

AP Seminar Course Description and Curriculum

AP Seminar challenges students to explore and analyze thematic units based on the QUEST method of exploration. Through engagement in cross-curricular conversations, students apply inquiry and analysis to propose solutions to real-world problems. Seminar offers greater access to skills that assist students in drawing conclusions, and providing concrete, evidence-based arguments.

As the AP Program engages students in college-level work, the AP Seminar course may include perspectives that could be considered controversial, including references to ethnicity, nationality, religion, politics, race, dialect, sexuality, gender, or class. AP Seminar requires students to have the level of maturity and skill to thoughtfully consider and analyze diverse perspectives. The inclusion of topics, readings, texts, and other source materials is not intended as an endorsement by the College Board of the content, ideas, or values expressed in the material.

Optional Texts:

Jacobus, Lee A. *A World of Ideas: Essential Readings for College Writers*. Bedford/St Martins.
Turabian, Kate L. *Student's Guide to Writing College Papers*.
Levitt, Steven D., and Stephen J. Dubner. *Think Like a Freak*. Penguin Books, 2015.

QUEST Framework & Essential Unit Questions:

Q – Question and Explore

- 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 do I want to know, learn, or understand?
- What information do I need to answer my question?

U – Understand and Analyze

- 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 determine if a source is trustworthy?
- What are the implications of these arguments?

E – Evaluate Multiple Perspectives

- 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?
- From whose perspective is this information being presented, and how does that affect my evaluation?

S – Synthesize Ideas

- How do I connect and analyze the evidence in order to develop an argument and support a conclusion?
- What am I taking for granted?
- How do I acknowledge and account for my own biases and assumptions?

T – Team, Transform, and Transmit

- How can I benefit from reflecting on my own work?
- What contributions can I offer to a team?

AP Seminar Assessment Structure (as stated in the College Board Course Overview)

Team Project and Presentation (20%)

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- Individual Research Report
 - Team Multimedia Presentation and Oral Defense
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Individual Research-Based Essay and Presentation (35%)

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- Individual Written Argument
 - Individual Multimedia Presentation
 - Oral Defense
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End-of-Course Exam (45%)

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- Analyzing an Argument (3 short answer questions)
 - Synthesizing and creating an evidence-based argument (1 essay question)
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