

AP Seminar

MS. ROBINSON

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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 a 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 create and communicate evidence-based arguments.

This course will consist of the following 6 units. Please make note of the dates associated with these major assignments.

1. **Reading and Writing Arguments**

Introductory unit involving argument analysis, reliability and credibility, generating/narrowing research topics, research methods, developing arguments through writing, avoiding plagiarism, and EOC practice.

2. **Mock Performance Task 1**

- a. Individual Research Report (IRR): 800-900 words, due August 18 by 11:59 PM
- b. Team Multimedia Presentation (TMP): 6-7 minutes, September 4-6

3. **Mock Performance Task 2**

- a. Mock Individual Written Argument (IWA): 1,400-1,500 words, due November 13 by 11:59 PM
- b. Mock Individual Multimedia Presentation (IMP): 4-5 minutes, November 20-22

The format of the semester exam will be of a full-length practice EOC test.

4. **Performance Task 1 (20% of AP score)**

- a. Individual Research Report (IRR): 1,200 words, due January 24
- b. Team Multimedia Presentation (TMP): 8-10 minutes February 4-7

5. **Performance Task 2 (35% of AP score)**

- a. Individual Written Argument (IWA): 2,000 words, due April 13
- b. Individual Multimedia Presentation (IMP): 6-7 minutes, April 21-24

6. **EOC Review**

Graded Practices for parts A and B of the End of Course exam.

The End of Course exam (45% of AP score) will be held on May 11, 2021.

Materials

This course will require you to research, write, and submit assignments electronically outside of class on both Google Classroom and Turnitin; therefore, you will need access to a computer and an Internet connection in order to work at home.

I also recommend the following (during in-person instruction):

- Three-ring binder (1")
- College-ruled notebook paper
- Black or blue pen

I highly recommend purchasing a copy of *Student's Guide to Writing College Papers* (4th edition) by Kate Turabian. This is a helpful reference for researching and writing.

Routines & Procedures

- Checking the class calendar frequently is each student's responsibility. Dates and deadlines are especially important in this class because it is project-based and because the projects you will create in units four and five comprise a portion of your AP score.
- According to English department policy, assignments submitted late will automatically result in a 70% and can be submitted no later than one week after the original due date.
- Attendance is critically important for your success and the success of your teammates. Please be aware of deadlines, specifically for Performance Tasks and presentations that are assessed as part of your AP score.
- **This class will require you to self-assign homework.** I will give many short-term homework assignments with specific due dates, but you are also working on a series of large long-term projects. In order to stay on-track, you must be aware of what you need to do on a given night that has not been specifically assigned. For example, there may be something you need to research and read about your topic or you may need or want to write an outline before writing a rough draft. **If you only complete outside work for this class that I assign, you will struggle to meet your deadlines!** What you are doing on a given night or weekend may be slightly different than what your classmates are doing, and that is ok.
- Please use email and Remind to ask me questions if you have them, especially during the mock Performance Tasks. I will only be able to answer procedural questions (deadlines, etc.) during the scored Performance Tasks.

Academic Honesty

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.

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero on the assignment in the gradebook.

Grading Policy

Semester 1

- **Writing (20%):** Annotated bibliography, rough drafts, EOC practice
- **Readings & Analysis (30%):** Assigned articles and annotations, Seminar discussions, argument analysis templates, reflections
- **Papers & Projects (50%):** Mock Performance Task 1 (Individual Research Report and Team Multimedia Presentation), Mock Performance Task 2 (Individual Written Argument and Individual Multimedia Presentation)

Semester 2

- **Writing (50%):** EOC practice
- **Readings & Analysis (30%):** Assigned articles and annotations, Seminar discussions, argument analysis templates, reflections
- **Papers & Projects (20%):** Meeting deadlines (bibliography, outlines, and rough drafts) for PT1 and PT2

*****Important note:*** During the performance tasks, teachers are NOT ALLOWED to provide qualitative feedback. AP Seminar is designed to test your ability to work through research problems and solutions independently as well as collaboratively with your peers.

Grading scale: 100-93 A; 92-85 B; 84-75 C; 74-70 D; 69 and below F