

AP Human Geography

Dixie Middle School • St. George, Utah



2026-2027 Course Syllabus (9th Grade)

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Welcome

Welcome to AP Human Geography! This course introduces students to the study of people, places, cultures, and how humans interact with the world around them. Although this is a college-level Advanced Placement (AP) course, it is designed to help 9th-grade students build strong critical-thinking, reading, writing, and map-analysis skills.

Students will explore how people organize space, develop cultures, create governments, produce food, build cities, and participate in an increasingly connected global economy. We look forward to a great year exploring the world through the lens of geography!

Classroom Rules and Expectations

1. Be respectful to all students, staff, and classroom property.
2. Be in your seat and ready to learn when class begins.
3. Bring required materials every day.
4. Participate in discussions, activities, and group work.
5. Follow Chromebook and school technology guidelines.
6. Complete all assignments honestly.
7. Use appropriate language and behavior at all times.

Homework Expectations

Success in AP Human Geography requires consistent practice beyond the classroom. Although no homework will be assigned, students are expected to spend time reviewing and studying the following concepts on their own:

- Vocabulary
- Current events
- Reviewing notes and curriculum material that is obtained in the classroom

Late Work Policy

- Assignments are due on the posted due date.
- Students may submit missing work from the current unit at any time while that unit is being taught.
- Students will have the entire next unit to make up work from the previous unit.
- Once the class moves beyond the next unit, work from two units prior will no longer be accepted for credit.
- Students are encouraged to communicate with the teacher regarding missing assignments and make-up plans.

Course Goals

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Analyze geographic patterns and processes.
- Interpret maps, charts, graphs, and geographic data.
- Explain cultural, political, agricultural, urban, and economic systems.
- Apply geographic concepts to real-world issues.
- Prepare for success on the AP Human Geography Exam (fee will be required for this exam).

Grading Scale

- **A = 93-100%**
- **A- = 90-92%**
- **B+ = 87-89%**
- **B = 83-86%**
- **B- = 80-82%**
- **C+ = 77-79%**
- **C = 73-76%**
- **C- = 70-72%**
- **D = 60-69%**
- **F = Below 60%**

Grade Categories

- Assessments (rubric-based projects) - 70%
 - Classwork and Daily Assignments - 30%
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Course Units

Unit 1: Thinking Geographically

Chapter 1: Maps and Geographic Data

- Types of maps
- Geographic tools and technology
- GIS and spatial data

Chapter 2: Spatial Concepts and Geographic Analysis

- Scale
- Distance decay
- Diffusion
- Patterns and processes

Skills: Map interpretation, data analysis, geographic reasoning

Unit 2: Population and Migration Patterns and Processes

Chapter 3: Population Distribution and Composition

- Population density
- Demographic characteristics
- Population patterns

Chapter 4: Population Change

- Birth rates
- Death rates
- Demographic Transition Model

Chapter 5: Migration

- Push and pull factors
- Refugees and migration trends
- Effects of migration

Skills: Population analysis, graph interpretation, demographic studies

Unit 3: Cultural Patterns and Processes

Chapter 6: Cultural Landscapes, Patterns, and Diffusion

- Culture traits
- Cultural landscapes
- Language and religion

Chapter 7: Historical and Contemporary Processes of Diffusion

- Relocation diffusion
- Expansion diffusion
- Global cultural influences

Skills: Cultural analysis, case studies, geographic connections

Unit 4: Political Patterns and Processes

Chapter 8: Political Processes and Power

- Nations and states
- Sovereignty
- Political geography

Chapter 9: Political Boundaries and Forms of Governance

- Types of boundaries
- Forms of government
- Geopolitical issues

Chapter 10: Challenges in the Modern State

- Supranational organizations
- Devolution
- Contemporary political conflicts

Skills: Political analysis, map interpretation, current events discussions

Unit 5: Agricultural and Rural Land-Use Patterns and Processes

Chapter 11: Origins, Patterns, and Settlements of Agriculture

- Agricultural origins
- Subsistence and commercial farming

Chapter 12: The Second and Third Agricultural Revolutions

- Technological advances
- Green Revolution

Chapter 13: Spatial Arrangement of Agriculture

- Von Thünen Model
- Land-use patterns

Chapter 14: Challenges and Consequences of Agricultural Practices

- Sustainability
- Food security
- Environmental impacts

Unit 6: Cities and Urban Land-Use Patterns and Processes

Chapter 15: Origin, Distribution, and Systems of Cities (Topics 6.1-6.4)

- Origins and development of cities
- Urbanization and city distribution
- Cities and globalization

Chapter 16: Urban Structure (Topics 6.5-6.7)

- Urban land-use models
- Residential and commercial patterns
- Infrastructure and transportation

Chapter 17: Urban Challenges and Sustainability (Topics 6.8-6.11)

- Urban growth and sprawl
- Housing and socioeconomic challenges
- Urban sustainability

Skills: Urban model analysis, map interpretation, spatial analysis, comparing urban patterns

Unit 7: Industrialization and Economic Development Patterns and Processes

Chapter 18: Industrial and Economic Development (Topics 7.1-7.4)

- Industrial Revolution
- Industrialization and economic change
- Measures of economic development

Chapter 19: Development and Trade (Topics 7.4-7.6)

- Economic sectors
- International trade
- Globalization and development

Chapter 20: Changing Global Economy and Sustainability (Topics 7.7-7.8)

- Changes in industrial location
- Global economic patterns
- Sustainable development
- Social and environmental impacts of development

Skills: Economic data analysis, development comparisons, spatial analysis, evaluating globalization and sustainability