

May 28, 2020

Dear AP Seminar Student,

Welcome to Advanced Placement Seminar!

I am so excited to have you in class and look forward to an awesome year. In 2018, I had a 97% AP exam pass rate, in 2019 I had a 94.5% pass rate and I hope even with the craziness of this year 2020 will be 100%. I hope it will be 100% with you as well. I know you can do this because it is unlike any other AP class/exam you ever took as YOU really control so much of what you earn. You get to show what you know, not what you don't know.

In AP Seminar, you will experience an AP class that is truly unique and it will set up apart from other students not only in the school but also in college. In Seminar, you will research controversial real-world issues (ex: border crisis, childhood obesity) from multiple perspectives. After gathering the information you will analyze the reliability and credibility of the sources. As a team and individually, you will develop credible, valid and evidence based arguments. You will present the information in academic papers and presentations. For instance, you could research whether wearing a mask is beneficial, whether certain diets are good for the environment or whether student should have more career and technical classes.

Having been in the first group of teachers ever to teach the course in 2014 and having been an AP College Board Reader since the first exam, I have a strong foundation in the curriculum as well as a network of teachers across the globe to professionally collaborate with and troubleshoot any concerns that arise. I am actually a Table Leader this year for College Board which means I will be back scoring other teachers and professors to make sure they are properly scoring the AP Exams for seminar.

The skills based nature of the course offers lends itself to having a lot of one on one assistance from me during the class, however I also stay afterschool one day a week. I also am available by appointment most any morning or afternoon if I do not have conflicts, simply email or talk to me a few days ahead of time. We will need to make sure we are always in contact with each other over the year given they many unknowns. Please make it a habit to check your email, canvas

Over the summer the best way to prepare for the class is read or watch current events. Any controversial topic going on today can be a potential topic you can use in class. Begin figuring out the main idea of the argument and see if you can follow their points and evidence. Begin actually fact checking articles or seeing if the source is biased (does the person/site have an agenda) or from an academically peer reviewed source (ex CDC or John Hopkins University).

This will be my 20th year of teaching. I honestly don't feel that old but given my pop culture references are out of date and the fact I am old enough to be your parent, it is a reality I yet can't embrace. In 2001, I began my career at SEHS as a social studies teacher teaching over the years CP/Honors World History, African American History and CP/Honors/ AP United States history. After 6 years I went to the Early/Middle College at GTCC Greensboro where I taught Honors World, US, and C&E. I was there until 2014 when I came to WGHS. I not only teach AP Seminar but also ran the AP Capstone Academy until this year. I missed my social studies content so much, I wanted to get back into the classroom full time. So I am 100% teacher!

When I am not at work, I enjoy time with my two young sons ages 4.5 and almost 2, husband and dog. We love being outdoors as much as possible. I have severe ADHD so I need you to sometimes remind me if I get sidetracked or email so I can add to my physical to do list.

Each year I have students who email or come back praising the skills they got in this class because they are doing so well in college when their peers are really struggling. With my guidance and your hard work (not even THAT hard), you can easily succeed in this class. Please email me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Diana Frye
fryed2@gcsnc.com