AP Research Syllabus

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Course Description

The following is taken from the course description provided by College Board:

> AP Research, the second course in the AP Capstone experience, allows students to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, issue, or idea of individual interest. Students design, plan, and implement a yearlong investigation to address a research question. Through this inquiry, they further the skills they acquired in the AP Seminar course by learning research methodology, employing ethical research practices, and accessing, analyzing, and synthesizing information. Students reflect on their skill development, document their processes, and curate the artifacts of their scholarly work through a process and reflection portfolio. The course culminates in an academic paper of 4,000–5,000 words (accompanied by a performance, exhibit, or product where applicable) and a presentation with an oral defense.

AP Research is an AP Capstone course

AP Capstone is a diploma program developed by the College Board that focuses on training students through "the independent research, collaborative teamwork, and communication skills that are increasingly valued by colleges." Students may receive an AP Capstone diploma by successfully completing and passing the exams for a total of six AP courses, including the AP Capstone courses: Seminar and Research.

Pedagogy

AP Research uses the same, recursive, five-stage, "QUEST" approach as AP Seminar. AP Research will lead students directly through this "QUEST" process and evaluate their learning.

The stages of the QUEST Process:

Question and Explore	Challenge and explore the boundaries of your current knowledge.
Understand and Analyze	Contextualize arguments and comprehend authors' claims.
Evaluate Multiple Perspectives	Consider individual perspectives and the larger conversation of varied points of view.
Synthesize Ideas	Combine knowledge, ideas, and your own perspective into an argument.
Team, Transform & Transmit	Collaborate, reflect, and communicate your argument in a method suited to your audience.

Course Texts

There is no set text list for AP Research. Instead, the College Board encourages teachers to guide students in "conversations about complex academic and real-world issues through a variety of lenses, considering multiple points of view."

In addition to students conducting their own research, the teacher will provide access to the following text-types and resources:

- Academic papers
- Art, music, videos, and other media
- The College Board website, specifically the digital portfolio links, and Turnitin.com
- Charts, graphs, and other forms of data representation
- Excerpts from the *AP® Research Course and Exam Description*
- Excerpts from the *AP® Research Workshop Handbook and Resources*
- Digital databases, including EBSCOhost, and others
- News reports
- Op-Ed pieces

- Past AP® Research videos
- Research writing and style-formatting guides

Academic Integrity

Students must adhere to the AP Capstone™ Policy on Plagiarism and Falsification or Fabrication of Information below:

A student who fails to acknowledge the source or author of any and all information or evidence taken from the work of someone else through citation, attribution, or reference in the body of the work, or through a bibliographic entry, will receive a score of 0 on that particular component of the AP Seminar and/or AP Research Performance Assessment Task. In AP Seminar, a team of students that fails to properly acknowledge sources or authors on the Team Multimedia Presentation will receive a group score of 0 for that component of the Team Project and Presentation.

A student who incorporates falsified or fabricated information (e.g., evidence, data, sources and/or authors) will receive a score of 0 on that particular component of the AP Seminar and/or AP Research Performance Assessment Task. In AP Seminar, a team of students that incorporates falsified or fabricated information in the Team Multimedia Presentation will receive a group score of 0 for that component of the Team Project and Presentation (p. 35, CED).

Student work will be submitted through the TurnItIn® program to evaluate originality and source attribution.

Assessment

In AP Research, students are assessed on the academic paper and presentation and oral defense of research. The academic paper is 4,000–5,000 words, and the presentation and oral defense (POD) take approximately 15–20 minutes. Rubrics are available on the College Board Website.

Performance Task Feedback

This class is incredibly unique in that students prepare the entirety of what is assessed as the "exam" outside of class. Their final papers are uploaded using the digital portfolio, and their final presentations and oral defenses filmed by their teacher. Since their papers and presentations are their exam, there are strict limitations on the role of the instructor in grading such assignments. Per College Board policy, students may NOT have their papers corrected by teachers, or sources given to them by teachers. The teacher may not provide direct feedback to the student for the paper or presentation. The teacher will advise students on appropriate forms of feedback and provide guidance to help students reflect on and refine their work.

Initial below to indicate agreement with the policy for Performance Task Feedback above:

Parent/Guardian initial: _____ **Student initial:** _____

Deadlines

The College Board has established a firm deadline for teachers to confirm submission of student papers and enter scoring of presentations; this is non-negotiable and missing these deadlines will result in failing the course and exam. In order to adequately prepare students for this deadline, there will be several smaller milestone deadlines determined by the teacher to ensure adequate student progress at different stages of the course.

Plan for the Year

These dates are subject to change, but should help you understand the pacing of our course. Specific deadlines will be communicated well in advance.

August-September	Students choose a topic/issue, carry out preliminary research, develop an annotated bibliography, and finalize a research question and proposal.
September-October	Students present a preliminary inquiry proposal for peer review; identify the need for, recruit, and begin communication with expert advisors; finalize and submit a proposal; and reflect on feedback received.
October- November	Students complete the background component of their inquiry and finalize the choice and design of their inquiry method. If necessary, they submit a revised version of their proposal for final approval. Proposals are due to the teacher November 15th so evaluation and final submission can be made by College Board's November 30th deadline.
November-January	Students implement their inquiry methods while engaging in progress and reflection interviews with the teacher to ensure challenges with methods and time management are addressed. Students curate the inquiry process, writing, and reflection artifacts from September to March in their PREP. The first sections of students' academic papers - which includes the Introduction and Literature Review- is due the week of December 18th.

January - March	Students collect data and interpret results. Students finish writing, proofread, and peer review their academic papers, ensuring all components are present and meet the rubric criteria. Students finalize additional scholarly work or product if such was required as a result of their inquiry. Students continue to develop/finalize their presentation and oral defense.
March - April	Students finish and submit their papers, present their work, and teacher scores the Presentation and Oral Defense and uploads scores. ● April 1-3rd: presentation rehearsals *Note: Students must arrange for viewing of additional scholarly work by teacher and panelists prior to giving their POD (if applicable).* ● April 14th-16th: final presentations ● April 30th: College Board Deadline for paper and POD score submissions
May-June	AP Research students present summary of work and lessons learned to AP Seminar and/or other students. Students discuss the future ramifications of their research and next steps.

Grading

Students and parents should use Infinite Campus to check students' grades frequently. Grades will be derived from the following breakdown of percentages:

Classwork and Homework (PREP)	50%
Progress Deadlines and Projects	30%
Paper Completion	10 %
Presentation and Oral Defense	10%
Total	100%