

FRESHMAN ORIENTATION FAQ: SOCIAL STUDIES

What options are available in Social Studies for freshmen? Freshman students may choose to take Advanced Placement Human Geography, Enriched Integrated Social Studies 9/English9 BLOCK, and Social Studies 9.

What is Advanced Placement (AP)? Advanced Placement offers college-level work in high school. Through taking and passing AP Exams, students can earn college credit and placement.

Are there any prerequisites for taking AP Human Geography? Yes, all students who hope to take AP Human Geography must take the online ACT.

Is there a required score one must achieve on the ACT in order to take AP Human Geography? There is not a required score. However, a 22 in reading on the ACT and/or a Lexile score of 1300 is a strong predictor of success.

Why is a 22 in reading on the ACT the chosen indicator? A 22 indicates a readiness to read at a college level. The course uses a college textbook so it is important that students are able to read and comprehend at a college-level.

In addition to the ACT reading score, what other factors should be considered in deciding to take AP Human Geography? Students should have a strong interest in social studies and especially learning about different cultures around the World. Students should be intrinsically motivated to take a rigorous course, have a strong work ethic, consistently complete homework thoroughly and on time, and ultimately should be able to “do” traditional school well. It is important that the student has a strong desire to take the course.

If I take AP Human Geography my freshman year, how can I fulfill my 1 credit civics requirement for graduation? Students who find success in AP Human Geography are encouraged to take AP US Government and Politics during their sophomore year to fulfill their civics requirement. Students may also choose to take Political Science which is offered both as a semester course during the school year and as an online course during summer school.

Where can I find more information on the AP Human Geography course? Students who want to learn more about the content covered and exam requirements for AP Human Geography are encouraged to view the College Board's course website.
<https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-human-geography>

If I decide not to take AP Human Geography this year, can I take an AP course my sophomore year? Yes! Students may choose to take any AP or non-AP course at any point throughout their high school career. The AP Human Geography course is, however, only offered in the freshmen level curriculum.

What should I take if I choose not to take AP Human Geography but still want increased rigor? Students should then consider taking the Enriched Integrated Social Studies 9/ English 9 BLOCK.

How is the Enriched Integrated Social Studies 9/ English 9 Block course taught?

Students will take this course for a double class period and will earn both English and Social Studies credit. The course is co-taught by an English teacher and a Social Studies teacher. The integrated nature of the course indicates that the Social Studies and English curriculums have been consolidated: skills developed through English will have a Social Studies focus. Books, discussions, and writing assignments will generally focus on Social Studies concepts. A focus on inquiry leads to deeper thinking and understanding. First semester concentrates on civics and second semester centers on geography. Students who care about, or are curious about current events would enjoy the class.

Will taking the Enriched Integrated Social Studies 9/ English 9 Block satisfy the 1 credit civics requirement for graduation? Yes.

How will colleges know I took a course with greater rigor? If you take AP Human Geography, *AP* will be denoted on your high school transcript. If you take the Enriched Integrated Social Studies 9/ English 9 Block, *Enriched* will be denoted on your high school transcript.

Will taking Social Studies 9 satisfy the 1 credit civics requirement for graduation? Yes.

Which Social Studies course do the majority of freshmen take? Most freshmen take Social Studies 9. Approximately 50-90 take AP Human Geography and approximately 50-75 take the Enriched Integration Social Studies 9/ English 9 Block.

What content will I learn in Social Studies 9? First semester Social Studies 9 focus on civics and second semester Social Studies 9 focuses on geography.