

AP Human Geography Syllabus and Course Outline

GCS Virtual Program

Contact Information:

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Course Title: AP Human Geography

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Course Description: This 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).

Course Topics: Specific topics with which students engage include the following:

- problems of economic development and cultural change
- consequences of population growth, changing fertility rates, and international migration
- impacts of technological innovation on transportation, communication, industrialization, and other aspects of human life
- struggles over political power and control of territory
- conflicts over the demands of ethnic minorities, the role of women in society, and the inequalities between developed and developing economies
- explanations of why location matters to agricultural land use, industrial development, and urban problems
- the role of climate change and environmental abuses in shaping the human landscapes on Earth

Course Expectations: This is a college-level course that allows students to receive college credit at most universities upon passage of the AP Human Geography exam in May. Students are expected to prepare themselves for each unit by completing the required reading, taking practice quizzes via the AP College Classroom, and developing consistent study practice.

The AP Exam: The AP Human Geography College Board exam will take place on **May ____, 2025**. The test will consist of 60 multiple-choice questions (60-minute time limit) and 3 free-response questions (75-minute time limit). The scoring of the exam ranges from 1-5 with 5 being the highest score possible. Most universities accept 3-5 for college credit. Students will need to research the colleges at which they are interested to see the university's standards. Students are expected to consistently spend time on their own reviewing and preparing for the exam. Students will be given numerous tools and resources to help them prepare for success on the exam. The AP exam score does not count toward the student's final grade since scores are not released until July.

Honor Code: All students have signed an honor code for academic honesty. Students have been instructed at the beginning of the school year as to the expectation of GCVP concerning academic credibility. Any violation of the honor code will result in a zero on the assignment or a referral. Any additional violation in any class will result in discipline by the administration.

Reading Materials: It is expected that students adhere to the assigned reading schedules. Below are the texts that will be used in the course.

- Bednarz, Sarah, et al. *Human Geography a Spatial Perspective AP Edition, National Geographic*. CENGAGE Learning, 2020.
- Palmer, David. *Amsco Advanced Placement Human Geography*. Des Moines, Perfection Learning, 2020.

Unit of Study	Multiple-Choice on AP Exam	Textbook Readings	Tentative Length
1. Thinking Geographically	8-10%	Nat'l Geo, Ch. 1-2 Amsco, Ch. 1-2	7 days
2. Population and Migration Patterns and Processes	12-17%	Nat'l Geo Ch. 3-5 Amsco, Ch. 3-5	9 days
3. Cultural Patterns and Processes	12-17%	Nat'l Geo, Ch. 6-8 Amsco, Ch. 6-8	14 days
4. Political Patterns and Processes	12-17%	Nat'l Geo, Ch. 9-11 Amsco, Ch. 9-11	10 days
5. Agricultural and Rural Land Use Patterns and Processes	12-17%	Nat'l Geo, Ch. 12-14 Amsco, Ch. 12-14	10 days
6. Industry & Economic Development Patterns and Processes	12-17%	Nat'l Geo, Ch. 15-17 Amsco, Ch. 15-17	10 days
7. Cities and Urban Land Use Patterns and Processes	12-17%	Nat'l Geo, Ch. 18-20 Amsco, Ch. 18-20	5 days
Exam Review	Before and after school sessions begin in mid-March, the schedule will be posted on the teacher's website		
AP Exam	Friday, May ____, 2025 at 8:00 AM		

Classroom Expectations:

1. **Be respectful.** Treat me and any classmates with the courtesy and respect you wish to receive yourself. Respect the property and opinions of others.
2. **Be prepared.** Have your textbook and notes ready before you start your work.
3. **Be present.** I expect you to engage with the material posted each day!

Grading Policy/Practices:

Assessment and Grading Policy:

60% Major Grades (Including unit tests, formal papers, and projects), *approximately 3-4 per nine weeks*

30% Minor Grades (inquiry/research assignments, case studies), *approximately 12 per nine weeks.*

10% Homework Grades (reading quizzes)

SC Grading Scale:

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	51-59

Late Work and Makeup Policy:

Missed tests or quizzes- Please email so we can discuss a time for you to make up

Makeup Policy for MAJOR grade:

Number of Days Late	AP (Courses for College Credit)
1	30 Points Off
2	30 Points Off

Makeup Policy for Minor Grades

Number of Days Late	AP (Courses for College Credit)
1	30 Points Off
2	Grade Remains 0

Supplies Needed:

- Chromebook
- Reliable Network Connection

Magic School

- This year, students will use MagicSchool AI, a generative AI platform designed specifically for education. As tools like ChatGPT and Gemini become standard in the professional world, utilizing MagicSchool prepares students for the future workforce by teaching safe and responsible technology use.
- Students will use these tools for real-time feedback and dynamic problem-solving. To ensure appropriate use, teachers retain access to all student chats. MagicSchool strictly protects privacy and does not collect or utilize student data. All AI software, including MagicSchool, complies with GCS Board Policy and Administrative Rule IA.

Generative AI

This course may utilize generative AI tools, such as MagicSchool and Google Gemini, to supplement traditional instruction. Greenville County Schools prioritizes the ethical use of these technologies for brainstorming and self-guided learning.

- **Critical Thinking First:** AI must not replace original thought or coursework.
- **Academic Integrity:** Using AI to complete and submit assignments as original work constitutes plagiarism.
- **Required Citation:** If teacher-approved, all AI use must be properly cited.
- **Content Awareness:** Students must remain vigilant regarding potential biases and inaccuracies in AI-generated content.
- **Policy Compliance:** All AI programs align with GCS Board Policy and Administrative Rule IA.