

Course Guide: Unit I

Geography: Its Nature and Perspectives

Outline:

- A. Geography, as a field of inquiry, looks at the world from a spatial perspective.
 1. Explain the importance of geography as a field of study
 - a. Geographic information provides context for understanding spatial relationships and human–environment interaction.
- B. Geography offers a set of concepts, skills, and tools that facilitate critical thinking and problem solving.
 1. Explain major geographical concepts underlying the geographic perspective.
 - a. Geographical concepts include location, place, scale, space, pattern, nature and society, networks, flows, regionalization, and globalization.
 2. Use landscape analysis to examine the human organization of space.
 - a. Landscape analysis (e.g., field observations, photographic interpretations) provides a context for understanding the location of people, places, regions, and events; human–environment relationships; and interconnections between and among places and regions.
- C. Geographical skills provide a foundation for analyzing world patterns and processes.
 1. Use spatial thinking to analyze the human organization of space.
 - a. People apply spatial concepts to interpret and understand population and migration; cultural patterns and processes; political organization of space; agriculture, food production, and rural land use; industrialization and economic development; and cities and urban land use.
 2. Use and interpret maps.
 - a. Maps are used to represent and identify spatial patterns and processes at different scales.
 - b. Types of maps include reference maps (e.g., physical and political maps) and thematic maps (e.g., choropleth, dot, graduated symbol, isoline, cartogram).
 - c. All map projections (e.g., Mercator, polar) inevitably distort spatial relationships (e.g., shape, area, distance, direction).
 3. Apply mathematical formulas and graphs to interpret geographic concepts.
 - a. Mathematical formulas and graphs are used to analyze rates of natural increase in population, population doubling time, rank-size rule for cities, and distance-decay functions.
 4. Use and interpret geographic models.
 - a. Geographers use models as generalizations to think systematically about topics such as land use (e.g., von Thünen model, Latin American city model), industrial location (e.g., Weber model), and the distribution of settlements (e.g., Christaller’s central place theory).
 5. Use concepts such as space, place, and region to examine geographic issues.
 - a. Geographical issues include problems related to human–environmental interactions (e.g., sustainable agriculture); conflict and cooperation among countries (e.g., European Union); and planning and public-policy decision making (e.g., pronatalist policies).
 6. Interpret patterns and processes at different scales.
 - a. Patterns and processes at different scales reveal variations in and different interpretations of data (e.g., age–sex pyramids, population density).
 7. Define region as a concept, identify world regions, and understand regionalization processes.
 - a. Regions are defined on the basis of one or more unifying characteristics (e.g., corn belt) or on patterns of activity (e.g., hinterlands of ports).
 - b. Types of regions include formal, functional, and perceptual.
 - c. World regions are defined for this course by the maps in the course curriculum section of the AP Human Geography Course Description.
 - d. World regions may overlap (e.g., Southeast Asia and Asia) and often have transitional boundaries (e.g., North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa).
 8. Explain and evaluate the regionalization process.
 - a. Regional thinking is applied at local, national, and global scales.
 - b. Regionalism refers to a group’s perceived identification with a particular region at any scale (e.g., Quebec).

9. Analyze changing interconnections among places.

- a. Interconnections among places include exchanges of natural resources, agricultural commodities, finished products, services, people, information, money, and pollutants.

D. Geospatial technologies increase the capability for gathering and analyzing geographic information with applications to everyday life.

1. Use and interpret geospatial data.

- a. Geospatial technologies include geographic information systems (GIS), satellite navigation systems (e.g., global positioning system), remote sensing, and online mapping and visualization.
- b. Geospatial data (e.g., census data, satellite imagery) is used at all scales for personal (e.g., navigation), business (e.g., marketing), and governmental (e.g., environmental planning) purposes.

E. Field experiences continue to be important means of gathering geographic information and data.

1. Use quantitative and qualitative geographic data.

- a. Data may be gathered in the field by organizations (e.g., census data) or by individuals (e.g., interviews, surveys, photography, informal observations).
- b. Quantitative and qualitative geographic data are used in economic, environmental, political, and social decision making.

Key Vocabulary: (MAKE FLASHCARDS)

Absolute Location	Global Grid System	Remote Sensing
Anthropology	Graduated Map	Satellite Imagery
Cartography	Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)	Scale
Climate Region	Hierarchical Diffusion	Sense of Place
Connectivity	Human Geography	Sequent Occupance
Contagious Diffusion	Isoline Map	Site Location
Choropleth Map	Isotherm	Situation Location
Culture	Landscape	Space-Time Compression
Cultural Barrier	Landscape Analysis	Spatial
Cultural Complex	Local Diversity	Spatial Distribution
Cultural Hearth	Location	Spatial Interaction
Cultural Landscape	Location Theory	Spatial Perspective
Cultural trait	Maquiladora	Stimulus Diffusion
Diffusion	Mental Map	Symbol Map
Distance	Mercator Projection	Thematic Maps
Distance Decay	Movement	Time Zones
Distortion	Multinational Corporation	
Distribution	Pandemic	
Dot Map	Pattern	
Environmental Determinism	Perception of Place	
Epidemic	Perceptual Region	
Expansion Diffusion	Physical Geography	
Fieldwork	Possibilism	
Five Themes	Polar Projection	
Formal Region	Projection	
Functional Region	Quantitative Data	
Generalized Map	Qualitative Data	
Geocaching	Reference Map	
Geographic Information System (GIS)	Region	
Global Position System (GPS)	Relative Location	
Globalization	Relocation	