



ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

World Cultures (Grades 10-12)

Courtesy · **P**ride · **P**erseverance · **C**ooperation

Chargers Promoting Positive Change

The mission of AHS is to prepare all students to reach their potential by teaching them the knowledge, skills and behaviors necessary for academic, civic, and social success. Students will be college and career ready in the ever-changing technological world of the 21st century by meeting high expectations, engaging in authentic problem solving, and utilizing critical thinking.

Academic Expectations

- Apply critical thinking skills to solve problems
- Access, evaluate, apply, and communicate information and ideas through writing, speaking, and effective use of technology
- Read effectively for a variety of purposes
- Work independently, reflectively, and/or collaboratively to accomplish goals

Civic Expectation

- Demonstrate service to the school and community

Social Expectation

- Demonstrate respect for self, others, and property within our school community

Ansonia's Vision of a Graduate

Content Area: Social Studies	Course: World Cultures
Vision of Graduate: • Communication & Collaborator • Critical Thinking • Life Long Learner • Responsible Citizen	Standards for Social Studies 1. Inquiry: Developing questions, conducting investigations, evaluating evidence, and communicating conclusions 2. History: Understanding change over time, multiple perspectives, evidence, and historical argumentation 3. Geography: Analyzing places, environments, populations, and global connections 4. Economics: Examining decision-making, markets, resources, and economic systems 5. Civics: Exploring institutions, civic participation, democratic processes, and the rule of law
Unit Titles	
Unit 1: Cultural Geography of The United States and Canada	
Unit 2: Cultural Geography of Latin America	
Unit 3: Cultural Geography of Russia	
Unit 4: Cultural Geography of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia	
Unit 5: The Cultural Geography of Africa South of the Sahara	
Unit 6: The Cultural Geography of South Asia	
Unit 7: The Cultural Geography of East Asia	
Unit 8: The Cultural Geography of Australia and Oceania	

Course Overview:

World Cultures is a half-year elective course that explores how geography, history, culture, and human systems shape the world's diverse regions. Through the study of North America, Latin America, Russia, North Africa and Southwest Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, East Asia, and Australia/Oceania, students examine how people interact with their environments, migrate across regions, develop cultural traditions, and create social, political, and economic systems. Students investigate the ways physical geography influences settlement patterns, cultural development, and human activity while analyzing how historical events and cultural exchanges continue to shape societies today.

Throughout the course, students engage in geographic inquiry, map analysis, source evaluation, discussion, and evidence-based writing to develop a deeper understanding of global cultures and contemporary issues. By examining themes such as migration, cultural diffusion, urbanization, colonization, religion, globalization, and human-environment interaction, students learn to recognize both the unique characteristics of individual regions and the interconnected nature of our world. The course emphasizes critical thinking, cultural awareness, and the ability to analyze information from multiple perspectives, preparing students to become informed and engaged global citizens.

Unit 1: Cultural Geography of The United States and Canada

Priority Standards:	Supporting Standards:
1.5 Describe the interaction of humans and the environment. 1.6 Describe patterns of human movement across time and place. 1.13 Understand the characteristics of and interactions among culture, social systems, and institutions.	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to an understanding of the text as a whole. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.1 Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.
Big Ideas	Essential Questions
- Human settlement patterns are influenced by geographic features, natural resources, and environmental conditions. - Immigration and migration shape the cultural, economic, and political development of societies. - The interaction between people, culture, and government creates unique regional identities. - Geography influences how societies develop and adapt over time.	- What factors have influenced the cultural geography of the United States? - How have immigration and physical geography influenced the cultural geography of Canada? - How do people adapt to and modify their environments? - How do migration patterns shape the development of regions and cultures?
AHS Expectations	
- Apply critical thinking skills to solve problems. - Access, evaluate, apply and communicate information and ideas through writing, speaking and effective use of technology. - Read effectively for a variety of purposes. - Work independently, reflectively, and/or collaboratively to accomplish goals.	
Skills (I will be able to...)	

