**Mr. Reeder**

**F114**

**Syllabus: A.P. Seminar**



# 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 research based written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual perspectives, 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.

AP Seminar is the first of two courses in the AP Capstone™ program. AP Research is the second course. If you earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams of your choosing, you will receive the AP Capstone Diploma™. This signifies outstanding academic achievement and attainment of college-level academic and research skills. Alternatively, if you earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research only, you will receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™.





# MATERIALS

This is a skills course rather than a content-based course and the class gets to decide many of the topics, so there is not a typical textbook. Instead, students will be reading several articles and excerpts selected by the teacher, other students, and themselves. While some of these will be physical copies, printed out and distributed, most will be distributed electronically. Use of the class’ OneNote ClassNotebook, which is accessible through the district-purchased Microsoft Surface tablets, is critical for receiving these.

In addition, the following spiral manual will be checked out to each student to assist with the research and writing process. This will be treated the same as other district-issued textbooks. Students are financially responsible for all books issued by CHS. Textbooks may not be left in classrooms and teachers are not responsible for the whereabouts of your book. The copy which was issued must be turned in at the end of the course. You will not receive credit for turning in another student’s book and may not turn in replacement books. The cost of replacement will be assessed to any student that fails to turn in the book they were issued or turns in a damaged book.

Palmquist, Mike (2015). *The* *Bedford Researcher* (5th ed.). Bedford/St. Martin's.

**COLLEGE BOARD NATIONAL AP EXAM**

A student’s College Board score for AP Seminar is determined in-part by work the student submits during the school year and in part by an exam taken during the AP testing window in May. The breakdown of these activities is below. This year’s exam will be **Tuesday, May 7th 2019 at 7:00am**.

| **Team Project and Presentation: 20% of AP Seminar Score** |
| --- |
| Component | Scoring Method | Weight |
| Individual research report (1,200 words) | College Board scored | 50% of 20% |
| Team multimedia presentation and defense (8 to 10 minutes, plus defense questions) | Teacher scored (group score) | 50% of 20% |
| **Individual Research-Based Essay and Presentation: 35% of AP Seminar Score** |
| Component | Scoring Method | Weight |
| Individual written argument (2,000 words) | College Board scored | 70% of 35% |
| Individual multimedia presentation (6 to 8 minutes) | Teacher scored | 20% of 35% |
| Oral defense (two questions from the teacher) | Teacher scored | 10% of 35% |

| **End-of-Course Exam (2 Hours): 45% of AP Seminar Score** |
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| Component | Scoring Method | Weight |
| Understanding and analyzing an argument (3 short-answer questions); suggested time: 30 minutes | College Board scored | 30% of 45% |
| Evidence-based argument essay (1 long essay); suggested time: 90 minutes | College Board scored | 70% of 45% |

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**GRADING POLICY**

According to Fulton County Policy, the following scale is used:

90-100 = A

80-89 = B

70-79 = C

BELOW 70 = F

The county will add 7 “honor” points to your grade at the end of the semester if your raw grade is a 70% or higher. Although this will not show up in Home Access Center, it will be reflected on your transcript and report card.



**GRADE BREAKDOWN**

**Major Assessments (50%):** This includes any large-scale projects, group activities, papers, and presentations. Many of these will follow the format and grading rubric of the College Board AP Seminar assessments.

**Minor Assessments (35%):** This includes smaller scale assignments, such as peer feedback, reflections, progress checkpoints, formative activities, summer/winter homework assignment and homework throughout the semester.

**Final Exam (15%):** This consists of a summative assessment at the end of the semester.

In line with the College Board’s requirements, some activities will be team based. Students will either be assigned groups or will choose their own groups for these activities. Some group activities will be graded and will count towards a student’s course grade and/or AP score. In these cases, all members in a group will receive the same grade. It is important for everyone in the group to do their part, talk with their group members directly if they have concern about their work, and – after that – talk with the teacher about the concern if it is not remedied.

