AP Seminar Syllabus 2026-2027

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★ **End-of-Course Exam - Monday, May 10, 2027 from 12-2 pm**

★ **Both writing assignments uploaded to Digital Portfolio no later than Friday, April 30, 2027 at 11:59pm**

Goals

AP Seminar at Cape Fear Academy will:

- Engage students with rigorous college-level curricula focused on the core academic skills necessary for successful college completion;
- Extend students' abilities to synthesize information from multiple perspectives and apply skills in cross-curricular contexts and in new situations;
- Empower students to collect and analyze information with accuracy and precision;
- Cultivate students' abilities to craft, communicate, and defend evidence-based arguments; and
- Provide opportunities for students to practice disciplined and scholarly research skills applied to relevant topics of their interest and curiosity.

Expected Student Learning Outcomes

Throughout the program, students consider multiple points of view to develop their own perspectives on complex issues and topics through inquiry and investigation. The AP Seminar program provides students with a framework that allows students to develop, practice, and hone their critical and creative thinking skills as they make connections between issues and their own lives.

While helping students to develop and strengthen their critical and creative thinking skills, students learn to consider multiple points of view to develop their own perspectives on complex issues and topics through inquiry and investigation.

The inquiry process exposes students to a variety of primary and secondary print and non-print sources such as articles, research studies, and foundational literary and philosophical texts; speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; and artistic works and performances. The wide variety of academic sources provide the opportunity to gain a rich appreciation and understanding of issues as students collaboratively or independently analyze and evaluate the evidence to consider options, alternatives, solutions, or resolutions of real-world or academic problems.

In participating in AP Seminar, students will learn to:

- Investigate academic and real-world topics;

- Gather information from various and credible sources;
- Develop credible and evidence-based arguments;
- Collaborate in teams; and
- Communicate through appropriate media.

CFA Course Grade Distribution

Course assessments:	80% of S1 & S2 Grade
• Classwork (in-class activities, small presentations, explorations, reading/writing)	**40%**
• Speaking & Listening (daily/weekly participation, in-class discussions, larger presentations/projects)	**60%**
S1 "Exam" - Mock Performance Task 1	**20%** of S1 Grade

Curricular Requirements (per College Board)

- **CR1** Students explore complexities of one or more themes by making connections within, between, and/or among multiple cross-curricular areas and by exploring multiple perspectives and lenses (e.g., cultural and social, artistic and philosophical, political and historical, environmental, economic,scientific, futuristic, ethical) related to those themes.

- **CR2a** The course provides multiple opportunities for students to practice and refine their skills by engaging with the QUEST process.
- **CR2b** Students develop and apply discrete skills identified in the learning objectives within the Big Idea 1: Question and Explore.
- **CR2c** Students develop and apply discrete skills identified in the learning objectives within the Big Idea 2: Understand and Analyze.
- **CR2d** Students develop and apply discrete skills identified in the learning objectives within the Big Idea 3: Evaluate Multiple Perspectives.
- **CR2e** Students develop and apply discrete skills identified in the learning objectives within the Big Idea 4: Synthesize Ideas.
- **CR2f** Students develop and apply collaboration skills identified in the learning objectives within the Big Idea 5: Team, Transform, and Transmit.
- **CR2g** Students develop and apply reflection skills identified in the learning objectives within the Big Idea 5: Team, Transform, and Transmit.
- **CR2h** Students develop and apply written and oral communication skills identified in the learning objectives within the Big Idea 5: Team, Transform, and Transmit.

- **CR3** Students gain a rich appreciation and understanding of the issues through the following activities: reading articles and research studies; reading foundational, literary, and philosophical texts; viewing and listening to speeches, broadcasts, and/or personal accounts; and experiencing artistic works and performances.

- **CR4a** Students develop an understanding of ethical research practices.

- **CR4b** Students develop an understanding of the AP Capstone™ Board Policy on Plagiarism and Falsification or Fabrication of Information.

- **CR5** Students work collaboratively with a team to identify, investigate, analyze, and evaluate a real-world or academic problem or issue; consider and evaluate alternatives or options; propose one or more solutions or resolutions; and present and defend the argument for their solutions through a multimedia presentation.

