

## Welcome to AP Human Geography!

AP Human Geography 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). The course is equivalent to an introductory college-level course in human geography.

The purpose of teaching AP Human Geography at Christian Academy is to equip students to make biblically informed decisions as members of a culturally diverse society by developing within them an appreciation of geography, physical and cultural development, geo-political structure, and the environment. This course will challenge our Christian beliefs with a global philosophy presented in text and resources. My hope is students can inspect alignment with global worldviews and what they read and experience in their Christian worldview and develop the ability to construct well-developed arguments to express reasons for what they believe.

The course content is organized into seven commonly taught units:

- **Unit 1: Thinking Geographically**
- **Unit 2: Population and Migration Patterns and Processes**
- **Unit 3: Cultural Patterns and Processes**
- **Unit 4: Political Patterns and Processes**
- **Unit 5: Agriculture and Rural Land-Use Patterns and Processes**
- **Unit 6: Cities and Urban Land-Use Patterns and Processes**
- **Unit 7: Industrial and Economic Development Patterns and Processes**

In addition, the following big ideas serve as the foundation of the course, enabling students to create meaningful connections among concepts and develop deeper conceptual understanding:

- **Big Idea 1: Patterns and Spatial Organization**
- **Big Idea 2: Impacts and Interactions**
- **Big Idea 3: Spatial Process and Societal Change**

The course focuses on the processes and cause/effect relationships of human populations. Emphasis throughout the course is on the spatial distribution, differences in scale and cultural determinants influenced by global interaction and integration. If you don't know these terms, that's ok. You will learn.

The class also helps prepare you for other AP courses that you may want to take through high school.

*We look at **why** people live where they live, **how** they found themselves living where they are, and the influences that move or keep them where they live.*

AP classes *develop* students as **critical thinkers**. If you enjoy challenges, figuring out the **why** behind world events, or enjoy discovering different areas of the world this is a great class for you.

## AP Human Geography Summer Homework

To become acclimated to this course, my desire is for you to have a general knowledge of the political maps of the different continents of the world. Your summer homework is to study and to label the following maps of the world. Upon arrival to class for the first day, you will need to print them off to turn in. I would suggest you print the maps and then label countries and color each by region of the map.

- Political map US
- Political map North America and Central America
- Political map South America
- Political map Europe
- Political map Africa
- Political map of Asia and Middle East

For each continent map, hand label the name of the country. For the US Map, label each state.

Secondly, color the map by region. What makes a region? Great question. Define how you would define a region and include it in the key of colors. This will help me see how you think.

Next, watch the following videos and write general notes on what you learn. 50-75 words per video should be sufficient. Again, this will help me see how you take notes.

[Thinking Like A Geographer! \(AP Human Geography\) - YouTube](#)

[Introduction to Maps \[AP Human Geography Unit 1 Topic 1\] 1.1 - YouTube](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iHEMOdRo5u8&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtO85Sl24rSiVQ93q7vcentNF&index=3>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4y2nndDs8m4>

Bring completed maps to school first day. *Bring completed notes over videos.*

Have a great summer. If you have questions, email me throughout the summer.

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