




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"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Typical freshman academic habits regarding homework, test preparation, and writing capabilities. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> College prep student.
Honors World History 	9 th	Key historical topics and concepts from the Ancient World through 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"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Highly motivated. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Independent learner. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Able to handle a fast pace. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Writing skills above average. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reading EXPLORE 18+
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. If it is not completed, students are removed from the course.	<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"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Superior academic habits and skills for a freshman. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Highly motivated. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Independent learner. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Able to handle a fast pace with collegiate readings. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passion for History. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Able to balance demand of other Honors courses in English, Science, and Math. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 Don Pankuch the Social Studies Chair at 375-3584.

Decide carefully. You cannot switch between classes once you start the school year.

Elective Course Options for 9th Grade Social Studies

Elective Course Options	Recommended Grade Level	Course Content	Recommended Skills	Typical Student Profile
AP Human Geography 	10 th – 12 th	<p>Examines the impact human populations have on the planet. Studies global patterns of culture, population, and economic development. ***</p> <p>Does NOT satisfy the Freshman year World Geography / World History Graduation requirement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Highly motivated. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Independent learner. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Able to handle a fast pace with collegiate readings. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passion for Geography. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORE Reading 20+
AP Art History 	11 th and 12 th	<p>A chronological survey of artistic styles, artists, architecture, painting, sculpture, and photography from around the world. ***</p> <p>Does NOT satisfy the Freshman year World Geography / World History Graduation requirement.</p>	<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"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Superior academic habits and skills for a freshman. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Highly motivated. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Independent learner. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Able to handle a fast pace with collegiate readings. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passion and background in History and Art. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maturity level suitable for viewing art. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORE Reading 20+

FAQs for Elective Courses

Are either of these courses weighted?

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

Do either of these courses count towards meeting my graduation requirements?

- While neither of these electives satisfies 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., are courses that have textbooks, pacing and curriculum expectations at the college level. Students are eligible to earn college credit through the AP exam in May.