AP® Human Geography: Syllabus 1

Syllabus 1058786v1



Scoring Components				
SC1	The course provides a systematic study of the nature of Geography.	4		
SC2	The course provides a systematic study of perspectives of Geography.	4		
SC3	The course provides a systematic study of population geography.	5		
SC4	The course provides a systematic study of cultural patterns and processes.	6, 13		
SC5	The course provides a systematic study of political organization of space.	7		
SC6	The course provides a systematic study of agriculture and rural land use.	8		
SC7	The course provides a systematic study of industrialization and economic development.	9		
SC8	The course provides a systematic study of cities and urban land use.	10		
SC9	The course teaches the use of landscape analysis to examine human organization of space.	7, 10, 12–14		
SC10	The course teaches spatial relationships at different scales ranging from the local to the global.	5-8, 10, 12-14		
SC11	The course teaches students how to use and interpret maps and spatial data.	4-5, 10-14		
SC12	The course teaches students how to use and interpret geographical models.	5, 8–10		





Course Overview

The course is structured according to the course outline found in the most recent AP^{\circledast} 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.

Textbooks

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

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

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

I use additional textbooks to prepare my lectures.

Course Planner

Topic	Multiple-Choice Coverage on the AP Exam	Readings	Time
I. Geography: Its Nature and Perspectives	5–10%	 Rubenstein, Ch. 1 Kuby, Harner, and Gober, Ch. 1, 3 de Blij and Murphy, Ch. 1 	4 weeks
II. Population	13-17%	 Rubenstein, Ch. 2-3 Kuby, Harner, and Gober, Ch. 4-5 de Blij and Murphy, Ch. 4-7 	5 weeks
III. Cultural Patterns and Processes	13-17%	 Rubenstein, Ch. 4-7 Kuby, Harner, and Gober, Ch. 2 de Blij and Murphy, Ch. 2-3, 8-13, 29, 31-32 	6 weeks
IV. Political Organization of Space	13-17%	 Rubenstein, Ch. 8 Kuby, Harner, and Gober Ch. 12–13 de Blij and Murphy, Ch. 14–17 	5 weeks (2 weeks before Winter Break, 3 weeks after)





Topic	Multiple-Choice Coverage on the AP Exam	Readings	Time
Semester Exam	Includes Units		December
	I-III		(the week before
			Winter Break)
V. Agricultural and Rural Land Use	13-17%	 Rubenstein, Ch. 10, 14 (Key Issue 3) Kuby, Harner, and Gober, Ch. 8 de Blij and Murphy, Ch. 18–20, 30 	4 weeks
VI. Industrialization and Economic Development	13-17%	 Rubenstein, Ch. 9, 11, 14 (Key Issues 1 and 2) Kuby, Harner, and Gober, Ch. 6-7, 14 de Blij and Murphy, Ch. 24-27, 33-35 	4 weeks
VII. Cities and Urban Land Use	13-17%	 Rubenstein, Ch. 12–13 Kuby, Harner, and Gober, Ch. 9–11 de Blij and Murphy, Ch. 21–23, 28 	4 weeks
Exam Review			2 weeks



Unit Calendars

Unit I. Geography: Its Nature and Perspectives [SC1 & SC2]

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Welcome and introduction tothe 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 Annual Editions: Geography)	Reading Quiz on Ch. 1 Review four traditions
Week 2	Five themes of geography	Video: Geography: A Voyage of Discovery Defining locations (survey systems, latitude- longitude)	Begin township and range exercise (ARGUS, Activity FX)— complete for homework (due on Friday)	Place names (toponomy) Video: Power of Place 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) [SC11]	Kuby, Harner, and Gober, Ch. 1: "True Maps, False Impressions: Making, Manipulating, and Interpreting Maps" (computer lab)	Complete Kuby, Harner, and Gober, Ch. 1	Discuss Kuby, Harner, and Gober 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 Mapping Our World, Module 1: "ArcView: The Basics" (computer lab)	Complete Mapping Our World, 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

SC1—The course provides a systematic study of the nature of Geography.

SC2—The course provides a systematic study of perspectives of Geography.





Unit II. Population [SC3]

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Return Unit I tests and debrief Population map assignment (finish for homework)	Turn in population maps [SC11] Demography vocabulary HW: Read Rubenstein, Ch. 2: "Population"	Video: World Population: A Graphic Simulation Malthus on overpopulation	Demographic transition model [SC12]	Reading Quiz on Ch. 2 Graph population pyramids
Week 2	Video: Human Geography: People, Places, and Change series, #6: "Population Transition in Italy" Population pyramids due	Kuby, Harner, and Gober, Ch. 5: "One Billion and Counting: The Hidden Momentum of Population Growth in India" (computer lab)	Complete Kuby, Harner, and Gober, Ch. 5 HW: Read Mitchell article, "Before the Next Doubling" (from Annual Editions: Geography)	Pro- and antinatalist government policies	The baby boom
Week 3	Mapping Our World, Module 4: "Generation Gaps" (computer lab)	Complete Mapping Our World, Module 4	Spatial patterns of health and disease HW: Read Rubenstein, Ch. 3: "Migration"	Video: Power of Place 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, Harner, and Gober, Ch. 4: "Newton's First Law of Migration: The Gravity Model" [SC12]	Complete Kuby, Harner, and Gober, Ch. 4 Short term, local movements, and activity space [SC10]	Population and natural hazards
Week 5	Mapping Our World, Module 4: "Regional Case Study: Growing Pains" (computer lab)	Complete Mapping Our World, Module 4 Work on unit review note cards	Review Unit II	Unit II Free- Response Test	Unit II Multiple-Choice Test Note cards due

SC3—The course provides a systematic study of population geography.