- Describe how physical geography influences settlement patterns in the United States and Canada.
- Explain how humans adapt to and modify their environments.
- Analyze patterns of immigration and migration and their impact on culture.
- Compare and contrast the cultural characteristics of the United States and Canada.
- Interpret maps, charts, and geographic data to draw conclusions about population distribution.
- Cite evidence from primary and secondary sources to support geographic analysis.
- Evaluate the relationship between geography, government, and cultural development.
- Explain how urbanization influences population patterns and cultural change.
- Use geographic vocabulary accurately in speaking and writing.
- Construct evidence-based written responses about human-environment interaction and migration.
- Create visual representations that organize information about population, culture, and government.
- Collaborate with peers to analyze geographic and cultural issues.
- Communicate conclusions using appropriate geographic and historical evidence.

Unit 2: Cultural Geography of Latin America

Priority Standards:	Supporting Standards:
1.5 Describe the interaction of humans and the environment 1.6 Describe patterns of human movement across time and place 1.13 Understand characteristics of culture, social systems, and institutions	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to an understanding of the text as a whole. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.1 Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.
Big Ideas	Essential Questions
• Latin America's culture is shaped by the interaction of Indigenous, European, and African influences over time. • Physical geography (mountains, rainforests, climate) strongly impacts settlement, economy, and cultural development. • Colonization and migration patterns continue to influence identity and inequality.	• How have colonization and migration shaped Latin American culture? • How does geography influence economic and population patterns? • In what ways do Indigenous, African, and European influences blend in modern Latin America?
AHS Expectations	
• Apply critical thinking skills to solve problems. • Access, evaluate, apply and communicate information and ideas through writing, speaking and effective use of technology. • Read effectively for a variety of purposes. • Work independently, reflectively, and/or collaboratively to accomplish goals.	
Skills (I will be able to...)	

- Analyze human-environment interaction in Latin America
- Describe migration and settlement patterns
- Use maps to interpret cultural and physical geography
- Cite textual evidence to support geographic claims
- Write arguments explaining cultural development using evidence

Unit 3: Cultural Geography of Russia

Priority Standards:	Supporting Standards:
1.5 Describe the interaction of humans and the environment. 1.6 Describe patterns of human movement across time and place. 1.13 Understand the characteristics of and interactions among culture, social systems and institutions.	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to an understanding of the text as a whole. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.1 Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.
Big Ideas	Essential Questions
• Russia's vast geography and climate shape settlement, economy, and culture. • Historical systems (Tsarist, Soviet, Post-Soviet) influence modern identity. • Ethnic diversity creates both cultural richness and political complexity.	• How has geography shaped Russia's development and population distribution? • How have political systems influenced Russian culture over time? • How do ethnic groups shape modern Russia?
AHS Expectations	
• Apply critical thinking skills to solve problems. • Access, evaluate, apply and communicate information and ideas through writing, speaking and effective use of technology. • Read effectively for a variety of purposes. • Work independently, reflectively, and/or collaboratively to accomplish goals.	
Skills (I will be able to...)	
• Analyze climate and population maps of Russia • Explain impacts of Soviet and post-Soviet systems • Use evidence to describe cultural and political change • Compare regional differences within Russia	

Unit 4: Cultural Geography of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia

Priority Standards:	Supporting Standards:
1.5 Describe the interaction of humans and the environment 1.6 Describe patterns of human movement across time and place 1.13 Understand characteristics of culture, social systems, and institutions	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to an understanding of the text as a whole. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.1 Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.
Big Ideas	Essential Questions
• The region is a global crossroads of trade, religion, and culture. • Physical geography (deserts, rivers, oil reserves) shapes settlement and conflict. • Islam and historical trade routes connect diverse cultures.	• Why is this region considered a cultural crossroads? • How does geography influence conflict and cooperation? • How do religion and trade shape cultural identity?
AHS Expectations	
• Apply critical thinking skills to solve problems. • Access, evaluate, apply and communicate information and ideas through writing, speaking and effective use of technology. • Read effectively for a variety of purposes. • Work independently, reflectively, and/or collaboratively to accomplish goals.	
Skills (I will be able to...)	
• Interpret trade route and resource maps • Explain cultural diffusion across regions • Analyze human-environment interaction in arid climates • Use evidence to explain regional conflict and cooperation	



