New Courses 2015-2016

MIRA COSTA MUSTANGS

Board Goals - Curriculum

Goal #1
Focus on successful academic strategies

Goal #3 - Continuous Improvement of Secondary Schools

Guiding Principles for New Courses

Information gathering
21st Century Consortium

Skill-building for upper level rigor
Staff feedback

Adoption of innovative and exciting new courses
Student and parent feedback

Increase the creativity, passion and risk-taking in curriculum
Leadership feedback

Adoption Process

Information gathering - 21st Century Consortium

Research into student data and course information

Conversations with individual teachers

Presentation for feedback to EdCouncil in November

Submitted for Cabinet consideration in December

AP Course Trends

Overall pass rate on AP exams steady at 80% (64%-st; 61%-natl)

18 AP Courses
AP Environmental Science (2011)
AP Psychology (2014)

Since 2008, the total number of AP students increased from 785 to 956

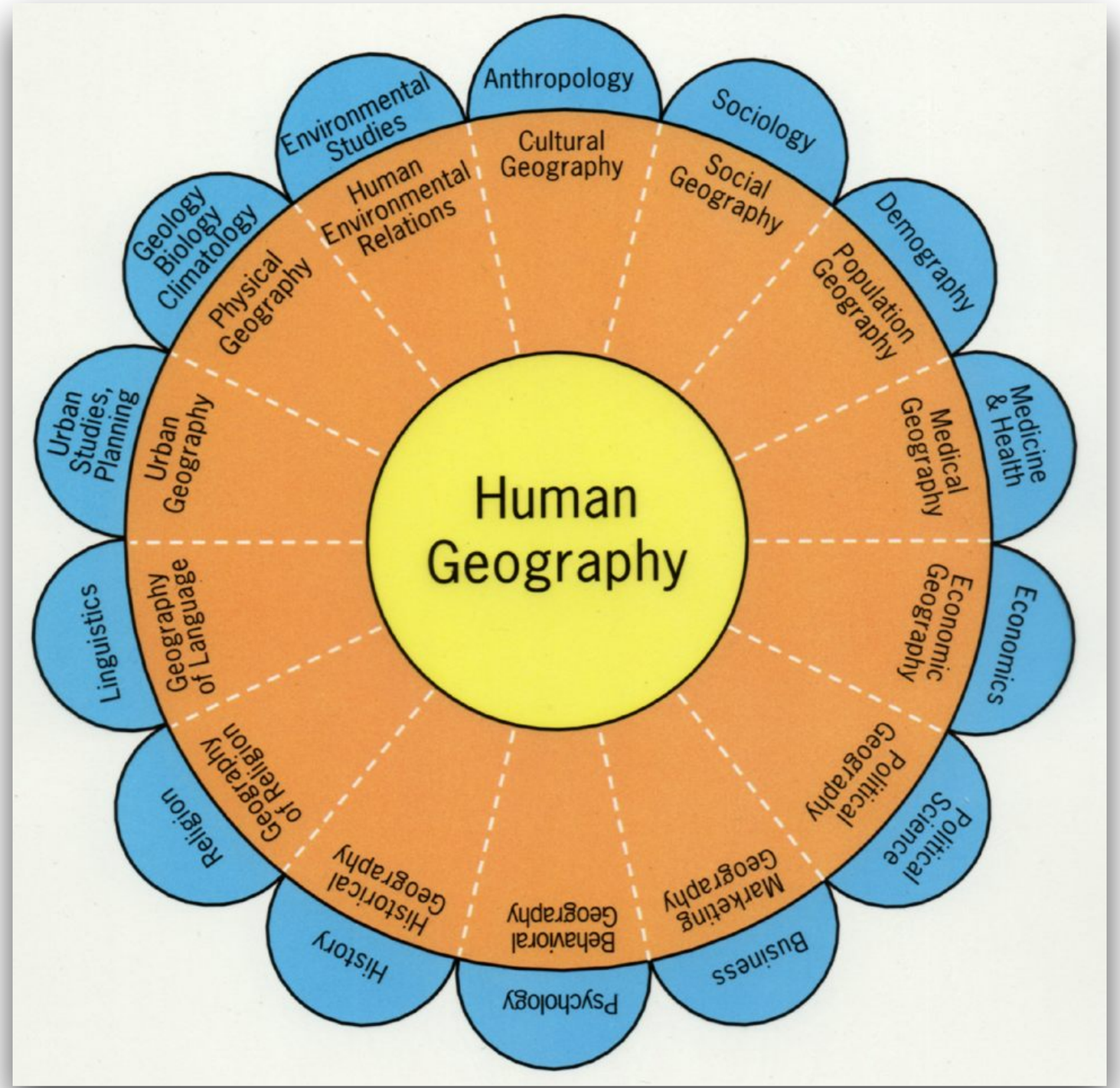
Since 2008, the number of students passing one exam from 495 to 661

Since 2010, Total number of AP sections since 2010 from 48 to 50

Since 2010, Humanities AP sections decreased by 8

Since 2010, STEM AP sections increased by 8

Human Geography



AP Computer Science Principles

AP Research

Design, plan, and conduct a year-long, research-based investigation to address a research question of interest

Learn and apply research methods and practices to address a real-world topic

AP Seminar

Investigate real-world topics from multiple perspectives, which often are different or competing

Learn to collect and analyze information with accuracy and precision, develop arguments based on facts and effectively communicate them

AP Capstone Diploma

AP Research

Design, plan, and conduct a year-long, research-based investigation to address a research question of interest

apply research methods and practices to address a real-world topic

AP Seminar

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AP International Diploma

Two AP world languages
or
One world lang. and one English

One AP from Sciences
or
Math and Computer Science

One AP with global perspective
Art History
World History
Environmental Science
Human Geography

One additional AP not English or World Lang.

BioTechnology

4-year sheltered program

Builds lab skills

Emphasizes scientific writing

Senior Seminar - Philosophy in Literature

Additional Senior seminar

"What is the nature of existence?"

"Am I free?"

"Who am I?"

The Stranger

Heart of Darkness and the Secret Sharer

Out of the Silent Planet

Point Counter Point

Next Steps after Adoption

Select proposed text materials (Jan.)

Board approval of text materials (Jan.)

Submit for UC approval (Feb.)

Update Course Description Handbook (Feb.)

AP Course audit (Mar.)

Schedule students (Mar.)

Finalize staffing (May)

Professional development (June)

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