

Course Name: AP Capstone Seminar

Duration: 1 Semester Full Year

Grade Level: 9th 10th 11th 12th (check all that apply)

Are there any prerequisites for the course?

We ***STRONGLY*** recommend you take AP English Language and Composition before enrolling in Capstone. Solid critical reading and writing skills are necessary on day one.

WHAT this course is about:

This is a college-level research and problem-solving class. You'll be working both in groups and independently to research complex, current, real-world problems from a variety of perspectives (and you get to choose what you research!) and come up with possible solutions for society to implement moving forward.

WHY take this course:

If you plan on heading into a research field in college, this course is for YOU! Additionally, this is a great class to take if you are:

- interested in the world around you
- like to determine what you're learning about
- enjoy analyzing and dissecting other's perspectives and arguments
- someone who can work with long deadlines and has great time management skills
- appreciate working with your peers and having discussions about complex topics
- prefer learning and working on subjects that have immediate relevance to the world
- preparing yourself for success in college!

****This class fulfills the senior Social Studies requirement.*

WHAT you'll learn:

Besides learning a great deal about three research topics of your choosing, you'll refine your ability to:

- gather current, relevant research from a variety of sources
- analyze and evaluate other's arguments and perspectives
- synthesize a variety of sources into a larger written report
- evaluate possible solutions to real-world problems for their limitations and implications
- articulate the strengths and weaknesses of various perspectives and solutions both in writing and verbally
- give formal, academic presentations to a professional, informed audience

WHAT you'll do:

For the most part, this course is broken into three larger units that span several weeks, two group research projects and one individual research project. These research projects are part of the AP exam, and in those projects you will:

- choose your topics and groups
- work together to divide the research
- determine the real-world problem to be solved and write a corresponding research question
- independently gather, analyze & evaluate, and synthesize research from a variety of Perspectives
- write formal reports on your findings and share your findings
- collaborate to determine what information to present to your audience
- determine possible solutions to your problem and articulate their strengths and weaknesses
- present your findings in an argument-based multimedia presentation to your peers

In addition, you'll take an AP test that asks you to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses in other's arguments (very similar to the AP English Language and Composition).

WHERE this could take you:

LC alumni who have taken this course report that Capstone helped prepare them for college more than any other class; you're going to have to do your own research, evaluations, assessments, and presentations in college, and this course will teach you how to do it!

OPTIONAL Course Outline ("scope and sequence", sequence chart, etc.)

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