

FOLSOM CORDOVA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

AP SEMINAR

Date: January 2017

Proposed Grade Level(s): 10-12

Grading: A-F

Prerequisite(s): At or above grade level in Reading and Math based on i-Ready scores

Course Length: 1 Term (2 Semesters)

Subject Area: Elective

Credits: 5 per semester

Intent to Pursue 'A-G' College Prep Status: Yes

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

AP Seminar is the prerequisite to an innovative diploma program from the College Board that equips students with the independent research, collaborative teamwork, and communication skills that are increasingly valued by colleges. AP Capstone is built on the foundation of two AP courses, AP Seminar and AP Research, and is designed to complement and enhance the in-depth, discipline-specific study experienced in other AP courses.

In AP Seminar, students investigate real-world issues from multiple perspectives, gathering and analyzing information from various sources in order to develop credible and valid evidence-based arguments. In AP Research, students cultivate the skills and discipline necessary to conduct independent research and inquiry in order to produce and defend their scholarly work.

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 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.

GENERAL GOALS/ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

Goals:

- Students explore the 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.
- Students develop and apply discrete skills identified in the learning objectives of the enduring understandings within the following five big ideas.
- Students gain a rich appreciation and understanding of 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

- Students develop an understanding of ethical research practices and the AP Capstone™ Policy on Plagiarism and Falsification or Fabrication of Information.
- 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.
- 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.

Essential Questions:

- Are students able to develop critical questions about complex issues or ideas?
- Are students able to explore and evaluate numerous and often competing perspectives?
- Are students able to connect and analyze evidence in order to develop an argument and support a claim?
- Are students able to collaborate effectively, drawing upon their own strengths and the strengths of teammates to achieve a common goal?

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARD READING COMPONENT:

Reading Anchor Standards (K-12)

Key Ideas & Details

1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
3. Analyze how and why individuals, events, or ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

Craft & Structure

4. Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.
5. Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.
6. Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

Integration of Knowledge & Ideas

7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.
8. Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.
9. Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

Reading Range / Text Complexity

10. Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARD WRITING COMPONENT:

Writing Anchor Standards (K-12)

Text Types & Purposes

1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details and well-structured event sequences.

Production & Distribution of Writing

4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
5. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

Research to Build Knowledge

7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.
9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

Range of Writing

10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARD SPEAKING AND LISTENING COMPONENTS:

Speaking and Listening Anchor Standards (K-12)

Comprehension & Collaboration

1. Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
2. Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.
3. Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.

Presentation of Knowledge & Ideas

4. Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and ensure that the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
5. Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.
6. Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and communicative tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.

CTE INDUSTRY SECTOR / PATHWAY / STANDARDS: N/A

DETAILED UNITS OF INSTRUCTION:

Big Idea 1: Question and Explore

Inquiry and investigation begin when students encounter information about complex issues and problems that stimulates their intellectual curiosity. They then continue the research process by developing a critical question about one or more of those complex issues or ideas. Seeking answers to such questions requires exploration of numerous, often competing perspectives; the context surrounding those perspectives; and the reliability and credibility of the perspectives. Through this exploration, students begin to develop their own perspectives, rather than simply accept those of others. They consider the purpose of their research — what is supposed to be achieved and why. Ideally, they also develop additional questions that lead to further inquiry. The intrinsic value of asking and answering questions cannot be overstated. Giving students the opportunity to dig deeper and feed their curiosity makes for meaningful discoveries and discussions.

Essential Questions:

- How does the context of a problem or issue affect how it is interpreted or presented?
- How might others see the problem or issue differently?
- What questions have yet to be asked?
- What voices or perspectives are missing from my research?
- What do I want to know, learn, or understand?
- How does my research question shape how I go about trying to answer it?
- What information do I need to answer my question?
- What keywords should I use to search for information about this topic?

Big Idea 2: Understand and Analyze

Developing understanding starts with comprehension of the concepts and perspectives under examination. Being able to summarize by identifying and explaining the salient ideas in a text is foundational. When students summarize and explain an author’s perspective to others, they are building understanding. Students must comprehend a perspective or argument in order to be able to analyze it. That analysis — including consideration of the author’s point of view and purpose, the reasoning and details the author selects, develops, and conveys, and the way the author chooses to situate those details — in turn leads to greater understanding of the topic or concept being explored. Students evaluate the strength of an argument by examining the line of reasoning and the quality of the evidence the author uses. This level of understanding allows students to recognize the implications and predict the consequences of an argument.

Essential Questions:

- What strategies will help me comprehend a text?
- What is the argument’s main idea and what reasoning does the author use to develop it?
- Why might the author view the issue this way?
- What biases may the author have that influence his or her perspective?
- Does this argument acknowledge other perspectives?
- How do I know if a source is trustworthy?
- What are the implications of these arguments?
- How does this conclusion impact me and my community? Or my research?

Big Idea 3: Evaluate Multiple Perspectives

Understanding the complexity of an issue, idea, or problem requires students to compare and contrast different perspectives. These multiple perspectives, which may support, oppose, compete with, or otherwise vary from one another, come together to create the conversation on the issue. Students must consider the biases and assumptions behind those perspectives in order to evaluate their relevance and importance in the conversation. Evaluating multiple perspectives and arguments allows students to better understand the complexities of an issue or topic.

