

# AP Human Geography

## The Course

The AP Human Geography course is designed to provide secondary students with the equivalent of one semester of a college introductory human geography class. The purpose of this class is, as described by the **AP Human Geography Course Description booklet** 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.*

## Course Objectives

The course objectives will be based on the five college-level goals of the National Geography Standards. Students should be able to demonstrate the following skills:

- *Use and think about maps and spatial data.*
- *Understand and interpret the implications of associations among phenomena in places.*
- *Recognize and interpret at different scales the relationships among patterns and processes.*
- *Define regions and evaluate the regionalization process.*
- *Characterize and analyze changing interconnections among places.*

## Course Materials

Rubenstein, James M., *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography* (8<sup>th</sup> ed., 2005)-required textbook

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

*Power of Place* video series (Annenberg/CPB Project)

## Additional materials

New York Times

USA Today

Lakeland Ledger

## Course Outline

### **Geography: Its Nature and Perspectives: Weeks 1-4**

#### Required Reading

Rubenstein, Ch. 1 "Thinking Geographically"

## **Objectives**

- I. Geography as a field of inquiry
- II. Evolution of key geographical concepts and models associated with notable geographers.
- III. Key concepts underlying the geographical perspective: location, space, place, scale, pattern, regionalization, and globalization.
- IV. Key geographical skills
  - a. How to use and think about maps and spatial data
  - b. How to understand and interpret the implications of associations among phenomena in places.
  - c. How to recognize and interpret at different scales the relationships among patterns and processes.
  - d. How to define regions and evaluate the regionalization process.
  - e. How to characterize and analyze changing interconnections among places.
- V. Sources of geographical ideas and data: field work, census data.

## **Video Case Studies-Power of Place**

1. One Earth, Many Scales
2. Boundaries and Borderlands

## **Population: Weeks 5-8**

### **Required Reading**

- Rubenstein, Ch. 2 "Population"  
Rubenstein, Ch. 3 "Migration"

## **Objectives**

- I. Geographical analysis of population
  - a. Density, distribution, and scale
  - b. Consequences of various densities and distributions
  - c. Patterns of composition: age, sex, race, and ethnicity
  - d. Population and natural hazards: past, present, and future
- II. Population growth and decline over time and space
  - a. Historical trends and projections for the future
  - b. Theories of population growth
  - c. Patterns of fertility, mortality, and health
  - d. Regional variations of demographic transitions
  - e. Effects of population policies
- III. Population Movement
  - a. Push and pull factors
  - b. Major voluntary and involuntary migrations at different scales
  - c. Migration selectivity.
  - d. Short-term local movements and activity space

## **Video Case Studies-Power of Place**

- 14. The Maritime Connection
- 18. Oil and Water

### **Cultural Patterns and Processes: Weeks 9-12**

#### **Required Reading**

- Rubenstein, Ch. 4 “Folk and Popular Culture”
- Rubenstein, Ch. 5 “Language”
- Rubenstein, Ch. 6 “Religion”
- Rubenstein, Ch. 7 “Ethnicity”

#### **Objectives**

- I. Concepts of culture
  - a. Traits and complexes
  - b. Diffusion
  - c. Acculturation
  - d. Cultural regions and realms
- II. Cultural differences
  - a. Language
  - b. Religion
  - c. Ethnicity
  - d. Gender
  - e. Popular and folk culture
- III. Environmental impact of cultural attitudes and practices
- IV.* Cultural landscapes/cultural identity
  - a. Values and preferences
  - b. Symbolic landscapes and sense of place

#### **Video Case Studies-Power of Place**

- 4. East Looks West
- 7. Northwest Contrast
- 10. The Booming Maritime Edge
- 17. Sacred Space, Secular States?

