

AP Seminar COVID Addendum 2020-21

To AP Seminar Scholars,

First, thank you for signing up to experience AP Seminar this school year. There are many unknowns as we move forward and I will do my best to keep you up to date on the AP College Board expectations and exam requirements. This will be frustrating, but we will proceed as if the exam will be given in the traditional format and including the past required elements: Performance Tasks 1 and 2 (including presentations) and the End of Course Exam (given during the AP Exam week in May). With that said, please allow yourself and teammates to experience this frustration and possibly anxiety. This is an unprecedented time in our history, and we are all in this together. My goal is to effectively prepare you for all the tasks in whatever phases or learning styles we happen to be in during each semester. This is not to say, this will be without its challenges. I will streamline as best as I can and will be as structures as possible.

Secondly, keep in mind, this is not the basic AP class with content learning and then assessments. This is a student-centered skill-based class driven by preparation for the required AP tasks. Even though we will be focused on the theme of Sustainability, there are connections to all disciplines allowing for individual student choice. Usually, discussions and daily activities blossom organically and take varying amounts of time. This means a traditional calendar is truly not possible. I cannot provide daily lesson plans. The structure is organized by required AP skills monthly and then weekly assignments to apply these skills. You will need to create a time management approach that works for you and your virtual team with which you are working. Each week will focus on a different element of the course-arguments, evaluating credible sources, questioning, etc. Each week, beginning in September, will also require the completion of a weekly/bi-weekly article or TED talk analysis and a weekly reflection. All assignments will be completed and submitted through GOOGLE CLASSROOM and/or TURNITIN.

Lastly, because the division into red and blue cohorts divided an already small class size, teams will transcend red and blue cohorts. You WILL need to work with the entire group of students in the period assigned. There is NO WAY to complete the team portion of this class without this. In addition, in the past, students from both period 1 and 2 have worked together. There will be remote activities where you will work together online through Google Meet and will allow you to meet all your classmates in each full period. This will become increasingly more significant during the second semester when we are officially in AP Performance tasks and my role as traditional teacher shifts dramatically (see course description-Role of Teacher).

In closing, thank you once again. This class is about scholarship and mastery of skills. This is not about points and punitive assignments of doing, but rather assessments that create authentic learning and mastery of critical thinking, reading, writing research, and effective communication. In today's world, this is needed more than ever. I look forward to a very interesting and academically challenging year.

Let's do this..

J. Best