Essential Questions:

- What patterns or trends can be identified among the arguments about this issue?
- What are the implications and/or consequences of accepting or rejecting a particular argument?
- How can I connect the multiple perspectives? What other issues, questions, or topics do they relate to?
- How can I explain contradictions within or between arguments?
- From whose perspective is this information being presented, and how does that affect my evaluation?

Big Idea 4: Synthesize Ideas

Once enough information is gathered and evaluated, students synthesize their accumulated knowledge, emerging ideas, and perspectives to form conclusions of their own. In order to situate their perspectives within the larger conversation, students must consider other perspectives and points of view. Strong arguments have a clear purpose and are grounded in a logical line of reasoning supported by carefully chosen and relevant evidence. Effective arguments analyze the material and develop a perspective on it. Information from other sources should not stand in for students' own thinking. The goal is for students to think critically about the information and then add to, not simply repeat the ideas of others. Building arguments on the ideas of others recognizes and acknowledges their perspectives while also establishing one's unique voice in the conversation.

Essential Questions:

- How do I connect and analyze the evidence in order to develop an argument and support a conclusion?
- What line of reasoning and evidence would best support my argument? Is my reasoning logical?
- Are there other conclusions I should consider?
- What am I taking for granted? How do I acknowledge and account for my own biases and assumptions?
- What is the best way to acknowledge and attribute the work of others that was used to support my argument?
- How can I avoid committing plagiarism?

Big Idea 5: Team, Transform, and Transmit

Collaboration, communication, and reflection are skills that provide opportunities for students to develop their learning. When collaborating, students draw upon their own strengths and the strengths of teammates to achieve a common goal. An argument is effectively communicated when its purpose is clear, it is tailored to a specific audience and context, and it is conveyed through a medium appropriate and appealing to the intended audience. Adhering to standard language conventions and engaging delivery techniques establishes a writer's or speaker's credibility with his or her audience. Whether working alone or in a group, students reflect on their work and learning processes, which can lead to personal growth as well as even more effective inquiry, learning, and collaboration.

Essential Questions:

- How can I best appeal to and engage my audience?
- What is the best medium or genre through which to engage my audience?
- What common misconceptions might my audience have?
- How might I adapt my argument for different audiences and situations?
- How might my communication choices affect my credibility with my audience?
- What contributions can I offer to a team?
- What is the benefit of revision?
- How can I benefit from reflecting on my own work?

TEXTBOOKS AND RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Students will be using:

- Printed and online articles, speeches, interviews, and personal narratives, artistic works and performances, or other kinds of texts — anything that conveys a perspective and can be examined.
- Analyzing complex and scholarly sources; peer review, which differentiates scholarly from non-scholarly sources in an academic, research community.
- Handbooks, databases, and other reference materials essential to equip students with the tools necessary for research and communication.

SUBJECT AREA CONTENT STANDARDS TO BE ADDRESSED:

The basis for this course is the AP Capstone course outline from the College Board. The skill set required for reading, writing, communicating, and thinking critically is practiced regularly and reinforces those found in the Common Core standards. Specific area content standards will be aligned with and dependent upon the research subject area selected by the student.

DISTRICT ESLRS TO BE ADDRESSED:

Students will be:

- **Self-Directed Learners:** Inquiry and investigation begin when students encounter information about complex issues and problems that stimulates their intellectual curiosity. Through the research process they develop critical questions and seek answers to complex issues or ideas.
- **Collaborative Workers:** Collaboration is a skill where students draw upon their own strengths and the strengths of teammates to achieve a common goal. Whether working alone or in a group, students reflect on their work and learning processes, which can lead to personal growth as well as even more effective inquiry, learning, and collaboration.
- **Effective Communicators:** Communication and reflection are skills that provide opportunities for students to develop their learning. An argument is effectively communicated when its purpose is clear, it is tailored to a specific audience and context, and it is conveyed through a medium appropriate and appealing to the intended audience.
- **Quality Producers/ Performers:** Students synthesize their accumulated knowledge, emerging ideas, and perspectives to form conclusions of their own. The goal is for students to think critically about the information and then add to, not simply repeat, the ideas of others. Building arguments on the ideas of others recognizes and acknowledges their perspectives while also establishing one's unique voice in the conversation.
- **Constructive Thinkers:** Seeking answers to their question requires exploration of numerous, often competing perspectives; the context surrounding those perspectives; and the reliability and credibility of the perspectives. Giving students the opportunity to dig deeper and feed their curiosity makes for meaningful discoveries and discussions.
- **Responsible Citizens:** 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. 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.

The Folsom Cordova Unified School District prohibits discrimination, intimidation, harassment (including sexual harassment) or bullying based on a person's actual or perceived ancestry, color, disability, race or ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity or gender expression, immigration status, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. **For concerns/questions or complaints, contact the Title IX Coordinator(s) and Equity Compliance Officer(s): Curtis Wilson, cmwilson@fcusd.org (grades K-5) and Jim Huber, ED. D., jhuber@fcusd.org (grades 6-12), 1965 Birkmont Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 96742, 916-294-9000 ext.104625**