



Communication Arts and Social Studies Freshman Offerings

December 10, 2025

Students are required to take one of the following courses during their freshman year:

- English 1
- Honors English 1

Both courses are college preparatory and aligned to the Common Core State Standards. In addition, both courses:

- Stress all aspects of literacy: reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language
- Encourage critical reading and analysis

English 1

Who takes this course?

- Students who feel reasonably challenged in middle school and want to continue a proportional level of difficulty in high school.
- Students who desire additional focus on building foundational literacy skills.
- Students who express some reluctance when reading texts assigned for class.

Honors English 1

Who takes this course?

(Summer Reading Project)

- Students who possess a passion for reading and writing.
- Students who desire additional reading and writing challenges.
- Students who relish open-ended questions and spirited discussion/debate.
- Students who can multi-task and be self-directed.
- Students who demonstrate proficiency in standard writing conventions and critical reading.

Freshman Social Studies Offerings Handout



Freshman Social Studies Offerings

Cultural Anthropology

Introduces students to global human societies and cultures

- Covers beliefs, practices, social structures, kinship, religion, and language
- While building empathy, respect for diversity, and skills to analyze cultural practices from multiple perspectives.



World History

Examines the rise and legacy of ancient to modern societies

- Covers empires such as Rome and Mesopotamia
- Analyzes expansion, revolutions, and historical impacts through claims-evidence writing, primary sources, maps, and graphs.



AP Human Geography

Introduces students to the spatial patterns and processes shaping human activity

- Examines population, migration, culture, politics, agriculture, urbanization, and economic development
- Builds mastery through daily reading, vocabulary, and analysis of maps, graphs, and charts.



AP World History

Surveys global history from 1200 CE to the present

- Regions: Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe
- Examines major events, individuals, and developments through themes of environment, society, politics, economics, culture, and technology
- Daily reading and analysis of historical texts and primary sources through writing.





Considerations

- Previous advanced coursework
- Number of weighted courses on the student's schedule
- Extra/co-curricular schedule
- What will a typical evening look like for them?