider together:

- What has happened with each sector?
- What is your prediction for each sector in the year 2020?
- What examples from the video illustrate the changes seen in the chart?

Assessing the Activity

Students should be asked to assess the value of structural change theory as a method of economic development. You might ask them what measures a country must take in order to develop using this method. Furthermore, students could hypothesize a list of potential obstacles and solutions.

The Sectoral Relative Shares to Gross Domestic Product (%)
1993=100

Sector?	Activity	% of GDP 1995	% of GDP 2000
	Oil	33.5	25.9
	Gas	1.5	5.0
	Agriculture	3.0	3.5
	Fishing	1.1	1.0
	Mining & Quarrying	0.6	0.6
	Manufacturing	5.4	6.8
	Electricity & Water	1.7	4.3
	Building Construction	3.2	6.9
	Trade & Tourism	14.1	17.8
	Transportation	7.0	8.6
	Banks, Insurance & Finance	7.9	4.3
	Private Services	8.3	3.2
	Public Services	13.9	12.6
	TOTAL GDP	100.0	100.0

Source: "Oman Business Information." Oman Information Center.

Chapter 4

The AP Exam in Human Geography

Exam Format

The AP Human Geography Exam, which is administered annually in May, consists of a 60-minute multiple-choice section with 75 questions and a 75-minute free-response section with three questions. There is no Document-Based Question (DBQ) on the AP Human Geography Exam. The multiple-choice section accounts for 50 percent of the final exam grade and the free-response section accounts for the other 50 percent. The two sections complement each other and measure a wide range of geographic knowledge and skills. The exam is designed to allow students to show their understanding of geographic concepts at a level that is sufficient to allow them to bypass introductory-level geography courses at the college or university of their choice.

The exam is created by the AP Human Geography Development Committee, which consists of three experienced high school geography teachers and four college or university professors who have experience with an introduction to human geography course at the college level. One of the professors serves as the Chief Reader for the committee. The Development Committee solicits, creates, edits, and organizes questions for the exam using as its guide the course outline in the *AP Human Geography Course Description* (see chapter 1 above).

- **Section I: Multiple-Choice Questions.** These measure a student's ability across all topics in the course outline. The questions are reliable, cover various levels of difficulty, and allow for comparison of the ability level of students from the current year with those from previous years. Multiple-choice questions are created by Development Committee members and outside item writers who teach human geography at colleges and universities. All potential questions are reviewed, revised, and approved by the committee; ETS content experts perform preliminary reviews to ensure that the questions have been worded clearly and concisely. Questions that receive preliminary approval at committee meetings are field tested in college and university classrooms. The performance of the questions is then statistically evaluated. The Development Committee reviews the results and approves the questions. At that point, multiple-choice questions can be considered for inclusion on an AP Human Geography Exam.
- **Section II: Free-Response Questions.** These are generated entirely by the Development Committee, which reviews and revises each question at all stages of its development to ensure that it is of the highest quality possible. Questions are field tested in college and university classrooms before the committee selects an appropriate combination for a specific exam.

Each AP Human Geography Exam is the result of the stages of development that have just been described, a process that together spans two or more years. For more information, see the *AP Human Geography Released Exam*, which can be ordered from AP Central.

Exam Scoring

The multiple-choice questions are scored by computer, and a correction factor is used to compensate for random guessing (one-fourth of a point is subtracted for each incorrect answer). The free-response questions are scored by a team of high school AP Human Geography teachers and college and university geography professors who come together every June for what is known as the AP Reading. Every effort is made to ensure that each year this team is as diverse as possible, with a good balance of gender, ethnicity, experience, geography, and institution size and type. The team is divided into Readers, Table Leaders, and Question Leaders. Readers are assigned to one question, though they should be familiar with all of the exam questions; Table Leaders are assigned to one group of Readers who are scoring responses to the same question; and Question Leaders monitor the scoring of one question on the exam.

During the development of an AP Exam, the Chief Reader works with the committee to determine the number of points each question will be worth and how those points are distributed within the question. After the exam has been administered, the Chief Reader, the Question Leaders, and the Table Leaders meet a few days before the Reading begins to create preliminary scoring guidelines for each question. This involves reading some student responses to get an idea of how students are performing that year and identify any general problems. Then the Table Leaders read student responses for their assigned questions, which helps them refine the criteria in the guidelines until they are ready to be given to the Readers.

When the Readers arrive and before they begin scoring the exams, they are trained to consistently apply the Scoring Guidelines. They are also advised on how to avoid certain types of biases such as students' penmanship and the halo effect (carrying over one's opinion of the previously read student response to the response one is now reading). Throughout the Reading, measures are taken to maintain the Readers' consistency and fairness in scoring. These include assigning the same student response to several Readers to score, periodically having each Reader score a response that another Reader has already scored, and obscuring other Readers' scores for the responses. Every day the Table Leaders receive printouts that track their Readers' scoring, which also helps to maintain consistency. If a Reader has a hard time determining where on the Scoring Guidelines a student response falls, the Reader confers with the others in the group and with the Table Leader.

