



AP Capstone: Seminar Syllabus

Contact Information:

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Conference Periods: 2nd / 8th
Tutorials: Before school or by appointment

Course Description: (Adapted from the College Board AP Capstone: Seminar Course Description)

AP Seminar is a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Using an inquiry framework, students practice reading and analyzing articles, research studies, and foundational literary and philosophical texts; listening to and viewing speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; and experiencing artistic works and performances. Students learn to synthesize information from multiple sources, develop their own perspectives in research-based written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team. Ultimately, the course aims to equip students with the power to analyze and evaluate information with accuracy and precision in order to craft and communicate evidence-based arguments.

Due to the interdisciplinary and inquiry-based nature of this course, students will develop skills that support the AP Quest Framework of questioning and exploring, understanding and analyzing, and synthesizing various resources, in addition to collaborative team skills that transmit information and transform. Seminar students will engage in college-level discourse as they use these skills to explore in depth themes.

The course will be broken down into 4 Units plus a short review prior to the AP Test in May.

Unit 1 – Introduction to course & Mock Task 1 (Theme: Protest)

(Aug. – beginning Oct.)

- QUEST Framework
- EOC Practice
- Questioning
- Line of Reasoning (LOR)
- Perspectives/Lenses
- Individual Research Report (IRR)
- Team Multimedia Presentation (TMP)
- Public Speaking & Soft skills

****Unit 2** – Mock Task 2 (Theme: Food) (Mid-Oct. – Thanksgiving)

- Practice with above skills within QUEST Framework
- Individual Written Argument (IWA)
- Individual Multimedia Presentation (IMP)
- EOC Practice

Unit 3 – Task 1 (Theme: Group choice) (Post Thanksgiving – beginning Feb.)

Unit 4 – Task 2 (Theme: related to Stimulus materials) (beginning Feb. – end of April)

**Depending on students' needs, this unit may be adjusted, so that students begin Task 1 sooner.

Course Expectations:

Participation & Preparation: Students are expected to actively participate in discussions, peer critiques, group work, and other activities and/or assessments. Students are expected to complete homework and/or readings for effective class discussion and use for developing the skills needed in this course and successful completion of AP exam requirements.

Materials: Students are responsible for staying organized and maintaining resources for quick reference throughout the year, especially when working on elements of the actual AP Exam.

- Notebook paper/notebook
- Pens/Pencils/Highlighters
- Post-it notes
- 1 – 1 ½ " Binder
- 5 Tab Dividers
- Sheet Protectors (optional)

Technology Permissions/Requirements:

Students will be required to:

- Join and regularly check the Seminar Google Classroom for planning, coursework and communication.
- Join AP Classroom through AP Central

While Chromebooks will be available, students are welcome to bring their own laptop to class.

Dress Code: Students are expected to adhere to the BISD dress code standards as published in the Student Handbook. For team or individual multimedia presentations, students will be expected to dress in professional business or business casual attire.

Grading Policies: While a significant amount of time is spent on the development of portfolio requirements for the AP score, students will still have intermittent assignments and grades. Grades will be calculated each nine weeks in accordance with district grading standards and as follows:

<https://www.boerneisd.net/cms/lib/TX50000022/Centricity/Domain/79/2023-2024%20Secondary%20Grading%20Guidelines.pdf>

50% Major grades - minimum 2 assessments (EOC practice, practice IRRs, TMPs, IWAs, IMPs)

50% Minor grades - minimum 7 assessments (Discussions, research activities, peer reviews, etc.)

Missing/Late work:

Missing work due to absences will be accepted in accordance with the BISD Secondary Grading Guidelines.

All work is due at the **beginning** of class. In accordance with the BISD Secondary Grading Guidelines, graded work will be accepted up to 2 class periods late. Work turned in 1 period late will start at a 70. Work turned in 2 periods late start at a 50. Work submitted after these deadlines will not be accepted and will receive a 0.

Retakes: In accordance with the BISD Secondary Grading Guidelines:

- *Students may retake **any** written quiz below a 70 each nine weeks grading period.
- *Students may retake a **maximum** of 1 written test below a 70 per nine weeks grading period.
- The recorded grade will be the higher of the two grades, with a maximum grade of 70.
- Exceptions to this policy are semester and final exams, where no retake is allowed.

*Retake opportunities may be limited, due to the nature of the assignments deemed “quiz” or “test” grades.

Plagiarism:

AP Seminar students will be instructed in ethical research practices and academic honesty and integrity in accordance with BISD Guidelines, as well as the AP Capstone Policy regarding plagiarism.

AP Capstone™ Policy on Plagiarism and Falsification or Fabrication of Information

A student who fails to acknowledge the source or author of any and all information or evidence taken from the work of someone else through citation, attribution or reference in the body of the work, or through a bibliographic entry, will receive a score of 0 on that particular component of the AP Seminar and/or AP Research Performance Task. In AP Seminar, a team of students that fails to properly acknowledge sources or authors on the Team Multimedia Presentation will receive a group score of 0 for that component of the Team Project and Presentation.

A student who incorporates falsified or fabricated information (e.g. evidence, data, sources, and/or authors) will receive a score of 0 on that particular component of the AP Seminar and/or AP Research Performance Task. In AP Seminar, a team of students that incorporates falsified or fabricated information in the Team Multimedia Presentation will receive a group score of 0 for that component of the Team Project and Presentation.

Student Acknowledgment:

Please use the QR code to digitally “sign” and acknowledge these expectations. If you are unable to use the QR code, please let me know.

