

Course Content

Based on the Understanding by Design® (Wiggins and McTighe) model, this course framework provides a clear and detailed description of the course requirements necessary for student success. The framework specifies what students must know, understand, and be able to do, with a focus on big ideas that encompass core principles, theories, and processes of the discipline. The framework also encourages instruction that prepares students for advanced geography coursework and active global citizenship.

Big Ideas

The big ideas serve as the foundation of the course and enable students to create meaningful connections among course concepts. Often, these big ideas are abstract concepts or themes that become threads that run throughout the course. Revisiting the big ideas and applying them in a variety of contexts allow students to develop a deeper conceptual understanding. Below are the big ideas of the course and a brief description of each.

BIG IDEA 1: PATTERNS AND SPATIAL ORGANIZATION (PSO)

Spatial patterns and organization of human society are arranged according to political, historical, cultural, and economic factors.

BIG IDEA 2: IMPACTS AND INTERACTIONS (IMP)

Complex relationships of cause and effect exist among people, their environments, and historical and contemporary actions.

BIG IDEA 3: SPATIAL PROCESS AND SOCIETAL CHANGE (SPS)

A spatial perspective allows for a focus on the ways phenomena are related to one another in particular places, which in turn allows for the examination of human organization and its environmental consequences.