At no time during the Reading do the Readers have access to the name, gender, school, or geographic region of the students whose responses they are scoring. Readers also cannot see students' responses to the other questions on the exam. This tactic of having each question scored by a different Reader means a student's final score is the product of the evaluation of a variety of Readers.

Readers give students points for correct answers instead of subtracting points for incorrect answers. ETS statisticians weigh, convert, and combine the Readers' scores for the free-response section with the score for the multiple-choice section (50 percent for each section) and then derive a composite score for each student. After meeting with College Board representatives and ETS statisticians and assessment specialists to determine the cut points, the Chief Reader converts the composite scores to the five-point scale on which the AP grades are reported:

- 5 Extremely well qualified
- 4 Well qualified
- 3 Qualified
- 2 Possibly qualified
- 1 No recommendation

Chapter 4

The Chief Reader also compares the current year's grades with statistical information from previous years. This helps keep the level of mastery represented by reported grades constant from one year to the next.

At the end of the Reading, all of the participants gather to debrief. They discuss the exam and compare it to exams from previous years. You can read their observations, along with the Chief Reader's statistical analysis of student performance for that year, in the Chief Reader's annual report "Student Performance Q&A," which is posted on AP Central. For more information about how the AP Exam is scored and how the Readers' scores are converted to AP grades, see the *AP Human Geography Released Exam*.

As explained in the Released Exam, AP grades are intended to allow participating colleges and universities to award college credit, advanced placement, or both to qualified students. In general, an AP grade of 3 or higher indicates sufficient mastery of course content to allow placement in a succeeding college course, or credit for and exemption from a college course comparable to the AP course. Credit and placement policies are determined by each college or university, however, and students should be urged to contact their colleges directly to ask for specific advanced placement policies in writing.

Taking the Exam

You should encourage all of your students to take the AP Exam. Your school's basketball team learns techniques and concepts, and it practices all year. All of this is done in preparation for playing games. So why would AP Human Geography students learn concepts, skills, and content all year long and then not take the exam? Students who take the course and exam learn to prepare for and take a college-level exam. They also receive feedback with their scores, a college-level evaluation while they are still in high school. This measuring stick can help students plot their future and set goals. In addition, students may receive advanced placement or college credit, or both, if they earn a grade of 4 or 5 on the exam. In some cases, students can receive credit for a grade of 3, though individual colleges and universities make the final determination.

One of my greatest teaching experiences was when a student thanked me for encouraging her to take the course and exam. She stated that she had never worked as hard as she did in my class or taken such a difficult test. Even though her score was on the low side, she believed that both the course and the exam prepared her for what to expect in college.

—Greg Sherwin, Adlai E. Stevenson High School,
Lincolnshire, Illinois

AP Human Geography teachers get a great deal of information from the report they receive on their students' exam results. From the composite scores, teachers can immediately ascertain their teaching strengths and get a sense of the effectiveness of their teaching methods. Conversely, areas in which students did not perform well are also apparent. If students do not take the exam, their teachers cannot receive this informative statistical feedback.

One of the most frequently asked questions concerns the most appropriate year for a student to take AP Human Geography and the AP Human Geography Exam. The answer is that students from freshman through senior years and across the socioeconomic spectrum can and have successfully taken the exam. Some schools require every student in the AP Human Geography course to take the exam, while others strongly encourage but do not require students to take it. Some schools feel that seniors have the depth of knowledge and understanding from other courses to help them perform well on the exam, while others

believe seniors who have already been accepted to college “check out” during the second semester. At some schools it is believed that AP Human Geography is a great introduction to AP courses for first-years and sophomores, while at other schools first-years and sophomores are considered too young to take college-level courses. The best advice is to know the expectations of your students, school, and community.

Due to the global importance of the AP Human Geography course, each school administrator should find a way to place this course somewhere in the high school curriculum. Just as important, each school should find a way to encourage all AP Human Geography students to take the AP Exam. And since most AP Human Geography classes are taught over the course of a year (as opposed to a semester in college), there is great potential to create a challenging, yet nurturing, environment.

Preparing Students for the AP Exam

One of the surest ways to prepare students for the AP Exam is to cover all of the material that is outlined in the seven units of the course outline. While teachers differ regarding when during the course to teach each unit, a general rule of thumb is to create a calendar at the beginning of the year that devotes an appropriate amount of time to each unit. The syllabi in chapter 3 provide teachers with several different ways to get through the material in a school year.

One of the most important phases of AP Human Geography is the review before the exam. Ideally, teachers should give themselves at least one month prior to the exam to review the seven units with their students. An effective way to assess the scope and depth of what should be covered in a review is to measure student comprehension of the material. Teachers know that classes are not the same from year to year; therefore, the review process should fit the needs of the current class.

