

AP Human Geography Syllabus

SCUC ISD

2020-2021

Course Overview:

AP Human Geography is a challenging course designed to utilize geographic processes to systematically study and understand spatial patterns that are evident in the world in which we all live. We will use spatial concepts and landscape analysis to determine the interconnections between people, places and the environment. The course provides a broad survey of human geography, investigate how civilization is influenced by geography, population, agriculture, land uses, natural resources and sustainability, industry and economics, politics, culture and urbanization. We will also focus on building writing skills, interpreting maps, data sets and geographic models, GIS, aerial photographs and satellite images, critical and analytical thinking, research skills while relating real world instances to events and broader themes.

Course Materials

Our primary text will be *A Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography*, James M. Rubenstein, 13th edition 2014. In addition, all students have digital access to the AMSCO Human Geography test preparation guide.

Exam Overview

Units	Exam Weighting
Unit 1: Thinking Geographically	8–10%
Unit 2: Population and Migration Patterns and Processes	12–17%
Unit 3: Cultural Patterns and Processes	12–17%
Unit 4: Political Patterns and Processes	12–17%
Unit 5: Agriculture and Rural Land-Use Patterns and Processes	12–17%
Unit 6: Cities and Urban Land-Use Patterns and Processes	12–17%
Unit 7: Industrial and Economic Development Patterns and Processes	12–17%

The AP Human Geography Exam assesses student understanding of the skills and learning objectives outlined in the course framework. The exam is 2 hours and 15 minutes long and includes 60 multiple-choice questions and 3 free-response questions. The details of the exam, including exam weighting and timing, can be found below:

Section	Question Type	Number of Questions	Exam Weighting	Timing
I	Multiple-choice questions	60	50%	60 minutes
II	Free-response questions (7 points each)	3	50%	75 minutes

The exam assesses content from each of the three big ideas for the course:

1. Patterns and Spatial Organization
2. Impacts and Interactions
3. Spatial Processes and Societal Change

Section I: Multiple-Choice

The AP Human Geography skill categories are assessed in the multiple-choice section with the following relative weightings:

Skill Category	Exam Weighting
1: Concepts and Processes	25–36%
2: Spatial Relationships	16–25%
3: Data Analysis	13–20%
4: Visual Analysis	13–20%
5: Scale Analysis	13–20%

- The multiple-choice questions will include both individual and set-based questions.
- Approximately 30 to 40% of the multiple-choice questions will reference stimulus material, including maps, tables, charts, graphs, images, infographics, and/or landscapes, roughly evenly divided between quantitative and qualitative sources.

Section II: Free-Response

The second section of the AP Human Geography Exam includes three questions, each one assessing at least two different units of instruction.

All five AP Human Geography skill categories are assessed in the free-response section with the following weightings:

Skill Category	Exam Weighting
1: Concepts and Processes	23–29%
2: Spatial Relationships	33–43%
3: Data Analysis	10–19%
4: Visual Analysis	10–19%
5: Scale Analysis	10–14%

About the Advanced Placement Program® (AP®)

The Advanced Placement Program® has enabled millions of students to take college-level courses and earn college credit, advanced placement, or both, while still in high school. AP Exams are given each year in May. Students who earn a qualifying score on an AP Exam are typically eligible to receive college credit and/or placement into advanced courses in college. Every aspect of AP course and exam development is the result of collaboration between AP teachers and college faculty. They work together to develop AP courses and exams, set scoring standards, and score the exams. College faculty review every AP teacher's course syllabus.

AP Human Geography Course Overview

The AP Human Geography course is equivalent to an introductory college-level course in human geography. The course introduces 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 socioeconomic organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their research and applications. The curriculum reflects the goals of the National Geography Standards (2012).

Goals of AP Human Geography

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to

- Interpret maps and analyze geospatial data;
- Understand and explain the implications of associations and networks among phenomena in places;
- Recognize and interpret the relationships among patterns and processes at different scales of analysis;
- Define regions and evaluate the regionalization process; and
- Characterize and analyze changing interconnections among places.

Topic Outline for AP Human Geography

The AP Human Geography course is organized around seven major topics:

- Geography: Its Nature and Perspectives
- Population and Migration
- Cultural Patterns and Processes
- Political Organization of Space
- Agriculture, Food Production, and Rural Land Use
- Industrialization and Economic Development
- Cities and Urban Land Use