

SOCIAL STUDIES: INCOMING FRESHMEN COURSE OPTIONS

Required Course Options	Recommended Grade Level	Course Content	Recommended Skills	Typical Student Profile
World Geography 	9 th	Physical geography, culture, history, and global issues of the Eastern Hemisphere including Russia, Middle East, Africa, Asia, and Australia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Ability to read near grade level. ☞ Writing skills in development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Typical freshman academic habits regarding homework, test preparation, and writing capabilities. ☑ College prep student.
AP Human Geography 	9 th – 12 th	Looks at the modern world and the impact human populations have on the planet. Studies topics such as culture, religion, population, and economic development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Ability to comprehend a college level textbook. ☞ Writing skills above grade level. ☞ Critical thinking beyond recall. ☞ Ability to analyze geographic tools including maps, charts, tables, and documents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Curious about the world TODAY. ☑ Motivated to do well when challenged. ☑ Willing to plan ahead. ☑ Reading EXPLORE 18+ (17-16?)
Honors World History 	9 th	Looks at the world of the past from Ancient times to WWI. Studies topics such as Greece, Rome, Asian Empires, Middle Ages and WWI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Ability to read a 12th grade textbook. ☞ Writing skills above grade level. ☞ Critical thinking beyond recall and basic interpretation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Curious about the world of the PAST. ☑ Motivated to do well when challenged. ☑ Able to handle a fast pace. ☑ Reading EXPLORE 18+ (17-16?)
AP World History 	9 th – 12 th	College level analysis of historical themes from 8,000 BCE to the present with comparisons across cultures. *** A summer work project is required and due the 1st day of class.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Ability to comprehend a college level textbook. ☞ Writing skills at college level. ☞ Expansive critical thinking ability. ☞ Ability to analyze primary sources and documents from time periods. ☞ Mastering extensive factual knowledge at a rapid pace. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Superior academic habits and skills for a freshman. ☑ Highly motivated. ☑ Independent learner. ☑ Able to handle a fast pace with collegiate readings. ☑ Passion for History. ☑ Able to balance demand of other Honors courses in English, Science, and Math. ☑ Reading EXPLORE 20+

Turn over for additional information.

FAQs for Required Social Studies Courses

Which course is more difficult?

- All courses require daily reading and daily homework.
- All courses are college prep.
- Honors World History and AP Human Geography are faster paced than World Geography and they require more challenging reading, writing and critical thinking.
- AP Human Geography and Honors World History are at the same level of challenge. Therefore when deciding which one to pick, base it off of student interest. Do you like to study the world today (AP Human Geo)...or...do you like to study the world of the past (Honors World History).
- AP World History is even faster paced. Think: “Honors World History Turbocharged with a college level text”.

What is an A.P. course?

- Advanced Placement, or A.P., courses have textbooks, pacing and curriculum expectations at the college level. Students are eligible to earn college credit through the AP exam in May.

Are any of the classes weighted?

- Yes, Honors World History, AP Human Geography, and AP World History are weighted. Be advised, you should not take any of these courses just for a weighted grade.

Does taking one course or the other impact my chances for taking an A.P. class in the future?

- No. Students who do very well in all the classes qualify for and have succeeded in A.P. and advanced social studies classes and electives.

If I try an Honors or AP course, can I change to a different course once school starts if I find my initial class too difficult or too easy?

- All students have 12 days to drop a course; however that does not mean there is space available in an alternative course. Therefore, correct initial placement is critical.
- Even if space is found in an alternative course, this change can be very difficult and demanding on students. Since each course offers a very unique curriculum, students are responsible for all the work they missed during the initial 12 days of the alternative course. For example, Honors World History and AP World History have similar names but use different textbooks, study different topics, and have very different assignments. To drop one course and move into the other would require making up 12 days of work independently while still completing all the work requirements of the student’s other classes.

What if I disagree with my 8th grade teacher's recommendation?

- Carefully consider their advice. They know your skills and abilities.
- Talk with the Social Studies Chair at the High School.

Metea Valley:

Don Pankuch 375-8856