Unit 5: The Cultural Geography of Africa South of the Sahara

Priority Standards:	Supporting Standards:
1.5 Describe the interaction of humans and the environment 1.6 Describe patterns of human movement across time and place 1.13 Understand characteristics of culture, social systems, and institutions	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to an understanding of the text as a whole. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.1 Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.
Big Ideas	Essential Questions
• Sub-Saharan Africa is defined by cultural diversity and environmental variation. • Colonialism and globalization continue to shape political and economic systems. • Urbanization and language diversity reflect historical and modern change.	• How does geography influence culture and development in Africa? • How has colonialism shaped modern African states? • Why is linguistic and cultural diversity so extensive?
AHS Expectations	
• Apply critical thinking skills to solve problems. • Access, evaluate, apply and communicate information and ideas through writing, speaking and effective use of technology. • Read effectively for a variety of purposes. • Work independently, reflectively, and/or collaboratively to accomplish goals.	
Skills (I will be able to...)	
• Analyze population and climate data • Explain impacts of colonialism and independence movements • Interpret urbanization trends • Use evidence to describe cultural systems	

Unit 6: The Cultural Geography of South Asia

Priority Standards:	Supporting Standards:
1.5 Describe the interaction of humans and the environment 1.6 Describe patterns of human movement across time and place 1.13 Understand characteristics of culture, social systems, and institutions	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to an understanding of the text as a whole. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.1 Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.
Big Ideas	Essential Questions
• South Asia's history is deeply connected to ancient civilizations and empires. • Religion and social systems shape daily life and culture. • Population density influences economic and environmental challenges.	• How do religion and culture shape South Asian societies? • How does population density affect development? • How has imperialism influenced modern South Asia?
AHS Expectations	
• Apply critical thinking skills to solve problems. • Access, evaluate, apply and communicate information and ideas through writing, speaking and effective use of technology. • Read effectively for a variety of purposes. • Work independently, reflectively, and/or collaboratively to accomplish goals.	
Skills (I will be able to...)	

- Analyze population density maps
- Explain religious and cultural systems
- Evaluate impacts of British imperialism
- Write evidence-based arguments about development

Unit 7: The Cultural Geography of East Asia

Priority Standards:

- 1.5 Describe the interaction of humans and the environment
- 1.6 Describe patterns of human movement across time and place
- 1.13 Understand characteristics of culture, social systems, and institutions

Supporting Standards:

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1
Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to an understanding of the text as a whole.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.1
Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.

Big Ideas

- East Asia is a major global cultural and economic influence.
- Dynasties and cultural hearths shaped long-term development.
- Globalization has increased cultural diffusion worldwide.

Essential Questions

- How have dynasties shaped East Asia?
- How does geography influence population distribution?
- How does East Asia influence global culture today?

AHS Expectations

- Apply critical thinking skills to solve problems.
- Access, evaluate, apply and communicate information and ideas through writing, speaking and effective use of technology.
- Read effectively for a variety of purposes.
- Work independently, reflectively, and/or collaboratively to accomplish goals.

Skills (I will be able to...)
• Analyze cultural diffusion and globalization • Interpret population and urbanization maps • Evaluate historical influence of dynasties • Use evidence to explain global interconnectedness

Unit 8: The Cultural Geography of Australia and Oceania

Unit 8: The Cultural Geography of Australia and Oceania	
Priority Standards:	Supporting Standards:
1.5 Describe the interaction of humans and the environment 1.6 Describe patterns of human movement across time and place 1.13 Understand characteristics of culture, social systems, and institutions	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to an understanding of the text as a whole. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.1 Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.
Big Ideas	Essential Questions
• Migration and colonization shaped cultural diversity in the region. • Isolation and geography influence settlement and development. • Indigenous cultures remain central to regional identity.	• How has migration shaped Australia and Oceania? • How does geography influence settlement patterns? • How do Indigenous and colonial histories interact today?
AHS Expectations	
• Apply critical thinking skills to solve problems. • Access, evaluate, apply and communicate information and ideas through writing, speaking and effective use of technology. • Read effectively for a variety of purposes. • Work independently, reflectively, and/or collaboratively to accomplish goals.	
Skills (I will be able to...)	
• Analyze island geography and settlement patterns • Explain colonization and migration impacts • Interpret cultural diversity across Pacific regions • Use evidence to describe human-environment interaction	

