

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Placement

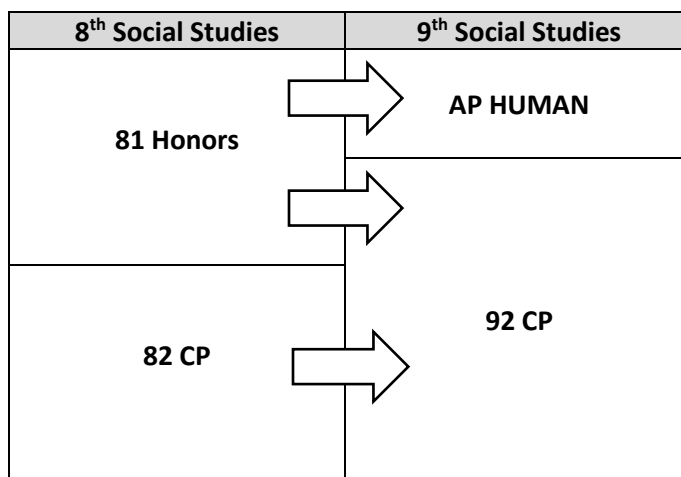
The following document is meant to clarify the placement of your 8<sup>th</sup> grade student in 9<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies.

The organization of 9<sup>th</sup> Social Studies is **DIFFERENT** than the organization of 8<sup>th</sup> Social Studies:

- In 8<sup>th</sup> grade, students are placed into one of two course options (Honors or CP) based upon ACT Reading Projections, TE 21, and Teacher Recommendation.
- In 9<sup>th</sup> grade, students are placed into one of two course options (AP Human Geography or World History & Geography 92) based upon ACT Reading Projections, and Teacher Recommendation.
- The score requirements for each 9<sup>th</sup> grade course is located below:

9 <sup>th</sup> Social Studies			
Course	<i>TNReady Social Studies %tile</i>	<i>ACT Reading Projected %tile</i>	<i>TE 21 Performance Level</i>
<b>AP Human Geography</b>	85-99	85-89	Mastered
<b>92 CP</b>	1-84	1-84	On-Track / Below

This makes placement in 9<sup>th</sup> grade a little confusing because **there is not an “apples to apples” comparison from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade in Social Studies.** The following chart is meant to show the flow of students from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>.



Some answers to common questions:

- **Scores drive the majority of placement**—teacher recommendation, in most cases, only decides placement for students whose scores place them on the border of two courses.
- **Your student did not “drop a level” when moving from 81 Honors to 92 CP.** They simply did not “move up a level” to AP Human. Consult second arrow on chart above.
- **AP Human Geography is a very difficult course.** Consult reading/homework requirements on following page.
- **AP Human Geography may not be offered in grades 10-12.**
- As a school, we try to determine the best fit for your student. **If you feel a different course is a better fit for your student, you may contact your teacher or the guidance office to discuss a different placement.**

*Course descriptions and requirements for 9<sup>th</sup> Social Studies are located on the back of this paper.*

## **AP Human Geography**

AP Human Geography is the study of human understanding, use, and alteration of the earth's surface through analysis of patterns and processes. Students in this course will learn the impact humans have, not only on the Earth, but also on each other. Emphasis is placed upon human social organization and the methods/tools geographers use. The course will be divided into seven units covering geographic tools, population, culture, political organization of space, rural land use, industrialization and economics, and cities and urban land use.

### **AP Human Geography Requirements:**

<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Essential Skills</b>	<b>Reading Required</b>	<b>Study Hours per course</b>	<b>Major Tests, Essays, and Papers</b>	<b>Major Projects (including summer assignments)</b>
<b>AP Human Geography (SSHG0)</b>	<b>Reading comprehension, analytical analysis, and critical thinking</b>	<b>30-60 minutes per night</b>	<b>4-6 hours per week in addition to the reading requirements</b>	<b>Unit exams approx. every 2 weeks, comprehensive final exam, and several free-response question essays throughout the class</b>	<b>Two required textbooks, at least two required novels/academic books, at least two major essays based upon readings, and periodic independent research topics</b>

## **World History and Geography 92 CP**

Students in this course will study the rise of the nation state in Europe, the French Revolution, and the economic and political roots of the modern world. They will examine the origins and consequences of the Industrial Revolution, nineteenth century political reform in Western Europe, and imperialism in Africa, Asia, and South America. They will explain the causes and consequences of the great military and economic events of the past century, including the World Wars, the Great Depression, the Cold War, and the Russian and Chinese Revolutions. The course has a chronological framework of 1750 to the present, with a major emphasis on 20th century geopolitical conflict. Additionally, students will study aspects of technical geography such as GPS and GIS, and how these innovations continuously impact geopolitics in the contemporary world. Students will be asked to perform analytical skills based on historical readings and writings from primary documents. Outside research will be an integral part of the course.