- **C6** Students work independently to identify a research question based on provided stimulus material; research the issue; analyze, evaluate, and select evidence to develop an argument; present and defend a conclusion; and produce a multimedia presentation to be delivered to their peers.

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.

Big Ideas - "QUEST"

Big Idea 1: Question and Explore
Big Idea 2: Understand and Analyze
Big Idea 3: Evaluate Multiple Perspectives
Big Idea 4: Synthesize Ideas
Big Idea 5: Team, Transform, and Transmit

Plagiarism Policy and AI Acceptable Use

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."*

AP Capstone Policy on Plagiarism and Falsification or Fabrication of Information [CR4b]*
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.

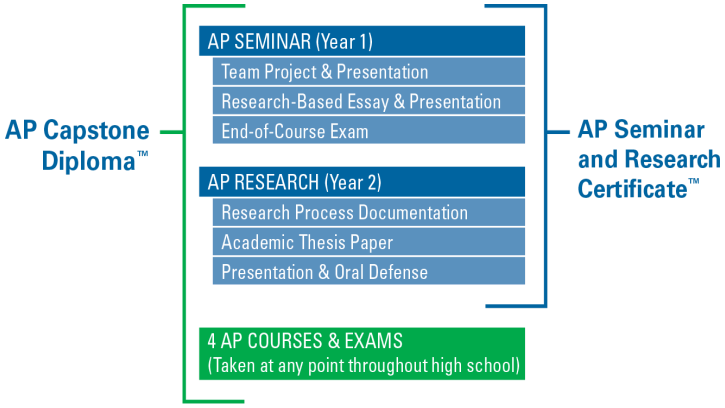
A student who incorporates falsified or fabricated information (e.g. evidence, data, sources, and/or authors) will receive a score of 0 on that particular component of the AP Seminar and/or AP Research Performance Task. In AP Seminar, a team of students that incorporates falsified or fabricated information 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 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.

PLEASE BE SURE YOU SEE THE COLLEGE BOARD AI ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY.

How AP Capstone™ Works

Students typically take AP Seminar in the 10th or 11th grade, followed by AP Research. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing will receive the AP Capstone Diploma™. This signifies their outstanding academic achievement and attainment of college-level academic and research skills. Alternatively, students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research will receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™ signifying their attainment of college-level academic and research skills.



Performance Tasks

During the AP Seminar course, students complete the following assessments: two through-course performance tasks and an end-of-course exam, while adhering to AP College Board policies to ensure the validation of their scores. Performance tasks will be completed after Unit 4. [**CR5**] [**CR6**]

The following assessments are summative and are used to calculate a final AP Score (using the 1–5 scale) for AP Seminar:

Performance Task #1: Team Project and Presentation [**CR5**]
Task Overview:
Students work in teams of three to five to identify, investigate, and analyze an academic or real-world problem or issue. Each team designs and/or considers options and evaluates alternatives; develops a multimedia presentation to present the argument for their proposed solution or resolution; and provides a defense to questions posed by the teacher.

Scoring:
Individual Research Report (1,200 words): Internally scored, externally validated
Team Multimedia Presentation and Defense (8–10 minutes, plus defense questions): Internally scored
Weight: 20 percent of score

Performance Task #2: Individual Research-Based Essay and Presentation [**CR6**]
Task Overview:
The College Board's AP Program will annually release cross-curricular source materials (texts) representing a range of perspectives focused on a single theme or topic. Students use these texts to identify a research question of their own; conduct research; analyze, evaluate, and select evidence to develop an argument; and present and defend their conclusions. The final paper must refer to and incorporate at least one of the provided sources.

Scoring:
Individual Written Argument (1,200 words): Internally scored, externally validated
Individual Multimedia Presentation (6–8 minutes): Internally scored
Oral Defense (two questions from the teacher): Internally scored
Weight: 35 percent of score

Performance Task #3: AP Seminar End-of-Course Exam (2 Hours)
Task Overview:
During the AP Exam administration window, students take the AP Seminar End-of-Course Exam. The exam consists of four items: three short-answer questions and one essay question.

Scoring:
Three Short-Answer Questions (analysis of argument in a single source or document): Externally scored
One Essay Question (synthesizing and creating an evidence-based argument): Externally scored
Weight: 45 percent of score