Have students take the 2001 AP Human Geography Exam (the 75-minute multiple-choice section only; review for the free-response section may be given closer to the exam date) and then analyze their results. Exam analysis for the review may be done in two ways. First, perform an item analysis to assess how many correct and incorrect answers were given to each question. This will give you specific information about what students may or may not know. Second, assess student knowledge by grouping the questions for each topic (population, urban, etc.). Grouping the questions by topic will give you a clearer picture of which topics need to be covered more closely. For example, if a majority of the students miss urban geography questions but seem to score well on population geography, then you should spend more time reviewing urban geography and less on the latter.

—Dan Berry, University High School,
Morgantown, West Virginia

A great strategy for preparing students to take the AP Exam is to simulate the exam when assessing students in class. Try to give students multiple-choice and free-response questions as often as possible when testing them (teachers should give a minimum of seven tests corresponding to the seven units of the course outline). A good resource to use for this activity is the *AP Human Geography Released Exam* book, which includes a complete exam, Scoring Guidelines for each question, sample student essays, and a commentary that explains why each essay earned the score it did. Free-response questions, Scoring Guidelines, sample responses, and commentaries for exams administered over the past five years are also available on AP Central. Examining these Released Exams with your students helps them see how the questions are worded and what the Scoring Guidelines reward. Released Exams also help new AP teachers write free-response questions that are similar in style to those their students will see on the AP Exam.

There are two ways to simulate the AP Exam in the classroom setting. The first method is to devote 20 to 25 minutes for multiple-choice questions and then 20 to 25 minutes for a free-response question within one class period. This method teaches students how to quickly make the transition from one section of the

exam to the other. Another method is to give students multiple-choice questions during a 50-minute period (plan for around 70 questions because students will have less time in a class period to answer than they will during the AP Exam); the next day allow 25 minutes for them to answer the free-response question and 25 minutes for you to review the multiple-choice answers with them. The second method may be preferable because it allows the teacher to ask more multiple-choice questions, thereby giving students more experience with the variety of questions they can expect on the exam.

The problem with both methods is that neither simulates the exam perfectly. Students need to be given at least one attempt at answering multiple free-response questions during one sitting. Yet having to grade two to three free-response questions creates a lot of work for the teacher. Consider doing this once or twice a year, possibly during the final exam. Another strategy is to give students two questions near the end of the year and let them self-grade their responses as you go through the scoring guidelines. Or consider not grading them at all and just go through the Scoring Guidelines with them. Generally speaking, if it is before the AP Exam and students want to do well, they will do their best regardless of whether you are grading their answers or not.

Finally, students struggle more with the free-response section than the multiple-choice section mainly because it is new to them and they have not been properly prepared to answer these questions in a concise and timely manner. Here are some further suggestions for preparing students for both sections of the exam.

The Multiple-Choice Section

- **Read the question slowly.** Every word in the stem is important. Skipping one word could change the question's intent and meaning completely. Underlining or circling key words may be helpful.
- **Eliminate bad choices.** Read through all of the answers and cross off the ones that are sure to be incorrect. Remind students to go through all of the choices before determining an answer.
- **To guess or not to guess.** Scoring on the multiple-choice section of the AP Exam is probably different than it is in the classroom. So prepare students to understand how the exam is scored and how to approach questions they do not understand. Answering a question correctly gives students one point. If students answer a question incorrectly, they lose one-fourth of a point. Leaving the question blank results in no points gained or lost. If students have eliminated two or three of the choices, then it is a good idea for them to try to answer the question; statistically speaking, they have a better chance of getting the answer correct.
- **Skipping questions.** Sometimes students are stumped by a question or know that if they had some extra time they could work through the correct response. One suggestion is to teach students to skip the question, marking it with a dash or a circle and returning to it after answering the rest of the questions.
- **Think critically, think geographically.** This is an AP Human Geography Exam. The questions test students' knowledge of geography. Teach students to apply geographic concepts when answering questions, to ask, "What is the geographic reasoning behind this question?" At the beginning of the school year, this is very difficult for students to do; but as they start to understand the concepts, they will start to think more critically, more geographically.
- **No. 2 pencil.** Make sure your students have several number two pencils for the exam. Try to get them in the habit of remembering to do this for your exams during the year.

The Free-Response Section

When preparing students for the free-response section of the exam, tell them to forget everything they have learned in other AP courses or in other classes about free-response questions. Every AP subject has a different way of scoring this section of the exam. For AP Human Geography, the main focus is simply for students to be able to answer the question correctly. Students perform better on the exam when they understand the task they are asked to perform, the number of steps required in the answer, the region or concept they are writing about, and the difference between *identify*, *describe*, and *explain*.