**LATE and MAKE-UP POLICIES**

Attendance is critical for both the student’s own benefit and the benefit of the class. **It is the STUDENT’S** **responsibility to come to the teacher regarding work missed during an absence.**

**Major Assessments:** A late major assessment will lose 10 points for every day it is late.

**Minor Assessments:** A late minor/other assignment will lose half of the available points. If they are not made up within 5 school days, the grade will be a zero.

If you are in the building for any portion of a day and you have things due in my class that you don’t turn in, those assignments will be considered late. You may always turn in assignments before their due date when you have a scheduled absence (religious reasons, field trips, athletic competitions, scheduled doctor’s appointments, TAG, college visit, etc). Students who miss assignments due to an unexcused absence can earn a maximum of 90% on any make-up work.

All make-up and recovery assignments must be turned in by before the last two weeks of the semester.



**EXTENDED TIME**

If you have approval from the administration to have extended time on tests, due to an IEP, 504, or similar accommodation, you will need to make arrangements with your teacher to complete a portion of your test outside of class time. You will be given a portion of the test at a time until you have completed it. You must finish the portion you are given before moving on to the next portion. You will not, in any circumstance, be permitted to see the entire test and then make arrangements to complete it at a later time.



**EXPECTATIONS FOR WRITTEN WORK ACROSS THE CURRICULUM**

All written assignments should:

• be in complete sentences using formal language

• follow conventions of grammar, usage and mechanics

• accurately cite sources used with discipline-specific requirements (i.e. MLA, APA, etc.).



**Chattahoochee High School: Provision for Improving Grades**

1. Students who complete a major assessment but fail to demonstrate mastery as evidenced by a grade below 75% on the major assessment may pursue an improvement opportunity to show proficiency. In the case of an honor code violation on a major assessment, the grade will stand as a zero with no eligibility for recovery on that assignment. What is classified as a major assessment is determined within the content area; consult your course syllabus for details.

2. Students should contact the teacher concerning recovery opportunities within 5 school days of being informed of the grade on the assessment in class. Students are allowed one attempt at recovery per major assessment category listed in the course syllabus. All recovery work must be completed 10 days before the end of the semester.

3. The grade on the recovery assignment will replace the original grade if the recovery grade is equal to or below 75%. If the recovery grade is above 75%, the original grade will be replaced with a 75%.

 **School Board Policy: Provision for Improving Grades**

1. Opportunities designed to allow students to recover from a low or failing cumulative grade will be allowed when all work required to date has been completed and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements including attendance. Students should contact the teacher concerning recovery opportunities. Teachers are expected to establish a reasonable time period for recovery work to be completed during the semester. All recovery work must be directly related to course objectives and must be completed ten school days prior to the end of the semester.
2. Teachers will determine when and how students with extenuating circumstances may improve their grades.



**CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM**

The Social Studies department considers academic integrity a top priority. ANY copying or sharing of answers on homework, major assessments, minor assessments, or exams will be viewed as cheating by the Social Studies Department. The only exception to this rule is if the teacher has explicitly stated that the work is a “cooperative learning” experience. If in doubt, ask the teacher.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating. It is defined by the American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language is “the act of stealing and using the work ideas or writings of another as one’s own.” Although the direct copying of another’s work is the most blatant example, any time a student takes another’s ideas and passes them off as their own, it is considered plagiarism. This includes “rephrasing” material without noting the source. If in doubt, ask in advance. The consequences for cheating or plagiarism on any assignment are outlined in the handbook: it will result in a zero grade on the assignment, an Honor Code Referral, and a phone call notifying the violator’s parent.

In addition to the school’s/district’s policy, the College Board has a particular policy that must also be followed.

**AP Capstone Policy on Plagiarism and Falsification or Fabrication of Information**

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 Assessment Task. In AP Seminar, a team of students that fails to properly acknowledge sources or authors on the Written Team Report 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 Assessment Task. In AP Seminar, a team of students that incorporates falsified or fabricated information in the Written Team Report will receive a group score of 0 for that component of the Team Project and Presentation.



