

AP Seminar Syllabus



Bob Jones High School
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I. **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. Students are empowered to collect and analyze information with accuracy and precision in order to craft and communicate evidence-based arguments.

II. **Course Goals:**

The goals of the AP Seminar course include:

- Engaging students with rigorous college-level curricula focused on the core academic skills necessary for successful college completion;
- Extending students' abilities to synthesize information from multiple perspectives and apply skills in cross-curricular contexts and in new situations;
- Empowering students to collect and analyze information with accuracy and precision;
- Cultivating students' abilities to craft, communicate, and defend evidence-based arguments; and
- Providing opportunities for students to practice disciplined and scholarly research skills applied to relevant topics of their interest and curiosity.

The ultimate goal is successful completion of all requirements to earn credit for the course.

III. **Classroom Expectations:**

Students will be expected to follow all school rules as outlined in their student handbook. **In the classroom I have two main expectations**
1. RESPECT yourself, others and the classroom. 2. Be your BEST every day.

REQUIREMENTS FOR COURSE SUCCESS:

- **Attendance/Tardiness/Discipline:** All school policies will be followed and enforced. Due to the team nature of many tasks and assignments, it is imperative you are present in the classroom.
- **Responsibilities:** Most of the resources needed for this course will be provided to you either in class or in the Google Classroom. You will be responsible for any and all work missed to excused absences. All assignments can be found in the Google Classroom. Meeting deadlines is key in this semester long class.
- **Preparation:** Completion of homework and readings is essential. Being prepared gives you the opportunity to participate fully in our class discussion and learning process.
- **Organization:** Organization is a skill and we will work on it in class. Being organized, both in your Google Drive and with handouts, notes, and the research you collect will make your life easier.

- **Participation:** You are expected to participate in discussions and group work. If these are not your strengths, consider this as an excellent and safe opportunity to improve upon these skills.
- **Respect:** Respect the opinions and input of your classmates, their goals, and the goals of the teacher. Respect yourself by taking ownership for your work, your knowledge, and the skills you acquire.
- **Writing Policy:** All writing assignments must follow the proper MLA format (or APA). There will be handouts and website addresses to assist you with this in our Google Classroom. Failure to adhere to MLA/APA will result in a lower grade as it is a requirement of the AP Seminar class to use a consistent citation method.
- **Plagiarism and Falsification:** The AP Capstone Policy on Plagiarism and Falsification or Fabrication of Information explicitly states:
 - Participating teachers shall inform students of the consequences of plagiarism and instruct students to ethically use and acknowledge the ideas and work of others throughout their course work. The student's individual voice should be clearly evident, and the ideas of others must be acknowledged, attributed, and/or cited.
 - 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.
- **Additional Help:** I want to ensure this class is both helpful, challenging and fun. You are encouraged to meet with me when you need additional assistance. Due to the rules of the AP Seminar course, my level of assistance significantly declines once you are official working on your AP assignments for submission. Even though I, as the teacher, am not permitted to give specific feedback on College Board work, working with your peers is permitted and encouraged. We will work together to establish productive, problem solving peer groups.

IV. Grading Policy: EVALUATIONS AND GRADES:

- **Participation:** Weekly participation points will be awarded if you participate by contributing to class discussions, carry your weight in your group work, and respond when called upon. Given the unique nature of this class, you are given a lot of class time to complete assignments. This time must be spent on task and not completing other school work.
 - A: Highly Effective Participant: Perfect or near-perfect attendance; makes insightful questions, comments, and connections; goes beyond by introducing relevant material read outside of assigned readings.

