

# AP Seminar Syllabus: Mrs. Verwys

www.NVAPSeminar.weebly.com (Verwys tab)

## Overview and Goals

The AP Seminar course is an inquiry-based course that aims to engage students in cross-curricular conversations that explore real-world topics and issues from multiple perspectives. Students are empowered to collect and analyze information with accuracy and precision in order to craft and communicate evidence based arguments.

The goals of an AP Capstone 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 context and in new situations.
- Enabling students to collect and analyze information with accuracy and precision.
- Cultivating students' abilities to craft, communicate and defend evidence-based arguments.
- Providing opportunities for students to practice disciplined and scholarly research skills applied to relevant topics of their own interest and curiosity.

## Course Materials, Resources and Supplies

In order to ensure equitable access to curricular needs for all students, each Seminar teacher is provided with a chromebook cart with enough computers for all students and classroom internet access. Although there is no textbook for the course, students will all be provided with print and/or electronic copies of all text (including news articles, journal sources, artistic works, etc). Students are granted access to several databases (including EBSCO and jstor) through both the school and community library.

- All students **MUST** have a composition notebook (no spiral notebooks)
- All students **MIGHT** find it helpful to have:
  - 3 ring binder (2")
  - Highlighters
  - Post-it notes
  - Pens (several colors)

## Cell phone usage

**Cell Phone Usage:** Students will have access to technology daily through our school network. Cell phones will be prohibited during the class period. Students will need to store their cell phones in backpacks or lockers, or may utilize a classroom charging station. No earbuds or

airpods, including other wired options may be used in class. Staff will enforce the “three strike rule” for violations.

## Assessing and Grading:

All class activities will be designed to guide students towards successful completion of the AP Assessments including two Performance Tasks and the End of Course Exam. Both formative and summative assessment tools may include, but are not limited to:

- Class participation in small and whole class discussion, Socratic seminars, and online discussion;
- In class argumentative and synthesis essays;
- Process-based research papers;
- Mock Performance Tasks: Research, written and presentation components;
- Formal and informal debates;
- Annotated bibliographies;
- Research plans of action, journals, outlines and reflections;
- Fiction and non-fiction reading assessments
- Class members will be assessed on their mastery of the course’s five “big ideas:”
  - Question & Explore
  - Understand & Analyze Arguments
  - Evaluate Multiple Perspectives
  - Synthesize Ideas
  - Team, Transform and Transmit

## Late Work

AP Seminar is a college-level course with the same rigor and high expectations. As such, strong time management is a critical component for success. In addition to helping with your own success, the collaborative nature of the course means that due dates and deadlines will impact not just you, but also your research and presentation teams. By being in this class you make a commitment to yourself and your team members to meet all deadlines and come to class prepared with homework, classwork, and projects complete and on time. With the abundance of technology and internet availability, you are expected to meet deadlines even if you are unable to attend school on a due date. Most assignments will be turned in digitally through the course website, available from any internet-connected device. In the event of an emergency or unforeseen circumstance that will cause you to miss a deadline, you must communicate with the teacher either in person or by email as soon as possible. Any late assignments must be accompanied by The Form. No late work will be graded without The Form (available in the classroom and on the website) attached.

## Tardies

**Tardies:** Your attendance is vital. Tardiness will result in lunch detentions or after school time recovery.

# English Department Grading Policy 2019-2020

## Graded Assignments

- The English Department strives to help students become responsible about turning in quality homework assignments. All students are expected to turn in work in a timely manner through the process of a gradual release of responsibility.
- Any absence (school, medical or personal) allows two class periods for make-up work for each before or after school to make up the work. (If you miss class on Monday, your work is due when you walk in the door on Thursday. Please note, Mrs. Verwys will not request the work or follow up with the student. The onus of the missing work is on the student.)
- Students who have been absent for an extended period of time will work with the course team teacher on reasonable expectations for graded homework.
- Graded assignments in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades turned in late will receive a grade **up to 80%** and must be turned in by the date of the summative assessment. The rate of gradual release of responsibility will be determined by the course team instructors. Students in the second semester of their sophomore year should be working toward the next year's expectations.

## Summative Assessments

- Summative assessments are worth 80% of the final grade.
- Guided instruction will be provided for all students who wish to retake the summative assessment.
- Students may retake summative assessments after student/teacher conferring has taken place.
- Summative essays/projects turned in late may receive a grade **up to 80%**.

## Semester Grades

- Summative assessments (80%) and graded assignments (20%) make up the semester grade.
- The final semester grade is comprised of the semester grade (80%) and the exam grade (20%).
- Credit for English classes is earned by achieving an average of 59.5%.

## Credit Recovery

- Students who are failing English may regain credit by an independent credit recovery process, which is facilitated by a teacher on that course team.

## To Receive AP Credit

The AP Exam for this course is \$141 and first portion of the exam will be submitted prior to Winter Break. Students will have the opportunity to purchase the exam in the fall. Any student who submits ANY portion of the exam to College Board will be charged a fee for the exam, even if other parts are not submitted. Performance Tasks 1 and 2 scores will be submitted to College Board no later than April 30 by the instructor.

# AP Capstone Policy on Plagiarism and Falsification or Fabrication of Information :

Adherence to College Board AP policies is critical to producing valid AP scores. According to the College Board, "Violations of program policies and/or exam procedures may result in the cancellation of student scores and/or the school being withdrawn from the AP Capstone program by the College Board's AP Program."

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.

To the best of their ability, teachers will ensure that students understand the ethical use and acknowledgment of the ideas and work of others, as well as the consequences of plagiarism. The student's individual voice should be clearly evident, and the ideas of others must be acknowledged, attributed, and/or cited.

## Disclaimer From College Board:

As the AP Program engages students in college-level work, the AP Seminar course may include perspectives that could be considered controversial, including references to ethnicity, nationality, religion, politics, race, dialect, sexuality, gender, or class. AP Seminar requires students to have the level of maturity and skill to thoughtfully consider and analyze diverse perspectives. The inclusion of topics, readings, texts and other source material is not intended as an endorsement by the College Board of the content, ideas, or values expressed in the material (CB 27).

The overarching theme of the class will stay broad, but focused enough to provide structure. However, individual unit themes and topics will be decided based on student interest, relevant current events and issues, and academy or pathway connections in the class. An example of a course-theme being used this year is "Opportunity."

## Northview Public School's Plagiarism Policy

### Plagiarism/Cheating

- Using any electronic device, including taking pictures of anything or anyone in the classroom without permission, during an assessment is considered cheating.
- Students caught plagiarizing or cheating or other dishonest activities in class must meet with the teacher to discuss the problem.
- The student's parents and administration will be notified.
- Students found plagiarizing or cheating will be subject to the following discipline in accordance with page 40 of the student planner:
  - **First Violation:** Student will redo or retake the assignment or assessment in question and will be subject to one day administrative leave. Readmission will take place after a satisfactory parent/guardian meeting.
  - **Second Violation:** Student will redo or retake the assignment or assessment in question. The student will be subject to up to 3 days of administrative leave and a Letter of Academic Dishonesty will be placed in their student file. Readmission will take place after a satisfactory parent/guardian meeting.
  - **Additional Violation:** Student will redo or retake the assignment or assessment in question. The student will be subject to up to five days of administrative leave and an additional Letter of Academic Dishonesty will be placed in their student file. Readmission will take place after a satisfactory parent/guardian meeting.

# Unit of Study and Assessments Overview

Semester One:	Semester Two:
<p>Unit 1: Food/Water/Invisibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Editorial</li><li>• Speech/Presentation</li><li>• Team Annotated Bibliography</li></ul>	<p>College Board Performance Task 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Individual Research Report</li><li>• Team Multimedia Presentation</li><li>• Oral Defense</li></ul>
<p>Unit 2: Debate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Group Debate</li><li>• Argument (IWA)</li><li>• Mock PT2 (IMP)</li><li>• Mock EOC-A</li></ul>	<p>College Board Performance Task 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Individual Written Argument</li><li>• Individual Multimedia Presentation</li><li>• Oral Defense</li></ul>
<p>Unit 3: Lifework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Individual Research Report (mock)</li><li>• Individual Annotated Bibliography</li><li>• Team Multimedia Presentation (mock)</li></ul>	<p>EOC- National AP test (May 12)</p> <p>Reading quizzes throughout</p>
<p>Unit 4: Class Selected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Annotated Bibliography</li><li>• Begin College Board PT1</li></ul> <p>Semester Exam (EOC-B)</p>	

## Semester Two: College Board Assessments

### Performance Task 1: Team Project and Presentation (**February 20, 2020**)

- Individual Research and Reflection
- Team multimedia presentation
- Oral Defense

### Performance Task 2: Individual Essay and Presentation

- Individual research and Reflection
- Individual multimedia presentation (**Due April 30, 2020**)
- Oral Defense

### End of Course Exam: (**May 12, 2020**)

- Understanding and analyzing argument (3 short answer)
- Evaluate and compare arguments (essay)
- Synthesis (essay)

# Syllabus Acknowledgement

Students and parents, please read and discuss this syllabus. Return this page to the teacher by \_\_\_\_\_, and file the syllabus in your binder. If you have any questions, please contact your student's teacher at the number or email on the front page. By signing below, you acknowledge and agree to the procedures and expectations outlined in the syllabus. Further, the student agrees to come to class prepared, with supplies listed as well as a willingness to participate in the learning process.

**Student Name (Printed):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_