- **This is not an essay.** Many teachers are under the false impression that students must write an introduction, body, and conclusion. *This is not true!* There is no need to restate the question. There is no need for an introduction. Teach students to read the question and to proceed directly to answering all of its parts.
- **Teach students the exam’s multiple-step format.** Most free-response questions are in a multiple-step format with parts (a), (b), (c), and so on. When students are attempting to answer part (a), have them write A in the exam booklet and proceed to answer the question. When students have moved on to part (b), tell them to follow the same procedure. To make it easy for the AP Readers, skipping a line in between parts is acceptable. Some students have also been taught to reserve one page in the exam booklet for one part of a question. Again, this is an acceptable strategy so long as students have clearly marked which question and part they are answering.
- **Read completely and prepare before writing.** Many teenagers like to rush into writing without thinking things through completely. This tendency toward haste is only exacerbated when the pressure of time is added to the equation. Teaching students how to approach the question without rushing will be one of your most difficult but important lessons when preparing them for the exam.
- **In the beginning of the year, take a question from an old AP Exam and dissect it word by word and section by section, searching solely for the meaning of the question.** This process takes one to two class periods but teaches students to look critically at the free-response questions and not to rush through them in their haste to begin writing their answer.
- **Read all three questions first.** There are teachers who do not follow this strategy, but it is wise to teach students to take 15 minutes to read through each of the questions, underline the key words, and prepare a basic outline or jot down main ideas for each question. By spending time in the beginning with all of the questions, they will be able to transition more easily as they finish writing one question and begin another. Also, if they run out of time, they can at least jot down their notes from the beginning. Finally, this prepares them to think about the question on which they may need to spend more time. Some questions have visual prompts: maps, charts, or photographs.
- **Underline key words.** As students are dissecting a question, ask them to identify the most important word(s) in the question. Teach them to be alert for the following words and phrases:
 - *Numbers:* “Identify THREE things”
 - *Geographic Regions:* “In SOUTHEAST ASIA”
 - *Action Verbs:* “Briefly IDENTIFY” or “DESCRIBE using two examples”
- **Use black or blue ink.** In order to make it easier for the Readers to score the exam, blue or black ink is preferred. Nontraditional colors and pencils are sometimes difficult on the Readers’ eyes. Remind your students that they want the Readers to be able to easily read their responses, and their goal should be to facilitate that. Students should remember to bring several pens to the exam.

Chapter 4

- **Write legibly.** Again, students need to try to make it as easy as possible for Readers to read their responses. While students understandably feel pressured due to the time constraints, it is always good to remind them to make sure their writing is clear and legible. “If I can’t read it, I can’t grade it” is the warning I give my students.

They have to write?!

When I first realized that 50 percent of the AP Human Geography Exam grade came from the written portion I almost passed out. However, I found several great tricks to help prepare my students. First, I had them do timed writing every week (I only had them for a semester). It reinforced the material and helped them learn how to budget their time when writing. My students did all of their writing in a small spiral notebook, which they then used at the end of the semester as a study aid.

But, you say, I don’t have time to grade all of that! Have your students grade many of their own timed writings using the Scoring Guidelines. AP Central has the past free-response questions with their Scoring Guidelines and examples that you can print out for your students to read. Having students work with the Scoring Guidelines helps in several ways: they see the connections between concepts and units, they see the type of writing that is desired, and they see how AP Readers score answers to the free-response questions.

—Julie Meek, Plano East Senior High School,
Plano, Texas

Scheduling Exam Preparation

The best advice in terms of scheduling preparation time for the AP Exam is to plan ahead. Spend the last seven days before the exam reviewing each unit in class. Give students summary handouts on each unit and assign them to study groups. Have each group read the handout the night before class. When students come into class the next day, give each group a set of questions from the unit. As a class, go over only those questions that confuse the entire class.

In addition to this, schedule two to three Saturday review sessions. During the first review session, have students take the multiple-choice section of the 2001 AP Exam. After they have completed the exam, go through every single question with them. During the next Saturday session, put students into groups and instruct them to create lists of all the major topics in a unit using all of their material from the course. After working for 15 minutes on a unit, students hand their paper to the next group. The next group reviews the previous group’s list and then adds to it. By the end of the session, every group has worked on each unit. Make photocopies of the lists to distribute to all the students. For the final review session, have students answer two to three free-response questions from the 2001 released exam. After they have answered the questions, go through the Scoring Guidelines as a group and have them self-grade their responses.

Throughout this whole process, review with students the responses and Scoring Guidelines from previous AP Exams, along with the statistics on student performance—this can be reassuring to those students who have very high expectations for themselves. Teach students to be prepared and calm when they get a question that is difficult. Prepare them to think through difficult questions and to answer as best as they can.

After the Exam

Depending on your school calendar, you may have up to three or four weeks of school left after the AP Exam. Many teachers have different strategies for continuing their students' learning experience after the exam. Some of the activities teachers can do include the following:

- Show a movie with a geographic or cultural focus.
- Create a project where students share food from different cultures.
- Get classroom sets of newspapers so students can find and discuss all the geography stories.
- Go on a geography field trip.
- Bring in guest speakers to talk about geography topics.
- Have students research specific countries and create Web pages with specific geographic data.
- Have students trace their family geographic history.