- B: Consistent Participant: Good attendance; asks questions and makes comments and connections; clearly reads the assignments.
- C: Occasional Participant: Regular attendance; comments are more a reflection on participant's opinions than readings; completes some of the reading assignments
- D: Observer: Regular attendance; does not participate in making comments
- F: Occasional Observer: Sporadic attendance; no participation
- **Formative Assessments:** Learning in this class is scaffolded to prepare you for the Performance Tasks and the AP Exam. As such, there will be in-class writing assignments, annotation assignments, readings, questions, debates, and/or presentations. Each assignment will have a designated number of points that will be disclosed when the assignment is given.
- **Summative Assessments:** Assessments will come from essays or practice Seminar assessments, which include Team Projects and Presentations, Individual Research-Based Essays and Presentations; and the End-of-course AP Exam. Work that is being submitted to College Board for evaluation will be assessed on completion only as I cannot make specific comments on your work.
- **AP EXAM REQUIREMENTS:** Your AP score for this class is determined by the following components:
 - Performance Task #1: Team Project and Team Presentation - 20%
 - 10%: Individual Research Report
 - 10%: Team Multimedia Presentation and Oral Defense
 - Performance Task #2: Individual Research-Based Essay and Presentation - 35% (Due by April 30th)
 - 24.5%: Individual Written Argument based on stimulus materials
 - 7%: Individual Multimedia Presentation
 - 3.5%: Oral Defense
 - End-of-Course Exam: Scheduled for May 12th - 45%
 - 13.5% Part A: Argument Analysis
 - 31.5% Part B: Construct an evidence-based argument (similar to Task #2)

LATE POLICY

- I will accept late work, but it will be made up on your time and with points deducted. The rationale for this decision is that much of the work done outside of class will be used during the class session. If you come unprepared, you will forfeit valuable class time and negatively impact the performance of your classmates. Points will be deducted for not meeting deadlines on performance tasks.

- Tests, Projects, & Papers= 70%
- Homework, Classwork, Quizzes, Participation = 30%

The grading scale is as follows:

- A = 90-100
- B = 89-80
- C = 79-70
- D = 69-65
- F = <65*

The semester grade is determined by the two nine weeks (40% each) and the semester exam (20%).

Note:

- 1. The academic misconduct policy of the school will be followed in this course.***
- 2. The attendance policy of the school will be followed for this course.***
- 3. Any student who receives failing grades during this course is urged to discuss this with the teacher immediately.***

V. BJHS Make-up Test Policy:

The attendance policy of BJHS will be followed in this course.

Students are responsible for making up work missed due to excused absences. Upon returning to class, the student must meet with me to make arrangements to make-up work. Please watch google classroom if you are absent and try and keep up with assignments.

No make-up tests will be administered during class time. Students must take a make-up test within ten school days after his or her return to school. When students make appointments for make-up tests, it must be kept unless the student notifies the teacher or the school of a valid cancellation. Students will receive a zero for an unexcused absence.

VI. Text and Other Important Information:

Austin, Michael. *Reading the World: Ideas That Matter*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2010.

Other Materials:

- You will need access to a computer/laptop. We will have computers available in the classroom every day. You may bring your own device if you wish.
- You will need regular access to the Internet (home, the library, computer labs, AV, etc.).
- The inquiry nature of this course requires activities and assessment from a variety of resources (e.g., library research, internet research, etc.). Information used to assess a problem may come from various print and non-print primary and secondary sources. Students will be expected to use technology to access and manage information from databases that grant access to these sources.

Google Classroom:

- This website will allow us to interact by posting reminders, documents, assignments, etc. Some assignments will be turned in through google classroom. Each class will have their own page.

Edpuzzle:

- This site will be utilized for short video clip assignments to enhance the material. It can be connected to your google account.

VII *Materials and Supplies Needed:*

Students should bring the following items to class daily:

- Textbook
- Paper
- Black or blue pen, #2 pencils
- Highlighter
- Binder to keep your research organized.

***Due to the nature of this course, the grade earned in the class does not necessarily guarantee a passing AP score. Most grades that are taken in this course are based on completion of the assignments. The teacher may not give specific comments on student work that is being submitted to College Board for evaluation. The teacher scores student presentations for PT1 and PT2, but cannot give results or feedback to students as she is acting on behalf of the College Board. Work for PT1 and PT2 is due by April 30th to College Board.

**This is a FUN class where YOU get to determine topics of inquiry, discussion and research! YOU get to attempt to solve real world problems! I look forward to working with all of you to gain valuable discussion, research and presentation skills.

Confirmation of Receipt of Syllabus

Student's Name: _____ Class Period: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone Number: _____

Alternate Phone (Cell or Work): _____

Parent's (or family) email address: _____

Questions/Comments for Mrs. Scott:

Parents/Guardians it is important to me that we have open lines of communication. Please indicate what method you prefer for contact. I am a believer in email and I check it frequently! If this is true for you as well—great! However, if you do not use or check your email regularly you may want to list various phone numbers for contact (i.e. work number, cell phone, etc.).

We have read and understand Mrs. Scott's Syllabus.

Student's Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature