Freshman Social Studies Options: PRE AP-WORLD VS AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

What class should I choose?

Both meet one of the social studies credit requirements for Joliet Township High School graduation and both are full-year courses.

So, which is better for me?

PRE AP-World

- More of a "history" class, covering topics like Empire Building, Revolutions, Imperialism, World Wars, and political systems. Unit 1 is also a little "taste" of AP Human Geography with a slimmed down version of human geography.
- Most work is completed in class, little outside homework, more teacher led instruction.
- Writing is Document Based (DBQ): students use provided documents that they will analyze and use to support their claim.
- No national exam offered at end of year = no opportunity for college credit
- Not a weighted GPA course
- Can be used as a stepping stone to take other AP courses including Human Geography in sophomore through senior years

AP Human Geography

- Less history based, more of a "social science" class, looking at theories and models of how geography impacts us as humans and how we as humans impact geography. Units include spatial analysis, maps, population/migration, culture, political geography, agriculture, urbanization, industrialization and development
- The AP program is designed to set high, but achievable expectations, challenging students to think critically, move from just rote memorization of detail and instead transitioning to deeper application of content, for example being able to apply a definition to an example different from one given in the textbook.
- Cumulative learning, students take a national exam in May covering all units of study from Aug-April
- INTRINSIC MOTIVATION is a must, in addition students need to utilize time management and organization skills must be willing to "prepare" for class, in class activities and discussion will build on the foundations built through homework completion
- Homework on average includes 3-5 pages of text reading, corresponding questions, and flash cards (500 flash cards throughout the year) ..each assignment typically takes at least an hour, homework is generally assigned 3 days a week:
 M-W-F
- Writing assessments are considered FRQs, short paragraph responses structured heavily around course vocabulary
- Study assistance provided before/after school sessions; district provided digital study subscriptions
- Weighted course, meaning a B in AP Human Geography is the grade point equivalent of an A in Pre AP
- May earn college credit in addition to high school credit- students who earn a 3 or higher on the College Board National Exam in May are eligible for college credit at many colleges and universities—over the last decade teaching this course approximately 6/10 students who take the exam earn a 3 or higher
- Entering college with credit means less core classes to take, saves \$\$\$, and students take classes of interest/major sooner
- Can take additional AP courses sophomore year such as AP Psychology, AP European History, possibility of MORE college credit

^{***}If you are considering AP or Honors level courses but have little experience taking accelerated or honors courses, we recommend choosing one honors/AP course in an area of strength freshman year, then adding additional courses in subsequent years.



