

Which Social Studies Course Should I Take in 9th Grade?

Course	AP Human Geography	KAP World Geography	World Geography
Description	<p>AP Human Geography equips students with essential skills to understand the interactions between people, places, and the environment. Students develop spatial thinking by analyzing human activity using maps, data sets, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) tools. Students will think critically about urbanization, migration, and globalization and apply geographic concepts to complex, real-world problems. Participation in the course will enhance student's ability to read and analyze college-level texts and communicate complex arguments in written and oral presentations. These skills prepare students for future advanced academic and professional endeavors.</p> <p><i>Students who pass the College Board's AP Human Geography exam at the end of the course can earn college credit.</i></p>	<p>KAP World Geography thoroughly explores global physical and cultural landscapes, preparing students for advanced studies. Through in-depth analysis of geographic concepts, students examine the interplay between humans and the environment. Topics include landforms, climate, population dynamics, economic systems, and political geography across world regions. Students develop critical thinking skills and geographic literacy essential for higher-level studies by engaging with maps, case studies, and research projects.</p> <p><i>KAP World Geography focuses on developing students' skills in analyzing charts and primary and secondary sources and thinking critically to create written and oral presentations, preparing them for future advanced coursework in high school.</i></p>	<p>World Geography offers a comprehensive study of Earth's physical and cultural landscapes across the major world regions. Students analyze human interactions with the environment, including landforms, climate, and resources. Key topics cover regional population dynamics, urbanization, economic development, and political boundaries. Students develop critical thinking skills and geographic literacy through interactive lessons and projects by analyzing text, maps, graphs, and charts.</p>
Difficulty	College-level reading homework, course content, and pacing in a high school setting with additional teacher support to increase student success.	Rigorous course content, two timed writings per six weeks, reading homework, emphasis on the development of social studies literacy skills	Academic-level course content
Average Amount of Homework Per Week	2-4 hours per week	1 - 2 hours per week	1 hour per week
GPA Impact	Weighted GPA average (5-point scale)	Weighted GPA average (5-point scale)	No weighted GPA (4-point scale)
Grading	70% Tests/Major grades 20% Quizzes/Minor grades 10% Homework/daily grades	60% Tests/Major grades 30% Quizzes/Minor grades 10% Homework/daily grades	50% Tests/Major grades 35% Quizzes/Minor grades 15% Homework/daily grades