11th Grade AVID Elective Syllabus

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AVID's Mission Statement: AVID's mission is to close the opportunity gap by preparing all students for college and career readiness and success in a global society.

Overview: The 11th grade AVID Elective begins the year with cultivating a growth mindset and setting personal improvement goals, which are critical for self-development. The course then transitions into enhancing critical reading skills, specifically aimed at analyzing college essays, a skill unique to upper-level high school students preparing for college applications. The course also emphasizes timed writing skills, a crucial ability for standardized tests and college exams. Juniors research colleges for academic fit and look for scholarship opportunities, as well as engaging in a financial literacy course on financing higher education, consumer skills, and credit and debt. Lastly, the course initiates the college application process through the creation of a compelling college entrance essay, a key skill for students at this juncture in their academic journey.

This year will include a strong focus on the following areas:

- **Writing** experiences every day in every class
- **Inquiry** projects including tutorials, Socratic Seminars, Philosophical Chairs, etc.
- **Collaboration** activities that are fun and purposeful – tutorials and team building
- **Organization** of your schoolwork and your time
- **Reading** for a purpose and gaining high-level reading skills

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Unit 1: "How to AVID" • Organization • WICOR • Focused Notetaking • Tutorials • Goal Setting • Vocabulary Building • Socratic Seminar • Relational Capacity: Stage 1 Unit 2: Financial Literacy Unit	Unit 3: Dream College project Continuous Units: • Tutorials • WICOR • Vocabulary Building • Philosophical Chair • Field Trip - NDSU • Relational Capacity: Stage 2	Unit 4: SAT Prep & prepare for Senior year Continuous Units: • Tutorials • WICOR • Vocabulary Building • Organization Checks • Socratic Seminar • Relational Capacity: Stage 3	Unit 5: College Essay Prep Continuous Units: • Tutorials • WICOR • Vocabulary Building • Philosophical Chair • Critical Readings • Field Trip – UND • Relational Capacity: Stage 4

Student Expectations: Reminder, you will agree to all the following when signing your AVID contract.

As an AVID student who wishes to be completely eligible for four-year college enrollment upon graduation:

1. I will take responsibility for my own learning and maintain satisfactory citizenship and attendance in all my classes.
2. I will maintain a minimum 2.0 overall GPA or will be placed on a probationary contract.

3. I will maintain enrollment in college-prep courses, including at least one honors or Advanced Placement course, as appropriate for my situation.
4. I will attend before- or after-school help sessions as needed to raise my grades.
5. I will be an active learner, be prepared for all classes with all assigned work completed, take notes, and be an active participant in all activities.
6. I will come prepared for tutorial sessions by bringing higher-level questions, my AVID binder with notes, and my textbooks or iPad. I will also ask questions to help my peers and participate with my classmates and tutors to find the answers to my questions.
7. I will pursue participation in extracurricular activities and community service.
8. I will prepare for and take college entrance exams such as the PSAT, PLAN, SAT, and ACT.

Materials Needed for Class – All AVID students at WFHS (and across the country) are held to high standards for organization of their course materials. Students are expected to take good care of these materials. If you destroy or lose these required materials, you will need to buy replacements for them.

- Folders / clear organization system for every individual class
- Notebook(s)
- School Planner
- Pencil pouch that houses two pens, two pencils, and a highlighter
- iPad with all notes and materials housed there for each course

Grading and General work guidelines: Organization and collaboration are an essential part of your high school years.

- 30% = Weekly binder organization, note-taking, and planner checks
- 30% = Tutorials (completed forms, notes, and reflections)
- 40% = Class activities such as critical reading, writing projects, other major projects, class discussions etc.

Grading Scale: A = 90% or higher B = 80-89% C = 70-79% D = 60-69% F = 59% or lower

Semester Grade: Each quarter grade is 50% of your semester grade. KEEP THIS IS MIND!

Late Work: The late work policy will be dependent on the unit / activity, see expectations below.

- Organization/ binder checks, agenda checks, focused note taking checks, quick writes, tutorials and any other check-in or daily assignment will be due at the end of the block. Work time will be provided in class, and it is expected for you to utilize the time given. Any assignments not turned in by the designated due date will result in a zero and cannot be made up.
- All unit projects will have a specific designated due date, and all materials will be expected to be turned in by that time. There may also be daily check-ins along the way that are due by the end of the block. Any assignments not turned in by the designated due date will result in a zero cannot be made up.
- IF a student is sick, gone for an appointment, has an excused absence, etc, they will be given the number of days gone to complete the assignment. Example, if a student is sick and misses three days of class, students will be given an additional three class periods to turn in their assignments.
- If a student is marked UV they are skipping and are ineligible to make up any missing assignments. The grade will remain a zero for as long as the UV remains.

Attendance Policy: If you are not in the AVID classroom ready to begin class by the time class begins you will be marked tardy. Additionally, per West Fargo High School policy, every fifth tardy will be converted to a UV.