Again, teachers should make sure that they are in line with school and community expectations. Try to reward students for their hard work after the exam while at the same time enriching their knowledge and continuing their learning experience.



Russellville High School students in Russellville, Arkansas, use the computer to evaluate population pyramids.

AP Grade Reports

AP grades are reported to students, their schools, and their designated colleges in July. Each school automatically receives an AP Grade Report for each student, a cumulative roster of all students, rosters of all students by exam, an AP Scholar roster for any qualifying students, and a *AP Instructional Planning Report*. (Note: Data for students testing late with an alternate form of the exam are not included in this report.) For a fee, schools may also request their students' free-response booklets.

Using the AP Instructional Planning Report

Schools receive the *AP Instructional Planning Report* for each of their AP classes in September. The report compares your students' performance on specific topics in the AP Exam to the performance of students worldwide on those same topics, helping you target areas for increased attention and focus in the curriculum. To get the most out of the report, please read the interpretive information on the document. It explains how the data, when used correctly, can provide valuable information for instructional and curricular assessment as well as for planning and development.

Chapter 5

Resources for Teachers

How is the first-time AP Human Geography teacher to find the best resources to aid in teaching the course? Feverishly search through a variety of media? Search only one type of medium? Either of these methods will result in an overwhelming number of resources that must be sorted through in an effort to find the best. Frequently such a search ends in frustration, with valuable time lost.

This chapter is designed to help new teachers locate resources with greater ease and efficiency. However, it by no means is meant to be the only source for course materials. There are likely many sources that are applicable to a specific region, for example, that do not translate well on a country or international scale. Regional sources are extremely valuable to the course, and we suggest that you make every attempt to find ways to apply geographic concepts on a scale that students can appreciate and where they have already developed a sense of place.

In addition to the resources named in this chapter, a number are listed in each of the syllabi found in chapter 3. We have tried to limit overlap with the syllabi while maximizing the number of resources available to AP Human Geography teachers and identified in this chapter. A wealth of resources is also listed and reviewed on AP Central in the Teachers' Resources section. We strongly encourage you to refer to that source frequently.

How to Address Limited Resources

Teachers in small schools or schools with limited budgets, resources, and/or enrollments can manage to find appropriate materials for their courses through several sources. One important source is the Small Schools EDG (electronic discussion group) on AP Central. We encourage all teachers in small schools to join this discussion group. (A link to the EDGs can be found on the Human Geography Home Page.) It is also advantageous to participate in AP teacher professional development opportunities like AP Summer Institutes and workshops as well as fall and spring workshops, which are discussed in the "Professional Development" section below.

I found a great book a few years ago called *Using Internet Primary Sources to Teach Critical Thinking Skills in Geography*, by Martha B. Sharma and Gary S. Elbow (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 2000). You can buy it at most local bookstores or order it from Amazon.com for about \$45 new or \$15 used. This book is outstanding because it uses common and reliable Web sites to aid in teaching critical thinking in the classroom. The lessons cover all areas of the National Standards of Geography and incorporate work with Web sites, including census data, immigration data, environmental issues, human rights issues, and map collections. There are 75 lessons and each lesson has several parts. These parts can include answering analysis questions, identifying consequences, making predictions, making comparisons, and creating charts. The book even provides help on how to evaluate Web sites. It is full of lessons that work, and has become one of my favorite resources!

—Amy Moncrief, Allen Independent School District,
Allen, Texas

A huge benefit to all teachers is participation in the AP Reading. Each summer, high school AP Human Geography teachers and college and university geography professors gather at the Reading site to score the free-response section of the exam. This is probably one of the best professional development activities you can attend. While at the Reading, there is continuing interaction between college professors and other high school teachers. Readers gain insight into the questions and how they are scored, and they take away teaching hints from fellow teachers.



Readers on break during the 2004 AP Reading at Clemson University in Clemson, South Carolina.

Readers spend eight hours each day (with several breaks and time for lunch) scoring AP Exams. In the evenings they enjoy informal social activities and formal professional development events. At a recent Reading the chair of the Development Committee presented a formal lecture about teaching AP Human Geography through activities found in a mainstream textbook that was available free of charge to each participant in the program.

Music can give your students an enjoyable opportunity to explore cultural geography. Begin in a simple way: listen to songs about an area and analyze their lyrics to find information about the culture. Numerous popular songs are readily and inexpensively available (e.g., Will Smith's "Miami" and Toto's "Africa"). Have students research the information in the song to determine if it is fact or perception. Discuss with them what can be learned from the song. Next, have them add the songs to your reference list. To continue the exercise, have your students find local traditional music. Research and discuss the instruments, beats, and language. Have students integrate geographic ideas into the discussion. Interesting research on topics like cultural diffusion, use of natural resources, globalization, centrality, time-distance decay, and cultural hearths can grow from this topic. As a teacher, you can use music as a short introduction to a geographical concept or as weeks' worth of research for student projects.

