## Social Studies: Incoming Freshmen Course Options

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<th>Required Course Options</th>
<th>Recommended Grade Level</th>
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| World Geography         | 9th                     | Physical geography, culture, history, and global issues of the Eastern Hemisphere including Russia, Middle East, Africa, Asia, and Australia. | Ability to read near grade level.  
Writing skills in development. | Typical freshman academic habits regarding homework, test preparation, and writing capabilities.  
College prep student. |
| Honors World History    | 9th                     | Key historical topics and concepts from the Ancient World through WWI. | Ability to read a 12th grade textbook.  
Writing skills above grade level.  
Critical thinking beyond recall and basic interpretation. | Highly motivated.  
Independent learner.  
Able to handle a fast pace.  
Writing skills above average.  
Reading EXPLORE 18+ |
| AP World History        | 9th – 12th              | 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. If it is not completed, students are removed from the course. | 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. | 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+ |

### FAQs for Required Courses

**Which course is more difficult?**
- All courses require daily reading and daily homework.
- Honors World History is faster paced and requires more challenging reading, writing and critical thinking.
- AP World History is even faster paced. Think: “Honors Turbocharged with a college level text”.

**Are any of the classes weighted?**
- Yes, both Honors World History and AP World History are weighted. Be advised, you should not take either 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.

**What if I disagree with my 8th grade teacher's recommendation?**
- Follow their advice. They know your skills and abilities.
- Talk with your teacher in May for a recommendation change.

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Decide carefully. You cannot switch between classes once you start the school year.
## Elective Course Option for 9th Grade Social Studies

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<th>Elective Course Options</th>
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<tr>
<td>AP Human Geography</td>
<td>10th – 12th</td>
<td>Examines the impact human populations have on the planet. Studies global patterns of culture, population, and economic development. *** Does NOT satisfy the Freshman year World Geography / World History Graduation requirement. A summer work project is required and due the 1st day of class. If it is not completed, students are removed from the course.</td>
<td>- Ability to comprehend a college level textbook. - Writing skills near college level. - Expansive critical thinking ability. - Ability to analyze geographic tools including maps, charts, tables, and documents. - Mastering information at an accelerated pace.</td>
<td>□ Highly motivated. □ Superior academic habits and skills for a freshman. □ Independent learner. □ Able to handle a fast pace with collegiate readings. □ Passion for Geography. □ Able to balance demand of other Honors courses in English, Science, and Math. □ EXPLORE Reading 20+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### FAQs for Elective Courses

#### Is this AP course weighted?
- Yes, AP Human Geography is weighted. Be advised, you should not take this course just for a weighted grade.

#### Do either of these courses count towards meeting my graduation requirements?
- While AP Human Geography does not satisfy the freshman year World Geography / World History requirement, they do count towards your total credits required for graduation.

#### 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.