**AP Capstone Seminar Syllabus**

**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 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.

**Your Commitment to the Class**

This class relies heavily on a team effort and collaboration. Therefore, it is vitally important that you are here. We understand that there will be times you must miss class, but please try to minimize your absences. If you do have to be absent, you should notify the class list as well as Mrs. Taylor and Ms. Crocker.

Below is a basic outline of the course. You will receive more specific information and timelines as the year progresses.

**Fall Semester:**

***Please note:*** In addition to the work we will complete as a class and the work you will complete with your team (as outlined below), you will also work on an individual semester-long independent research project that will culminate in a 2000 word researched argument. You will have time in class each week to work on your individual paper with feedback from others in the class and from Mrs. Taylor and Ms. Crocker.

Week 1 (Aug. 22-26): Introductions, Team Building, Quest Framework, Begin Discussion of

Research Questions

Weeks 2-4 (Aug. 29-Sep. 16): Theme #1

Week 5 (Sep.19-23): Finish Theme #1; Team Practice Presentation #1

Weeks 6-8 (Sep. 26-Oct.14): Theme #2

Week 9: (Oct.17-21): Finish Theme #2; Team Practice Presentation #2

Weeks 10-12 (Oct. 24-Nov. 11): Theme #3

Week 13: (Nov.14-18): Review Models of Academic Writing

Week 14 (Nov. 21-25): Team Practice Presentation #3; Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 15 (Nov. 28-Dec.2): Individual Research Report Work Time

Week 16 (Dec. 5-9): Individual Research Report Due; Individual Practice Presentation

Work Time

Week 17 (Dec.12-16): Final Exams (Individual Practice Presentation during 6th period

Final Exam time)

**Spring Semester:**

***Please note:*** The second semester of the course is largely devoted to the Capstone Seminar assessment, as outlined below. Once Performance Task #1 begins in January, you cannot seek or receive feedback on your work from anyone other than your classmates. This includes Ms. Crocker and Mrs. Taylor, other teachers, and your parents.

Week 18 (Jan. 2-6): Review of First Semester; Feedback on First Semester Individual Papers; Release of Stimulus Materials from College Board

Weeks 19-23 (Jan. 9-Feb. 10): Team Project and Presentation (Performance Task #1)

**Overview**: Students work in teams of three to five to identify, investigate, analyze, and evaluate an academic or real-world problem, or issue. Each team designs and/or considers options and evaluates alternatives; develops a multimedia presentation to present the argument for their proposed solution or resolution; and provides a defense to questions posed by the teacher. (**Submission Deadline to College Board: April 30)**

Weeks 24-34 (Feb. 13-Apr. 28): Individual Research-Based Essay and Presentation (Performance Task #2)

**Overview:** The College Board’s AP Program will annually release cross-curricular stimulus material (texts) representing a range of perspectives focused on a single theme. Students will use these texts to identify a research question of their own; conduct research; analyze, evaluate, and select evidence to develop an argument; and present and defend their conclusions. The final paper must refer to and incorporate at least one of the provided sources. January 2nd is the release date for the stimulus material. Students have at least 30 school days to complete their research, compose their essays, and develop their presentations.

**(Submission Deadline to College Board: April 30)**

Week 35 : End of Course Exam

**Overview:** On **May 4th**, students will take the AP Seminar end-of-course exam. The exam consists of four items (three short answer and one essay question). The three short answer questions assess analysis of an argument in a single source or document. The essay question assesses students’ skills in synthesizing and creating an evidence-based argument.

**Grading Policy**

First Semester:

Your grades in this class will be based on the work you do in each of the themes. They are designed to reflect your progress within a theme and your progress from one theme to the next. You will be assessed on the quality of your work in the following categories:

 Analysis

 Development of Arguments

 Synthesis

 Collaboration

 Selection and Connection of Ideas

 Critical Thinking

 Effective Communication and Presentation

Second Semester:

During the 3rd nine weeks, your grades will be based on your preparation for the End-of-Course Exam and the two Performance Tasks. During the 4th nine weeks, and after April 30th, you will also receive grades on the Performance Tasks you have submitted to College Board.

**AP CapstoneTM 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.

**Contact Information**

Ms. Crocker: Phone Number - 732-9280, ext. 33302; Email - mcrocker@eanesisd.net

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Please contact us if you would like to meet outside of class.