**AP Seminar**

**Mr. Bickle**

**Course Syllabus 2024-2025**

**Course Description**

This course is designed to give students experience with college-level inquiry, research, writing, and presentation. I can say from my own experience that THIS course more than any other AP course prepares students for the academic rigor of college. The goals of this course are laid out in 5 categories, under the acronym Q.U.E.S.T:

Question & Explore

Understand & Analyze

Evaluate Multiple Perspectives

Synthesize Ideas

Team, Transform & Transmit

**Textbook**

AP Seminar Course and Exam Description

AP Stimulus Materials

Mock Assessment Task Stimulus Materials

Materials found by students via independent research

**Unit/Concept Names**

Unit One: Mock Group Research Reports + Group Presentations

Unit Two: Mock Individual Research based essay + Presentation

Unit Three: Performance Task 1 + Exam Prep

Unit Four: Performance task 2 + Exam Prep

Unit Five: Finalizing and Submitting Performance Tasks, Final Presentations

Unit 6: Final Exam Prep and Exam.

**Major Course Projects and Instructional Activities**

This course is unique in terms of its structure and the activities students undertake. The major difference between AP Seminar and conventional AP courses is that, in addition to an exam taken at the end of the year, students are assessed on projects done throughout the year known as “performance tasks.”

These performance tasks, which involve collaboration, research, academic writing, and presentation, are submitted to College Board evaluators at key points throughout the school year, and are scored according to College Board rubrics. The teacher has only partial input on the students’ final scores on these performance tasks. What follows is a brief explanation of each performance task:

Performance Task 1: Group Research and Presentation In this task, students work in groups to research a collectively chosen research question related to the College Board stimulus materials. Each student conducts research using a different “lens” or approach to this topic, and each student then writes a 1200 word Individual Research Report (IRR) on their findings. The students then use information gathered during this process to create a Team Multimedia Presentation (TMP), which represents a synthesis of all group members’ research. Finally, the students are expected to give an Oral Defense of their presentation, during which they will be asked targeted questions about their topic and or their collaborative process. The score for this task is weighted as 20% of their AP score (NOT their grade). Our goal is to finish this task no later than February 28th.

Performance Task 2: Individual Written Argument and Individual Multimedia Presentation In this task, students will apply their research skills to their own line of inquiry. The first goal is to create a 2,000 word, research-based argumentative essay using the AP Stimulus Materials as a starting point. Each student will then create a multimedia presentation of their argument. As with Performance Task 1, Students will give an oral defense of their presentation. This portion of the course constitutes 35% of their overall AP Seminar Score (NOT their final grade in the class).

**Course work/Classwork**

Students will receive a variety of assignments designed to enhance their learning. If a student is absent, the student is responsible for the missed assignment.

Students are expected to submit work on time. Doing so exhibits pride in producing quality work and fulfilling student responsibility. This work habit is a behavior that supports academic achievement and demonstrates characteristics from our Richmond County School System Profile of a Graduate. Late work can negatively impact learning and your ability to demonstrate mastery of the standards.

When the assignment calls for students to produce original work, students will not use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to generate the assignment for them. Assignments are given to help students learn and demonstrate what they know. While there may be appropriate times for students to use AI during the learning process, using AI to generate original work in place of the student completing the work, is considered

Academic Dishonesty and can be punished according to the rules outlined in the Code of Conduct.

*See RCBOE IHA-R Grading Practices*

**Late Work (Grading Policy- See RCBOE IHA-R Grading Practices)**

Students may have their scores reduced by 5% per school day for a 25% maximum reduction (five school days). ***Late work submitted after the fifth school day will only be accepted at the teacher’s discretion.***

**Make-Up Work (Grading Policy)**

Students are expected to make-up assignments and assessments that were missed due to absence from

school. Students are responsible for asking teachers for the make-up work upon returning to class.

Make-up work should be completed by the student within the time specified by the teacher. Communicate with the teacher to set up times for retakes, etc..

**Evaluation (Grading Policy)**

* Minor Grades (Quizzes, Class work, Graded Writing Assignments, Group Work, etc.)
* Major Grades (Unit & Chapter Test, Projects, Tasks)

**Relearn and Reassess Plan**

For any major assessments, students will have the opportunity to submit a relearning plan for parent and teacher approval. Upon satisfactory completion of the plan, as determined by the teacher, students will be given a minimum of **ONE** opportunity to be reassessed. Only students scoring below 70 on a major assessment can complete a relearning plan unless exempted with parent approval.

Reassessments may be different from the original.

The reassessment score will replace the original score (the scores will not be averaged).

Reassessments should be completed **within 7 school days** of receiving the original grade. Teachers should have discretion to extend the timeline to address extenuating circumstances.

*See teacher class page for Relearn/Reassess*

**Classroom Procedures & Expectations**

Rule 1: Remain silent during instruction (unless prompted)

Rule 2: Stay on Task

Rule 3: Use technology for learning, nothing else

Rule 4: Use professional language, i.e., no slurs, no swears, and no inappropriate topics.

Rule 5: Plagiarism is cringe! Do your own work.

Rule 6: If you make a mess, clean it up

Rule 7: No outside food or drink except water

Rule 8: If you are stuck, ask for help

Rule 9: Take care of business before coming to class

Rule 10: Hall passes will be given one at a time, and never in the first or last 10 minutes of class

The overarching expectation in this class is to represent WAR (W, Accountable, Respectful)

Below are the expectations for how to W.A.R. in class!

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Wholehearted** | * **Participate in class discussions, tasks, and collaborations** * **Attempt all work (Be “All in”)** * **Bring your authentic self to your learning.** | * **Example** * **Example** |
| **Accountable** | * **Bring needed materials for class daily** * **Complete all work with academic honesty** * **Turn in work on time** | * **Example** * **Example** |
| **Respectful** | * **Consider how your behavior affects your classmates, teachers, and WHS community as a whole.** * **Communicate with teacher via email or face to face when issues arise.** | * **Example** * **Example** |

**Course Materials**

-laptop

-A dedicated notebook/binder

-Pencil/pen

-Highlighter

-(optional) Other annotation supplies (post it tabs, etc.)\*

**My contact information:**

Email: bicklje@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us Remind join URL: remind.com/join/bickle2

**Student Contract:** I understand that all work should be completed on time. I understand that my teacher may deduct five points per day and communicate this in my Infinite Campus gradebook. I also understand that work turned in after the learning has occurred may not be graded (no more than 5 school days from the due date). I understand that using Artificial Intelligence to complete assignments where I am asked to produce original work will be considered Academic Dishonesty.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Contract:** I understand that my child is expected to complete assignments on time. I will

remain in communication with my child’s teacher and monitor missing and late work as noted in Infinite Campus Parent Portal. If my child continues to submit work late, I understand that a parent-teacher conference will be needed to co-develop a plan of action. I understand that my child should not use Artificial Intelligence to complete assignments where students are asked to produce original work.

Parent Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_