



DATE: July 7, 2021

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Mrs. Carmen Ghysels, Superintendent Chief Learning Officer

SUBJECT: First Read of Adoption of AP European and Human Geography Textbooks

PRESENTED BY: Valerie Simpson, Executive Director of Educational Services

ACTION REQUESTED

First Read of Adoption of AP European and Human Geography Textbooks

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

According to the California History-Social Sciences Framework, 2016, our goal is to “promote an engaged and knowledgeable citizenry in history and the related social sciences and to provide students the opportunity to learn about the world and their place in it, think critically, read, write, and communicate clearly.” It is through effective instruction and high-quality instructional materials that we provide these learning experiences. As TTUSD educators reviewed and used these two high school textbooks, they also kept the needs of their students in the forefront as well as described below,

“The relationship between students’ English proficiency, socioeconomic status, and learning has been well documented. Children of color, children who do not speak English with fluency, and children living in poverty can struggle more than their privileged peers to achieve academically. These challenges provide the state of California with an opportunity to make a difference—to support schools and teachers in their efforts to help our state’s children to become literate, knowledgeable, and responsible citizens. It is the obligation of the state of California to provide all students with an engaging and relevant history-social science education that will shape how they participate in their world.” -
California History-Social Sciences Framework, 2016

As a result of an extensive pilot process, the following two textbooks are being recommended:

Dennis Sherman’s *The West in the World* (AP European History)
National Geographic’s *World Cultures and Geography* (Human Geography)

AP European History: Sherman's *The West in the World* provides an accessible yet entertaining and comprehensive narrative about European history. Students are asked to read the entire book in this class and the number one concern is the readability of the book for sophomore students.

This book provides students the information they need in a way that is understandable and easy to take notes from. It matches the expectations from College Board for using a "college-level" textbook as well as covering all the content needed to master the AP European History exam.

AP European History is a course typically taken by 10th- 12th graders and focuses on developing students' ability to think conceptually about European history from approximately 1450 to the present. Five themes include Interaction of Europe and the World, Poverty and Prosperity, Objective Knowledge and Subjective Visions, States and Other Institutions of Power, and Individual and Society. A College Board course description can be found [here](#).

Human Geography: National Geographic's *World Cultures and Geography* survey textbook includes the essentials of geography and the study of world cultural regions in terms of location, physical characteristics, demographics, historical changes, land use, and economic activity. The text provides accessible background knowledge for students with excellent photos and graphics to deepen understanding. Human Geography is a course typically taken by 9th graders and covers the various continents and regions of the world highlighting current issues. Topics include culture, religion, politics, economics, and geography.

RESOURCES REQUIRED: State textbook funds will be used to purchase these materials.

PREPARED BY: Mindi Brenner for Valerie Simpson, Executive Director of Educational Services.