



AP Capstone: Seminar

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Conference: 6th period

Tutoring Opportunities: Tuesday & Thursday 8:30-9:00 am, Monday and Wednesday 10:55-11:45 am

Class Materials:

- Notebook/composition book
- Folder with brads
- Pen or pencil, highlighter
- Laptop/tablet with reliable internet access (provided in class)

Access to Canvas and Office365 tools is available to students through our [Single Sign-on Portal \(SSO\)](#). Students receive their SSO login during enrollment.

Course Description:

AP Seminar is a year-long course that requires that students investigate real-world issues from multiple perspectives. The course goals are for students to synthesize information from different sources, develop their own lines of reasoning in research-based written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team.

Course Goals:

“Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose.” -Zora Neale Hurston

Our goals are for you to become a better **purveyor** and **consumer** of information and to examine issues that matter from **multiple perspectives**.

Students who complete this course successfully will be able to:

- Develop and create an argument independently and in groups
- Present arguments in limited time with precision and conciseness independently and in groups
- Write evidenced-based, research (college-length) essays
- Identify possible nuanced solutions to complex, real-world issues
- Identify and explain author’s claim, validity of evidence and credibility of source

Student Evaluation:

The grading system for this course is as follows:

- Grade averaged 70% Major 30% Minor
- Major grades – tests (including District Common Assessments, six weeks assessments, projects, final essays, research papers, presentations); minimum three per six weeks
- Minor grades – quizzes, daily assignments, journals; minimum four per six weeks
- Semester exams will count 1/7 of the semester grade
- A letter system (S, N, U) is used to report a student’s conduct based on proper/responsive conduct and citizenship
- Per Board Policy EIA (LOCAL), “The District shall permit a student who meets the criteria detailed in the grading guidelines a reasonable opportunity to redo an assignment or retake a test for which the student received a **failing** grade. This policy applies only to initial identified major grades and does not apply to daily assignments, quizzes, six-week test, and semester final examinations. Upon reteach and retest, the new test, project, etc. recorded will be a high score of 70%.
- Official grades will be in Skyward only and can be accessed by student and parent through Family Access.

Assignments, exams, expectations outside of the classroom:

Due to the nature of the course, you will be expected to complete *some* coursework outside of class (*mostly writing or composing/practicing presentations so that we can do the hard work of critical thinking and application in class together*).

- As a general rule, if I assign something for homework, it’s important, so come to class prepared to talk about it.

Attendance/Tardy Policy/Make-Up Work:

I will follow the EMS ISD and SHS policy regarding all three. Due dates for major assignments will be posted in Canvas.

- Please inform me in advance of, or as soon as you return from an absence.
- Major assignments are due on the assigned date, whether you are present in class that day or not.
- Late assignments will receive 80% of the earned grade after one day, 65% after two days, and 50% after three days.
- All make up work **MUST** be completed within one week of your return to school, unless you have made other arrangements with me.
- Students will have ample opportunities to correct major grade assessments (timed tests must be corrected during tutorial times, written assessments (such as essays, paragraphs etc.) will be re-submitted in person or online).
- Class starts when the bell rings, so please be on time. If you’re late, you’ll miss valuable information, reminders and instruction.

Classroom Expectations:

1. Be Respectful.
2. Be Prepared.
3. Be Engaged.

Preliminary Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

1st Six Weeks • 8/20 - 9/25

GOAL: Course Introduction

WE WILL READ: Academic and journalistic sources (paired by theme)

WE WILL WRITE: Argument Analysis

ASSESSMENTS: AP Released EOC Part A • Socratic Seminar

2nd Six Weeks • 9/28 - 11/6

GOAL: Mock Team Performance Task (PT1)

WE WILL READ: Student choice selections based on research • Informational Mentor Texts

WE WILL WRITE: Information Essay (IRR) • (1,000 word minimum)

ASSESSMENTS: EOC Part B • Performance Task 1 (IRR & TMP)

3rd Six Weeks • 11/9 - 1/15

GOAL: Mock Individual Performance Task (PT2)

WE WILL READ: Student choice selections based on research • Argument Mentor Texts

WE WILL WRITE: Argument Essay (IWA) • (1,500 word minimum)

ASSESSMENTS: Performance Task 2 (IWA & IMP)

4th & 5th Six Weeks • 1/19 - 4/16

GOAL: AP Test • Performance Tasks 1 & 2

WE WILL READ: Student choice selections based on research • Information & Argument Mentor Texts

WE WILL WRITE: Research-based Information (IRR) & Argument Essay (IWA)

ASSESSMENTS: Performance Task 1 & 2 (IRR & IWA • TMP & IMP)

6th Six Weeks • 4/19 – 5/28

GOAL: Reflection & Topic Exploration for AP Research

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity values the work of individuals regardless if it is another student's work, a researcher, or author. The pursuit of learning requires each student to be responsible for his or her academic work. Academic dishonesty is not tolerated in our schools. Academic dishonesty, includes cheating, copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an examination. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher or other supervising professional employee and considers written materials, observation, or information from students. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to disciplinary and/or academic penalties. The teacher and campus administrator shall jointly determine such action.