**EXTRA CREDIT**

No grades will be given for non-academic assignments and no extra credit will be offered.



**ELECTRONIC PRIVACY POLICY**

No use of electronic devices to record or transmit class activities, resources, or information is permitted. This means that you may not use a tape recorder, camera, camera phone, camera pen or any other device to record or take pictures of students, teachers, classroom materials or resources, notes, etc. Doing so is a serious violation of the honor code and of the privacy rights of individuals and will be treated as such.



**TARDY POLICY**

In all Chattahoochee classrooms, instruction occurs from bell to bell. Attendance for the entire period is vital to students’ success. If a student is not in class before the tardy bell rings, he or she will be marked tardy. Tardies will be tracked throughout the semester and progressive discipline will be applied.

A class cut occurs when a student is absent from class for more than ten minutes without having permission from their assigned teacher or authorization from the front office to do so.

Students may not leave the classroom for any reason, except for true medical emergencies, in the first ten minutes or last ten minutes of the period. Between these times, when appropriate, students can ask the teacher to sign a pass in their CHS Handbook in order to be briefly excused from class, as long as this does not become habitual.



**EXTRA HELP SESSIONS**

I encourage all students to form groups and meet outside of school to discuss content topics and study for tests. I am available for extra help sessions by appointment.



**DISCIPLINE**

The Chattahoochee Student Handbook and Fulton County’s Code of Conduct & Discipline Handbook will apply.



**FOOD and BEVERAGES**

Absolutely no candy, food, or beverages of any kind, except water, may be visible or consumed in the classroom. If a student has a medical condition that requires them to have food or beverages while in class, they must bring a note signed by the student’s doctor to the school nurse, who will then notify the teacher of their condition. In this case, and in this case only, will exceptions be made. Food and beverages seen in class may be confiscated and thrown away and discipline may be issued.



**PERSONAL POSSESSIONS**

All purses, totes, and bookbags must remain closed and on the floor throughout the period. They are not allowed to be on the student’s desk and students cannot go through them during class. Similarly, the classroom is not the place for grooming, so students are not allowed to apply make-up, brush hair, and the like in class.

Students are allowed to use their personal technology devises, such as audio players, cell phones, and tablets, only when explicitly approved by the teacher. When doing so, students must follow the teacher’s instructions regarding appropriate use of these devises, using them for educational purposes. If students do not comply with this policy, their personal devices may be confiscated and school discipline, including detentions and office referrals may occur.



**Class Website and MS 360**

My website is <http://timreeder.weebly.com/>

I also use OneNote Classroom, which all students have access to through their district-supplied Microsoft 360 account. Each student has access to this suite of applications that includes OneNote on their school-issued Surface tablet and on up to 4 additional personal devices. Course information, notes, homework assignments, and other materials may be distributed and collected through OneNote.

## C:\Users\reedert\Desktop\CHS and FCS\Chattahoochee General\School Logos\SMALL Paw Logo.jpgOTHER RESOURCES

The class occasionally utilizes school Internet labs. Absolutely no food or drinks are allowed in the lab. Students are required to be working on their assigned work in the lab and must follow teacher directions as well as CHS’s electronic network policies. Disciplinary consequences will be applied to any student that fails to abide by these simple expectations.  By signing on to a Fulton County computer, you are agreeing to the county’s Technology Code.

We will also use the Media Center occasionally where all food and drink (except water) is prohibited. Students are required to be working on their assigned work in the media center and follow teacher directions as well as Media Center policies.

I strongly recommend that parents sign up for Home Access Center, the online system to monitor attendance and grades.

My e-mail: [reedert@fultonschools.org](file:///C%3A%5CDocuments%20and%20Settings%5Creedert%5CDesktop%5CCourses%5CUS%20History%5CFall%20Semester%5Cmiscellaneous%5Csyllabi%5Creedert%40fultonschools.org)