

AP Seminar Overview & Expectations

What is AP Seminar? AP Seminar is a course designed to develop students' critical thinking, research, and communication skills. JCHS is offering it to 10th grade ELA students on the accelerated AP track. The natural progression from this course is to AP Lang.

- It is part of the AP Capstone program, which emphasizes interdisciplinary learning to give students with tools for analyzing real-world issues from multiple perspectives.
- Students who complete both AP Seminar and AP Research, along with four additional AP courses, can earn the AP Capstone Diploma.

Course Goals and Content: Students explore complex topics through an inquiry framework and work collaboratively and independently to:

- Analyze diverse sources such as articles, research studies, speeches, and artistic works.
- Develop evidence-based arguments in written essays and presentations.
- Synthesize information from multiple perspectives to craft their own viewpoints.
- Engage with cross-curricular themes that include cultural, political, environmental, and scientific issues.

Key Skills Developed:

- Questioning and exploring issues to foster intellectual curiosity.
- Understanding and analyzing arguments with attention to credibility and evidence.
- Evaluating multiple perspectives to appreciate the complexities of issues.
- Synthesizing ideas into cohesive arguments supported by research.
- Collaborating and communicating effectively through team projects and presentations.

Why Take AP Seminar?

- Prepares students for college-level research and writing.
- Builds skills valued by colleges and employers, including collaboration and problem-solving.
- Encourages intellectual curiosity and independent thinking.
- Provides a pathway to the prestigious AP Capstone Diploma™.

Course Expectations:

- Students are expected to:
 - Engage actively in class discussions and group work.
 - Complete readings, research, and assignments with integrity.
 - Meet deadlines and participate in minor and major assessments.
 - Reflect on their learning process and seek feedback for improvement – not solely attached to the grade that they receive.

AP Exam Structure:

1. **Performance Task 1 (Team Project)** – 20% of the final AP score.
 - Students collaborate to research a real-world problem and present proposed solutions.
 - Includes an Individual Research Report and a Team Multimedia Presentation.
2. **Performance Task 2 (Individual Research-Based Essay and Presentation)** – 35% of the final AP score.
 - Students develop their own research question, write a 2,000-word essay, and present their findings.
3. **End-of-Course Exam** – 45% of the final AP score.
 - Includes short-answer questions and an evidence-based argument essay.