### **Political Organization of Space: Weeks 13-16**

#### **Required Reading**

- Rubenstein, Ch. 8 “Political Geography”

#### **Objectives**

- I. Territorial dimensions of politics
  - a. The concept of territoriality
  - b. The nature and meaning of boundaries

- c. Influences of boundaries on identity, interaction, and exchange
- II. Evolution of the contemporary political pattern
  - a. The nation-state concept
  - b. Colonialism and imperialism
  - c. Internal political boundaries and arrangements
- III. Challenges to inherited political-territorial arrangements
  - a. Changing nature of sovereignty
  - b. Fragmentation, unification, alliance
  - c. Spatial relationships between political patterns and patterns of ethnicity, economy, and environment

**Video Case Studies-Power of Place**

3. Supranationalism and Devolution

19. Strength To Overcome

**Agriculture and Rural Land Use: Weeks 17-20**

**Required Reading**

Rubenstein, Ch. 10 “Agriculture”

**Objectives**

- I. Development and diffusion of agriculture
  - a. Neolithic Agricultural Revolution
  - b. Second Agricultural Revolution
- II. Major agricultural production regions
  - a. Agricultural systems associated with major bio-climatic zones
  - b. Variations within major zones and effects of markets
  - c. Linkages and flows among regions of food production and consumption
- III.* Rural land use and settlement patterns
  - a. Models of land use and localization of economic activities
  - b. Settlement patterns associated with major agriculture types
- IV.* Modern commercial agriculture: the Third Agricultural Revolution
  - a. Green Revolution and the beginning of the biotechnologic revolution
  - b. Characteristics of the third revolution: blending of primary, secondary and tertiary activities, intensification of mechanization, and development of biotechnology
  - c. Spatial organization of industrial agriculture
  - d. Diffusion of industrial agriculture
  - e. Future food supplies and environmental impacts of agriculture (the good, the bad, and the ugly)

**Video Case Studies-Power of Place**

6. Challenges in the Hinterlands

12. Small Farms, Big Cities

- 21. Population Geography
- 25. Ethnic Fragmentation in Canada

### **Industrialization and Economic Development: Weeks 21-24**

#### **Required Reading**

- Rubenstein, Ch. 9 “Development”
- Rubenstein, Ch. 11 “Industry”
- Rubenstein, Ch. 12 “Services”

#### **Objectives**

- I. Key concepts in industrialization and development
- II. Growth and diffusion of industrialization
  - a. The changing roles of energy and technology
  - b. Industrial Revolution
  - c. Evolution of economic cores and peripheries
  - d. Geographic critiques of models of economic localization (ex. Land rent, comparative costs of transportation), industrial location, economic development and world systems
- III. Contemporary patterns and impacts of industrialization and development
  - a. Spatial organizations of the world economy
  - b. Variations in levels of development
  - c. Deindustrialization
  - d. Pollution, health, and quality of life
  - e. Industrialization, environmental change, and sustainability
  - f. Local development initiatives: government policies

#### **Video Case Studies-Power of Place**

- 8. Holding the Hinterlands
- 11. A Challenge for Two Old Cities
- 16. Urban and Rural Contrasts
- 22. Dynamic Pacific Rim
- 24. Cityscapes, Suburban Sprawl

### **Cities and Urban Land Use: Weeks 25-28**

#### **Required Reading**

- Rubenstein, Ch. 13 “Urban Patterns”

#### **Objectives**

- I. Definitions of urbanism
- II. Origin and evolution of cities
  - a. Historical patterns of urbanization

- b. Rural-urban migration and urban growth
  - c. Global cities and megacities
  - d. Models of urban systems
- III. Functional character of contemporary cities
- a. Changing employment mix
  - b. Changing demographic and social structures
- IV. Built environment and social space
- a. Comparative models of internal city structure
  - b. Transportation and infrastructure
  - c. Political organization of urban areas
  - d. Urban planning and design
  - e. Patterns of race, ethnicity, gender, and class
  - f. Uneven development, ghettoization, and gentrification
  - g. Impacts of suburbanization and edge cities

**Video Case Studies-Power of Place**

- 5. The Transforming Industrial Heartland
- 9. Changes on the Chang Jiang
- 13. The Mainland
- 23. Brazil: The Sleeping Giant