SC11—The course teaches students how to use and interpret maps and spatial data.

SC12—The course teaches students how to use and interpret geographical models.

SC10—The course teaches spatial relationships at different scales ranging from the local to the global.





Unit III. Cultural Patterns and Processes [SC4]

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Return Unit II tests and debrief Virtual field trip to Amish country (from Human Geography: Culture, Society, and Space in AP Student Companion) (computer lab)	Concepts of culture Review diffusion HW: Read Rubenstein, Ch. 4: "Folk and Popular Culture"	Folk and popular culture	Kuby, Harner, and Gober, Ch. 2: "Layers of Tradition: Culture Regions at Different Scales" [SC10] Complete Activity 1 in computer lab	Complete Kuby, Harner, and Gober, Ch. 2 (provide postcard set to use in class)
Week 2	Video: A Hot Dog Program	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: In Search of the First Language	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

SC4—The course provides a systematic study of cultural patterns and processes.

SC10—The course teaches spatial relationships at different scales ranging from the local to the global.



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 5	Confucianism, Taoism, Shintoism, and other religions	Field study to houses of worship [SC9 & SC10]	Field study debriefing [SC9 & SC10] Essay assignment	Reading Quiz on Ch. 6 Conflict over Jerusalem	Ethnicity and race HW: Read Rubenstein, Ch. 7 (Key Issue 1)
Week 6	Video: Power of Place 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

SC9—The course teaches the use of landscape analysis to examine human organization of space.

SC10—The course teaches spatial relationships at different scales ranging from the local to the global.

Unit IV. Political Organization of Space [SC5]

	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</i> <i>Place series</i> , #2: "Boundaries and Borderlands"	Kuby, Harner, and Gober, Ch. 13: "The Rise of Nationalism and the Fall of Yugoslavia: Nations, States, and Nation- States"	Complete Kuby, Harner, and Gober, Ch. 13	Reading Quiz on Ch. 7 Defining states HW: Read Rubenstein, Ch. 8: "Political Geography"
Week 2	Territorial morphology Video: Power of Place series, #3: "Supranationalism and Devolution"	Boundaries and the law of the sea	Mapping Our World Module 5: "Crossing the Line" (computer lab)	Complete Mapping Our World, 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 Power of Place series, depending on schedule)			Winter Break begins

SC5—The course provides a systematic study of political organization of space.





	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 3	State political organization; centripetal and centrifugal forces (review)	Research projects (Media Center)	Research projects (Media Center)	Kuby, Harner, and Gober, Ch. 12: "Do Orange and Green Clash? Residential Segregation in Northern Ireland" (computer lab)	Complete Kuby, Harner, and Gober, 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 [SC10]	Electoral geography Work on note cards	Unit IV Review	Unit IV Free- Response Test	Unit IV Multiple-Choice Test note cards due

SC10—The course teaches spatial relationships at different scales ranging from the local to the global.

Unit V. Agricultural and Rural Land Use [SC6]

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Return Unit IV tests and debrief Farming facts HW: Read Rubenstein,	Agricultural revolutions (origins, 2nd Rev. and Green Rev.)	Whittlesey's agricultural regions— interpreting regions activity [SC10]	Atlas activity U.S. agricultural production regions	Kuby, Harner, and Gober, Ch. 8: "Food for Thought: The Globalization of Agriculture" (computer lab)
	Ch. 10: "Agriculture"				Activity 1 and Activity 2 for homework over weekend (visit grocery store)
Week 2	Reading Quiz on Ch. 10 Complete Kuby, Harner, and Gober, 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: Power of Place series, #16: Rural and Urban Contrasts Assign agricultural products for study	Media Center for research
Week 3	von Thünen's model [SC12]	Industrialized agriculture (agribusiness); poultry	Agricultural products project presentations	Agricultural products project presentations	Agricultural products project presentations

SC6—The course provides a systematic study of agriculture and rural land use.

SC12—The course teaches students how to use and interpret geographical models.





	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 4	Rural settlement systems	Regional primary activities (ARGUS, 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 [SC7]

	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 Human Geography: Culture, Society, and Space in AP Student Companion)	Review measures of development Human development index	Kuby, Harner, and Gober, Ch. 7: "Rags and Riches: The Dimensions of Development"	Reading Quiz on Ch. 9 Complete Kuby, Harner, and Gober, Ch. 7
Week 2	Strategies for development Rostow's model [SC12]	Core-periphery distinction HW: Read Rubenstein, Ch. 11: "Industry"	The Industrial Revolution; distribution of industrial production	ARGUS, Activity L: "Locating Heavy Industry"	Site and situation factors; Weber's Industrial Location Theory [SC12]
Week 3	Reading Quiz on Ch. 11 Video: Power of Place series, #18: "Oil and Water" HW: Read Rubenstein, Ch. 14 (Key Issues 1 and 2)	Should a developing country have free trade? (Activity from Focus: International Economics)	Kuby, Harner, and Gober, Ch. 6: "Help Wanted: The Changing Geography of Jobs"	Foreign exchange rates (Activity from Focus: International Economics)	Reading Quiz on Ch. 14 Kuby, Harner, and Gober, Ch. 14: "Preserving the Planet: Human Impact on Environmental Systems"
Week 4	Complete Kuby, Harner, and Gober, Ch. 14	Video: Power of Place series, #15: "Global Interaction" Work on note cards	Review Unit VI	Unit VI Free- Response Test	Unit VI Multiple-Choice Test Note cards due

SC7—The course provides a systematic study of industrialization and economic development.

SC12—The course teaches students how to use and interpret geographical models.





Unit VII. Cities and Urban Land Use [SC8]

	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 [SC12]	Kuby, Harner, and Gober, Ch. 9: "Take Me Out to the Ball Game: Market Areas and the Urban Hierarchy"	Complete Kuby, Harner, and Gober, Ch. 9 Reading Quiz on Ch. 12
Week 2	American urban system (Borchert) [SC12] HW: Read Rubenstein, Ch. 13: "Urban Patterns"	Models of urban structure [SC12]	Suburbanization and edge cities [SC10]	Video: Power of Place series, #24: "Cityscapes, Suburban Sprawl"	Built environment and social space [SC9]
Week 3	Models outside of North America [SC12]	Video: Power of Place series, #11: "A Challenge for Two Old Cities" Reading Quiz on Chapter 13	Field study preparation	Field study in the Congaree Vista (downtown) [SC9 & SC10]	Field study debrief [SC9 & SC10]
Week 4	Mapping Our World, Module 6: "Live, Work, and Play" (computer lab)	Complete Mapping Our World, Module 6 [SC11] Work on note cards	Review Unit VII	Unit VII Free- Response Test	Unit VII Multiple-Choice Test Note cards due

SC8—The course provides a systematic study of cities and urban land use.

SC12—The course teaches students how to use and interpret geographical models.

SC10—The course teaches spatial relationships at different scales ranging from the local to the global.

SC9—The course teaches the use of landscape analysis to examine human organization of space.





Teaching Strategies

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 website to take reading quizzes, communicate with classmates and me, and find class information. The Blackboard, which is an integrated, school-wide software system, features a discussion board, links to external websites (which I select), class lecture notes, and assignments.

I use two types of writing assignments in the class. Since free-response questions comprise 50 percent of the AP Human Geography 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 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.

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. **[SC11]** The lab has Internet access for research and for use of the Blackboard website.

SC11—The course teaches students how to use and interpret maps and spatial data.

Student Evaluation

Each unit of study includes reading quizzes for chapters in the text, several daily grades (such as 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 such as 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 grades are calculated as a percentage of points earned. The free-response portion counts as a 100-point grade. On the second day of the unit test, students answer 50 multiple-choice questions (five answer options per question), which also count as a 100-point grade. Grades are reported quarterly and are based on the percentage of total points earned out of the total possible.

Students take a semester exam in December before the winter break.



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 the map's usefulness (stressing both advantages and limitations). [SC11]

SC11—The course teaches students how to use and interpret maps and spatial data.

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). [SC11]

Unit III. A Hot Dog Program and Essay

Students watch the video A Hot Dog Program (PBS Home Video, 1996) 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.). 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. [SC10]

Unit IV (or Unit VII). Architecture Project [SC9]

Students are assigned a style of residential architecture to research. They give 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.

SC10—The course teaches spatial relationships at different scales ranging from the local to the qlobal.

SC9—The course teaches the use of landscape analysis to examine human organization of space.





Unit V. Houses of Worship Field Study [SC4] [SC9]

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 reflect 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. [SC10]

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. **[SC9]**

Unit VI. 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. **[SC11]**

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,
- 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?).

SC4—The course provides a systematic study of cultural patterns and processes.

SC9—The course teaches the use of landscape analysis to examine human organization of space.

SC10—The course teaches spatial relationships at different scales ranging from the local to the global.





Unit VII. Field Study [SC9, SC10 & SC11]

Students take a field walk in the downtown area of the neighboring city. They walk approximately six blocks on an urban 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?

SC9—The course teaches the use of landscape analysis to examine human organization of space.

SC10—The course teaches spatial relationships at different scales ranging from the local to the global.