Weekly Schedule: This schedule will be followed on most weeks but is subject to change based on class projects or school schedules.

Example 1:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Content Day		Tutorials		Content or CHOICE Day
Weekly lesson/ project days, organization checks, WICOR, etc. *Things we need to do to begin our week		Tutorial Day! *Complete TRFs, engage in tutorials, tutorial mini-lesson, etc.		Continuation of project OR AVID CHOICE Day curriculum

Example 2:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Content Day		Tutorials	
	Weekly lesson/ project days, organization checks, WICOR, etc.		Tutorial Day! *Complete TRFs, engage in tutorials, tutorial mini-lesson, etc.	

Communication

- All course information will be housed on Schoology within weekly folders.
- The best way to contact me is via email at zcraig@west-fargo.k12.nd.us
- Messages will be returned each weekday Monday-Friday, during my scheduled teaching hours 7:50 am-3:40 pm.
- Do not expect a response after 3:40 pm on weekdays or on weekends.

Other Important Information

- Plagiarism: Plagiarism is unethical! Show the respect you would want for your hard work and do not claim something that is not yours, including utilizing Artificial Intelligence or copying off a classmate! Cutting and pasting sentences off the Internet into a Word document or copying sentences directly from the Internet will not be permitted. Paraphrase what you have found by putting it in your own words. You may use direct quotes if you cite your source. Graded assignments that are plagiarized will receive a 0 and a log entry will be made. If the issue continues there may be other consequences.
- Cell Phone Use:
    - Per school policy, phones and smart watches must be out of sight and out of use from 8:25am – 3:35pm. This means phones must stay either in the learner's backpack, in their locker, in their car etc. Phones CANNOT be in the learner's person during school hours.
        - *First Offense:* The device is brought to the Main Office, picked up by the student at the end of the student's day
        - *Second Offense:* The device is brought to the Main Office, picked up by the parent/guardian at their earliest convenience, not to be returned to the student until the end of the student's day

- *Third Offense:* The device is brought to the Main Office, picked up by the parent/guardian at their earliest convenience, not to be returned to the student until the end of the student's day, behavior plan assigned to the student
- *Fourth Offense:* The device is brought to the Main Office, picked up by the parent/guardian at their earliest convenience, not to be returned to the student until the end of the student's day, 1 day ISS
- *Fifth Offense:* The device is brought to the Main Office, picked up by the parent/guardian at their earliest convenience, not to be returned to the student until the end of the student's day, 1 day OSS
- *Sixth Offense:* The device is brought to the Main Office, picked up by the parent/guardian at their earliest convenience not to be returned to the student until the end of the student's day, transition to Virtual Program for the at least the remainder of the semester

- Headphone Use: No Air Pods or headphones will be allowed in class unless it is independent work time or otherwise directed. I expect them to be taken out / off once you have entered the AVID classroom. If it becomes a continued issue, I will ask for them to be placed on the teacher's desk or bring them to the main office.
- Inappropriate Language: The words we use are powerful. We must choose them wisely and make sure they are not used to put one another down or degrade the classroom environment. School is a professional space and your language in our classroom should reflect this
- Food and Drink: **All drinks must have a spill-proof lid**, the plastic caps from the school store do not count. Do not make a mess! Do not let your drink distract you from class or this privilege will be revoked. The only food allowed is teacher-provided/approved.

Note to parents/guardians:

I believe that students can be more successful if parents/guardians, your student, and the teacher work together. If you ever have any questions and/or would like an update on your student's progress; please feel free to contact me. My contact information is on the front of this syllabus.

If you need any translators or help translating this document, please let me know as we have access to those as well.

Thank you and I am looking forward to a great AVID experience!

Sincerely,

Zachary Craig

Please initial next to each area showing you have read and understand the expectations of you and your students' responsibilities.

_____AVID students in all grades take two off campus college visits each year. Parents sign a field trip waiver at registration time. This same waiver covers these visits, so you will not be receiving a separate permission slip at the time of these trips.

_____Students are not allowed to have cell phones during the school day. School policy regarding usage and confiscation will be enforced.

Note to parents/guardians:

I believe that students can be more successful if parents/guardians, your student, and the teacher work together. If you ever have any questions and/or would like an update on your student's progress; please feel free to contact me. My contact information is on the front of this syllabus. Grades will be available for you on PowerSchool. I will update grades on this website as new entries are entered. All parents should have the login information, or you can contact the main office for this.

Communication between AVID students, teachers and parents is critical for student success! We are an AVID family! Please help us be better prepared to communicate with you.

- Please provide a working email, if you have one, at which you can be reached. This is especially necessary for scheduling student-led conferences, and for sending out any AVID reminders.

- Please provide a cell phone number for the primary parent or guardian at which you can be reached.

- Please indicate if a translator is needed to best communicate regarding your student, and if so for which language.

Parent or Guardian Signature: