



## Advanced Seminar COURSE SYLLABUS 2016-2017

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**Grade:** 12  
**Credit:** 1

**Prerequisite:** Identified career major and identification of a mentor in the chosen profession.

### Description:

Advanced Senior Seminar is designed to enable students to build on existing strengths and to provide an opportunity for further study not available within the confines of the traditional classroom environment. The program provides motivated and responsible high school seniors the opportunity to develop a career-oriented relationship with a community professional (the mentor) in the student's area of chosen interest. It allows, through the association between the student and the mentor, the development of a special relationship that contributes to the formation of the student's life outlook and plans.

Advanced Senior Seminar students complete a culminating assessment for twelfth graders that demonstrates what they know and what they can do as they prepare to graduate from high school. It prepares students for college and/or the workplace. The senior project has five components: public speaking, a research paper on a topic of the student's choice, a related product or activity, a portfolio, and a presentation before a community review panel.

This course is designed to allow students to dive into an academic topic, problem, or issue of individual interest. Students will further develop the skills they acquired previously in their education by understanding research methods; employing ethical research practices; and accessing, analyzing, and synthesizing information as they address a research question. The course culminates in an academic paper and a presentation, performance, or exhibition with an oral defense where students will answer questions about their academic thesis.

### Comment:

Each student will have a committee consisting of the Advanced Senior Seminar teacher, content advisor and a professional mentor. Direct instruction for the assignments as well as presentation and lifelong skills will be provided at Wingfield; however, much of the course contact hours will be in the professional learning community. Students will be required to keep a journal and timesheet verifying time spent outside of class and must be equivalent to or exceed the course "seat hours." Of that time, a minimum of 40 hours must be spent with the mentor and/or working in the student's chosen field.

**Participation Commitment:**

Advanced Senior Seminar will be a demanding course requiring a tremendous amount of individual responsibility and dedication on the part of each individual student. As a member of this class, the students are truly ambassadors for Wingfield High School. This is a great honor but also a great responsibility. As a result, students must be aware that failure to maintain appropriate progress or represent Wingfield in a positive manner within the community will result in removal from Advanced Senior Seminar. Should this happen, students will be placed in a class on the Wingfield campus and will forfeit the Advanced Senior Seminar credit. Appropriate progress is determined by each student's Advanced Senior Seminar teacher, content advisor and a mentor; this includes but is not limited to making good faith efforts to meet the appropriate deadlines for assignments as well as maintaining adequate logs and journal entries of activities.

**Course Standards:****Students will:**

- Integrate learning.
- Meaningfully relate their career pathway to their education and future career.
- Improve written and oral communication.
- Become more proficient in conducting research.
- Increase their ability to recognize potential problems and solve them.
- Increase their ability to reason and react intelligently to questions.
- Employ research and inquiry methodology to develop, manage, and conduct an in-depth study or investigation of an area of student's own interest, culminating in an academic paper.
- Present (using appropriate media), exhibit, or perform and defend the research design, approach, and findings.
- Document and reflect upon the research process and communication with mentor using a research log.
- Investigating relevant topics, composing insightful problem statements, or developing compelling research questions (considering scope) to extend thinking.
- Demonstrating perseverance through setting goals, managing time, and working independently on a long-term project.
- Identifying, applying, and implementing appropriate methods for research and data collection.
- Accessing information using effective strategies.
- Evaluating the relevance and credibility of information from sources and data.
- Reading a bibliography for the purpose of understanding that it is a source for other research and for determining context, credibility, and scope.
- Attributing knowledge and ideas accurately and ethically, using an appropriate citation style.
- Evaluating strengths and weaknesses of others' inquiries and studies.

**Grading:**

Paper/Project - 50%

Presentations - 20%

Process/Class Work - 15%

Field Work - 15%

**Note:** Completion of the required presentations, research paper, final project and field work are required for any credit in the course. The final project and presentation will be evaluated by the Advanced Senior Seminar teacher, content advisor and a mentor.

**Performance, Participation, and Attendance:**

Students are expected to be on time and prepared for class. When absent, all make up work must be arranged with the teacher when the student returns to school, generally twice as many days missed will be allowed for make-up work from the time the student returns to class (i.e. if you miss one day you will get two days to make up the assignment). Make-up work will be scored as a zero (0) until it is completed. Not all work can be made up; this work will not receive a zero, though you will be responsible for the skill/knowledge - arrangements will be made to accommodate for this. If you are absent on the due date for a major assignment, it is your responsibility to turn-in that assignment via e-mail or some other means on that specific day, regardless of circumstances. Extenuating circumstances will be dealt with accordingly and the teacher reserves the right to make that determination. Regular participation in class discussions and activities is also paramount to success. It is up to you to be an active participant in your education.

**Make-up Work:**

Failure to attend to late-work/missed assignments in a timely manner will result in a zero (0) until completed and a sixty (60) when completed (at maximum).

**Required Supplies:**

1 - 1" or 1 ½" Black Binder for portfolio

1 - 1" or 1 ½" Binder for class

4 - 1 Subject Tablets

8GB or higher flash drive

Sheet protectors

**Technology:**

Students can expect to work with a variety of different technologies in this class, including (but not limited to): the use of the SmartBoard, PowerPoint, Google Docs, blogs, different functions of Word and e-mail. Directions and demonstrations will be provided for technological features with which students may not be familiar. During the course of the year, students will, in particular, be expected to become proficient at the use of e-mail and "track changes" on Word. This feature will be demonstrated to the students.

**Academic Integrity:**

The use of anyone else's work as your own, including copying, sharing responses, or simply using a source without citing it is Academic Dishonesty. Always give credit to your sources. Because of the severe implications for this in college (suspension, expulsion, etc.), academic dishonesty will result in a zero (0) on the assignment, notification of parents/teachers, and referral to the Assistant Principal.

**Schedule Details:**

Due to the nature of the class, and the out of class responsibilities, you will be provided the opportunity to demonstrate your scholarly leadership and independence. Students will be given a calendar so they know when they must submit each assignment. Days when class does not have active lectures in class, class time can be used to shadow in-school mentors, research, work on papers and projects, or other matters deemed appropriate by the instructor.

**Class Details by Semester:**

Students will be required to do a number of high-stakes assignments/projects each semester. Many are listed below, but there may be others:

**First Semester:**

- College / Career Research & Planning
- Selection of mentor/mentor site
- Completion of Logs (due at the end of each quarter)
- Mentor Hours
- Research Proposals
- Research notecards, outlines, conferences, drafts
- Research paper
- Research presentation
- Community Service
- College / Job Applications
- FAFSA Information
- ACT Registration & Prep

**Second Semester:**

- Completion of Logs (due at the end of each quarter)
- Mentor Hours
- Project Proposals
- Proposal Hearings
- Completed Project
- Project Presentations
- Senior Defense Presentation to Board and Public
- Portfolio
- Thank you letters