—Neel Durbin, Dyersburg High School,
Dyersburg, Tennessee

Resources

Although references were as up-to-date as possible at the time of publication, contact information occasionally changes and some materials become unavailable.

Please note that the inclusion of particular publications, films, videos, CD-ROMS, Web sites, or other media in this book does not constitute an endorsement by the College Board, ETS, or the AP Human Geography Development Committee.

Textbooks

- de Blij, H. J., and Alexander B. Murphy. *Human Geography: Culture, Society, and Space*. 7th ed. New York: John Wiley, 2003.
- Fellmann, Jerome D., Arthur Getis, and Judith Getis. *Human Geography: Landscapes of Human Activities*. 8th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2005.
- Jordan-Bychkov, Terry G., and Mona Domosh. *The Human Mosaic: A Thematic Introduction to Cultural Geography*. 9th ed. New York: W. H. Freeman, 2003.
- Knox, Paul L., and Sallie A. Marston. *Places and Regions in Global Context: Human Geography*. 3rd ed. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 2004.
- Kuby, Michael, John Harner, and Patricia Gober. *Human Geography in Action*. 3rd ed. New York: John Wiley, 2004.
- Norton, William. *Human Geography*. 5th ed. Don Mills, Ont.: Oxford University Press, 2004.
- Pearce, Margaret W. *Exploring Human Geography with Maps*. New York: W. H. Freeman, 2003.
- Rubenstein, James M. *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography*. 8th ed. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 2004.

Supplementary Textbooks and Readers

- Abler, Ronald F., Melvin G. Marcus, and Judy M. Olson, eds. *Geography's Inner Worlds: Pervasive Themes in Contemporary American Geography*. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 1992.
- Brunn, Stanley D., Jack F. Williams, and Donald J. Zeigler, eds. *Cities of the World: World Regional Urban Development*. 3rd ed. Lanham, Md.: Rowman and Littlefield, 2003.
- Davidson, Fiona, et al., eds. *Teaching Political Geography*. The Pathways in Geography series, 19. Indiana, Penn.: National Council for Geographic Education, 1998.
- Dorling, Daniel, and David Fairbairn. *Mapping: Ways of Representing the World*. N.p.: Longman, 1997.
- Gersmehl, Philip J. *Why Not Here?: Teaching Geography to a New Standard*. Indiana, Penn.: National Council for Geographic Education, 1996.
- Goodall, Brian. *The Penguin Dictionary of Human Geography*. New York: Penguin Books, 1987.
- Hoggart, Keith, Anna Davies, and Loretta Lees. *Researching Human Geography*. New York: Oxford University Press USA, 2002.
- Johnston, R. J., et al., eds. *The Dictionary of Human Geography*. 4th ed. Malden, Mass.: Blackwell Publishers, 2000.
- Malone, Lyn, Anita M. Palmer, and Christine L. Voigt. *Mapping Our World: GIS Lessons for Educators*. Redlands, Calif.: ESRI Press, 2002.

- Mayhew, Susan. *A Dictionary of Geography*. 2nd ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- Merriam-Webster's Geographical Dictionary*. 3rd ed. Springfield, Mass.: Merriam-Webster, 1997.
- Pitzl, Gerald R., ed. *Annual Editions: Geography 04/05*. 19th ed. N.p.: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin, 2003.
- Slater, Frances. *Learning Through Geography*. Pathways in Geography series, 7. Indiana, Penn.: National Council for Geographic Education, 1993.

Atlases

- Hudson, John C., ed. *Goode's World Atlas*. 20th ed. N.p.: Rand McNally, 2000.

Exam Review Guides

- Alagona, Peter S., and Meredith Marsh. *Barron's How to Prepare for the AP Exam in Human Geography*. Hauppauge, N.Y.: Barron's, 2003.

Professional Journals and Periodicals

- Annals of the Association of American Geographers*. Association of American Geographers. Published quarterly.
- FOCUS on Geography*. American Geographical Society. Published quarterly.
- Journal of Geography*. National Council for Geographic Education.
- Journal of Geography*. Special AP Issue 99, no. 3/4 (May–August 2000).
- The Professional Geographer*. Association of American Geographers. Published quarterly.

Software

- ArcView 8.x*. Redlands, Calif.: ESRI Press, n.d.
For more information, go to www.esri.com/software/arcgis/arcview/.
- MapViewer 5*. Golden, Colo.: Golden Software, 2002.
For more information, go to www.goldensoftware.com/faq/mapviewer5-faq.shtml.

Web Sites

- Activities in Human Geography
geog.tamu.edu/sarah/humangeog/activities.html
- American FactFinder
factfinder.census.gov
- AP Central
apcentral.collegeboard.com

Chapter 5

ARCLessons

www.esri.com/arclessons

Bureau of Labor Statistics

www.bls.gov

CAIN Web Service (Conflict Archive on the Internet)

cain.ulst.ac.uk/

Census of Agriculture (2002)

www.nass.usda.gov/census_of_agriculture/index.asp

Cultural Maps in American Studies

xroads.virginia.edu/~MAP/map_hp.html

Dale Lightfoot's Cultural Landscapes from Around the World

www.geog.okstate.edu/users/lightfoot/lfoot.htm

The Degree Confluence Project

www.confluence.org/

Demographic Data Viewer

plue.sedac.ciesin.org/plue/ddviewer/ddvJava30/index.html

The Electronic Map Library

130.166.124.2/library.html

Europa: Gateway to the European Union

europa.eu.int/index_en.htm

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

www.fao.org

Foreign Government Data Sources

www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/stforeig.html

Human Development Reports

hdr.undp.org/reports/default.cfm

International Data Base (IDB) - US Census Bureau

www.census.gov/ipc/www/idbnew.html

Kidon Media-Link

www.kidon.com/media-link/

Largest Religious Communities

www.adherents.com/largecom/

Major World Crop Areas and Climatic Profiles, Online Version

www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usdahome

NationalAtlas.gov
www.nationalatlas.gov

Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection
www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/

Places OnLine
www.placesonline.org

Population Reference Bureau
www.prb.org

Portals to the World: Links to Electronic Resources from Around the World
www.loc.gov/rr/international/portals.html

The Scout Report
scout.wisc.edu/mailman/listinfo/scout-report

Teaching Geography
www.learner.org/resources/series161.html

TerraFly
www.terrafly.com

UN High Commission for Refugees
www.unhcr.org

UN Population Division
www.un.org/esa/population/unpop.htm

U.S. Census Bureau: Foreign Trade Statistics
www.census.gov/foreign-trade/index.html

The World Bank Group: Data & Statistics
www.worldbank.org/data/

The World Factbook (This is current as of Mar 2006)
cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html

Professional Organizations

American Geographical Society (AGS)
120 Wall Street, Suite 100
New York, NY 10005-3904
212 422-5456
E-mail: AGS@amergeog.org
Web: www.amergeog.org

Chapter 5

Association of American Geographers (AAG)

1710 16th Street NW

Washington, DC 20009-3198

202 234-1450

E-mail: annals@aag.org

Web: www.aag.org

National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE)

Jackson State University

206A Martin Hall

Jacksonville, AL 36265-1602

256 782-5293

E-mail: ncge@jsucc.jus.edu

Web: www.ncge.org

Professional Development

In the following section, the College Board outlines its professional development opportunities in support of AP educators.

The teachers, administrators, and AP Coordinators involved in the AP Program compose a dedicated, engaged, vibrant community of educational professionals. Welcome!

We invite you to become an active participant in the community. The College Board offers a variety of professional development opportunities designed to educate, support, and invigorate both new and experienced AP teachers and educational professionals. These year-round offerings range from half-day workshops to intensive weeklong summer institutes, from the AP Annual Conference to AP Central, and from participation in an AP Reading to Development Committee membership.

Workshops and Summer Institutes

At the heart of the College Board's professional development offerings are workshops and summer institutes. Participating in an AP workshop is generally one of the first steps to becoming a successful AP teacher. Workshops range in length from half-day to weeklong events and are focused on all 37 AP courses and a range of supplemental topics. Workshop consultants are innovative, successful, and experienced AP teachers; teachers trained in developmental skills and strategies; college faculty members; and other qualified educational professionals who have been trained and endorsed by the College Board. For new and experienced teachers, these course-specific training opportunities encompass all aspects of AP course content, organization, evaluation, and methodology. For administrators, counselors, and AP Coordinators, workshops address critical issues faced in introducing, developing, supporting, and expanding AP programs in secondary schools. They also serve as a forum for exchanging ideas about AP.

While the AP Program does not have a set of formal requirements that teachers must satisfy prior to teaching an AP course, the College Board suggests that AP teachers have considerable experience and an advanced degree in the discipline before undertaking an AP course.

AP Summer Institutes provide teachers with in-depth training in AP courses and teaching strategies. Participants engage in at least 30 hours of training led by College Board-endorsed consultants and receive printed materials, including excerpts from AP Course Descriptions, AP Exam information, and other course-specific teaching resources. Many locations offer guest speakers, field trips, and other hands-on

activities. Each institute is managed individually by staff at the sponsoring institution under the guidelines provided by the College Board.

Participants in College Board professional development workshops and summer institutes are eligible for continuing education units (CEUs). The College Board is authorized by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET) to offer CEUs. IACET is an internationally recognized organization that provides standards and authorization for continuing education and training.

Workshop and institute offerings for the AP Human Geography teacher (or potential teacher) range from introductory to topic-specific events and include offerings tailored to teachers in the middle and early high school years. To learn more about scheduled workshops and summer institutes near you, visit the Institutes & Workshops area on AP Central: apcentral.collegeboard.com/events.

