



WHAT GEOGRAPHY CLASS SHOULD I TAKE NEXT YEAR?



Geography is different from the history courses you have taken the last two years. Names, dates, and events are of less emphasis in geography. The heart of geography is a concept known as “the why of where.” What factors explain the distribution of phenomena? Why is there a band of deserts around the globe at 30°N/S of the equator? Why do languages, religions, and alphabets differ so greatly in the Balkans? These are the types of questions geographers ask and attempt to understand.

WORLD GEOGRAPHY

VS.

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

The World Geography student...

- prefers more structured and direct delivery of course content
- wants more time to balance the high school course load with extra-curriculars
- likely earned A's in some but not all of their classes
- desires to broaden their perspective on world cultures and regions

STUDENT PROFILE

The AP Human Geography student...

- wants to be challenged with college-level terminology, assignments and tests
- can dedicate 30 minutes or more to class preparation every night
- has self-management, study skills, and maturity to master content outside of class.
- made A's in all classes in 8th grade including PreAP classes
- desires to take the AP test for college credit

Homework 20%
Daily 20%
Tests 60%

GRADE CATEGORIES

Homework 10%
Daily 20%
Tests 70%

Sample World Geography Test Question:

If you were in charge of creating a map of the school to give to parents on back to school night, which of the following would be the most helpful?

- Large Scale Map
- Small Scale Map
- Isoline Map
- Cartogram

Sample AP Human Geography Test Question:

According to Rostow's Stages of development which of the following is true:

- All countries will eventually pass through each of the 5 stages of economic development.
- The colonial legacy will impede a country's economic growth.
- Foreign investment and infrastructure is a necessary precondition for economic development in the second stage.
- Countries might not pass through each of the stages in a linear manner.
- Deindustrialization is accounted for in the fifth and final stage.

A word about AP Human Geography

AP Human Geography is a college level course. It contains college level terminology, pacing, course load, and topics. Students will take college level tests and students need college level study habits. Please understand that not all freshman are ready for a college level class. It is common for students to struggle with the transition from middle school to a collegiate level course. It is likely for students to experience a drop in grades during this period of adjustment as students learn to navigate the rigors of AP Human Geography. Although most students thoroughly enjoy AP Human Geography, understanding the challenges associated with taking an AP class as freshman will be paramount for course selection.