Online Events

The College Board offers a wide variety of online events, which are presented by College Board-endorsed consultants and recognized subject-matter experts to participants via a Web-based, real-time interface. Online events range from one hour to several days and are interactive, allowing for exchanges between the presenter and participants and between participants. Like face-to-face workshops, online events vary in focus from introductory themes to specific topics, and many offer CEUs for participants. For a complete list of upcoming and archived online events, visit apcentral.collegeboard.com/onlineevents.

Archives of many past online events are also available for free or for a small fee. Archived events can be viewed on your computer at your convenience.

AP Central

AP Central is the College Board's online home for AP professionals. The site offers a wealth of resources, including Course Descriptions, sample syllabi, exam questions, a vast database of teaching resource reviews, lesson plans, course-specific feature articles, and much more. Bookmark the information on AP Central about AP Human Geography: apcentral.collegeboard.com/humangeo.

AP Program information is also available on the site, including exam calendars, fee and fee reduction policies, student performance data, participation forms, research reports, college and university AP grade acceptance policies, and more.

AP professionals are encouraged to contribute to the resources on AP Central by submitting articles or lesson plans for publication and by adding comments to Teacher's Resources reviews.

Electronic Discussion Groups

The AP electronic discussion groups (EDGs) were created to provide a moderated forum for the exchange of ideas, insights, and practices among AP teachers, AP Coordinators, consultants, AP Exam Readers, administrators, and college faculty. EDGs are Web-based threaded discussion groups focused on specific AP courses or roles, giving participants the ability to post and respond to questions online to be viewed by other members of the EDG. To join an EDG, visit apcentral.collegeboard.com/community/edg.

AP Annual Conference

The AP Annual Conference (APAC) is a gathering of the AP community, including teachers, secondary school administrators, and college faculty. The APAC is the only national conference that focuses on

providing complete strategies for middle and high school teachers and administrators involved in the AP Program. The 2007 conference will be held July 11 to 15 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Conference events include presentations by each course's Development Committee, course- and topic-specific sessions, guest speakers, and pre- and postconference workshops for new and experienced teachers. To learn more about this year's event, please visit www.collegeboard.com/apac.

AP professionals are encouraged to lead workshops and presentations at the conference. Proposals are due in the fall of each year prior to the event (visit AP Central for specific deadlines and requirements).

Professional Opportunities

College Board Consultants and Contributors

Experienced AP teachers and educational professionals share their techniques, best practices, materials, and expertise with other educators by serving as College Board consultants and contributors. They may lead workshops and summer institutes, sharing their proven techniques and best practices with new and experienced AP teachers, AP Coordinators, and administrators. They may also contribute to AP course and exam development (writing exam questions or serving on a Development Committee) or evaluate AP Exams at the annual AP Reading. Consultants and contributors may be teachers, postsecondary faculty, counselors, administrators, and retired educators. They receive an honorarium for their work and are reimbursed for expenses.

To learn more about becoming a workshop consultant, visit apcentral.collegeboard.com/consultant.

AP Exam Readers

High school and college faculty members from around the world gather in the United States each June to evaluate and score the free-response sections of the AP Exams at the annual AP Reading. AP Exam Readers are led by a Chief Reader, a college professor who has the responsibility of ensuring that students receive grades that accurately reflect college-level achievement. Readers describe the experience as providing unparalleled insight into the exam evaluation process and as an opportunity for intensive collegial exchange between high school and college faculty. (More than 8,500 Readers participated in the 2006 Reading.) High school Readers receive certificates awarding professional development hours and CEUs for their participation in the AP Reading. To apply to become an AP Reader, go to apcentral.collegeboard.com/readers.

Development Committee Members

The dedicated members of each course's Development Committee play a critical role in the preparation of the Course Description and exam. They represent a diverse spectrum of knowledge and points of view in their fields and, as a group, are the authority when it comes to making subject-matter decisions in the exam-construction process. The AP Development Committees represent a unique collaboration between high school and college educators.

AP Grants

The College Board offers a suite of competitive grants that provide financial and technical assistance to schools and teachers interested in expanding access to AP. The suite consists of three grant programs: College Board AP Fellows, College Board Pre-AP Fellows, and the AP Start-Up Grant, totaling over \$600,000 in annual support for professional development and classroom resources. The programs provide stipends for teachers and schools that want to start an AP program or expand their current program.

Schools and teachers that serve minority and/or low income students who have been traditionally underrepresented in AP courses are given preference. To learn more, visit apcentral.collegeboard.com/apgrants.

Our Commitment to Professional Development

The College Board is committed to supporting and educating AP teachers, AP Coordinators, and administrators. We encourage you to attend professional development events and workshops to expand your knowledge of and familiarity with the AP course(s) you teach or that your school offers, and then to share that knowledge with other members of the AP community. In addition, we recommend that you join professional associations, attend meetings, and read journals to help support your involvement in the community of educational professionals in your discipline. By working with other educational professionals, you will strengthen that community and increase the variety of teaching resources you use.

Your work in the classroom and your contributions to professional development help the AP Program continue to grow, providing students worldwide with the opportunity to engage in college-level learning while still in high school.