Forsyth County Schools
Advanced Placement Research Syllabus 2023/2024

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Course Description (GaDOE/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 (p. 8, Course and Exam Description).

Standards: Standards for the AP Research course can be found in the AP Research Course and Exam Description - https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/digitalServices/pdf/ap/ap-research-course-and-exam-description.pdf

Required Assignments: Process and Reflection Portfolio (PREP) - Using a process and reflection portfolio, students document their inquiry processes, communication with their teachers and expert advisers, and store reflections on their thought processes. They will have scheduled conferences with their teacher for review and approval of their scholarly work as evidenced by the portfolio. This portfolio will be routinely used for the following:
  o Weekly reflections to guide in topic/question development
  o Source collection and organization to develop research question and method
  o Building academic paper in segments
  o Building and storing oral presentation preparation

College Board Submission (Results in AP numerical score for college submission)
- Academic Paper (75% of AP score) – The academic paper consists of 4,000-5,000 words and will be written over the course of the year. This paper showcases a student's research conducted during the class.
- Presentation/Oral Defense (25% of AP score) – Once a student has submitted their academic paper, they will also be required to present their research findings and defend their choices regarding research methods and the contribution their research presents to the current body of knowledge. Students will present to a panel that will also pose questions for the students to explain. The oral presentation/defense will last approximately 15-20 minutes. A visual aid is required for the presentation.

Formative Assessments - Classwork typically will be focused on developing skills to aid in the development of the academic paper and POD. These assignments may include elevator pitches, peer reviews, poster presentations, and class discussions.

Summative Assessments – Some items included in the PREP will be graded as summative assignments. Students will complete an annotated bibliography that shows an alignment of sources to the research topic and an inquiry proposal that clearly identifies the topic of study, research question, preliminary research, and the relevant methodological and ethical considerations. Drafts of the academic paper will be submitted several times throughout the school year to assess student progress. Note - College Board prohibits the teacher from providing specific feedback on the academic paper and presentation/oral defense since they are components of the student's AP score.

Required Materials: *Binder/folder for PREP, pens/pencils, highlighters (optional)*

Availability for Extra Help: *Extra help is available before (7:45-8:15) and after school (3:45-4:00) by appointment. Students also may obtain passes for help during IF.*

Makeup Work: *Make up work is defined as work assigned during a student's absence, not work assigned prior to an absence. The student has five (5) school days upon returning to school to complete make-up work. The teacher has the discretion to grant a longer period to make up work if there are extenuating circumstances.*

Grading Calculations:
Course Average = 50% (1st Sem. Course Work) + 50% (2nd Sem. Course Work)
1st and 2nd Semester Course Work = 75% Summative + 25% Formative

Grading Policy:
A = 90 – 100
B = 80 – 89
C = 70 – 79
Failing = Below 70

Formative Assessments include, but are not limited to, homework, class work, labs, investigations, practice tests, rough drafts, and sections of projects/research papers/presentations.

Summative Assessments include, but are not limited to, unit tests, final projects, final essays, formal lab reports, final research papers, and final presentations.

Learning Resources/Textbook(s): All learning resources, both print and digital, are meant to support and enhance the student learning experience in this class. Below are the names of the textbooks and websites that will be used in this course. Some of the web-based resources require parent permission per federal regulations. Federal laws that guide parent permission requirements are as follows:
- **Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA):** The school is required by CIPA to have technology measures and policies in place that protect students from harmful materials including those that are obscene and pornographic. Any harmful content contained within inappropriate sites will be blocked. http://fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/cipa.html
- **Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA):** COPPA applies to commercial companies and limits their ability to collect personal information from children under 13 years of age. No personal student information is collected for commercial purposes. https://www.ftc.gov/tips-advice/business-center/guidance/complying-coppa-frequently-asked-questions-0
- **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):** FERPA protects the privacy of student education records and gives parents the right to review records. Under FERPA, schools may disclose directory information in certain circumstances. http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa

As a part of their participation in AP Courses, students may be expected to utilize accounts created with the College Board via their official website. These accounts provide students with access to AP Course resources, AP Exam practice materials, individualized results from AP Exams and other assessments offered by the College Board. Parents and students should review the College Board privacy policies and collaboratively create and manage this account. For additional information, please contact the AP Coordinator at your student's school, and visit https://privacy.collegeboard.org/privacy-center/.

Please review the resource list. Each website related to the curriculum resources is provided along with its privacy policies. Should you have any questions regarding these resources, immediately contact the course teacher via email or phone.

Name of Resource*	Hard copy/Website	Privacy Policy
Newsela	Digital supplemental material (accessed via ClassLink)	https://newsela.com/about/privacy-policy/

*** The following resources are county approved. These resources may vary by school due to sequencing, pacing, curriculum design, and/or individual needs of students.**

Parent Initial for Approval **	Name of Resource	Website	Privacy Policy
	AP Classroom/Digital Portfolio	MyAP	Privacy Policy
	Ebsco	Ebsco (through AP Digital Portfolio)	Privacy Policy
	JSTOR	JSTOR (through Classlink)	Privacy Policy
	GALILEO	GALILEO (through Classlink)	Privacy Policy
	Turnitin	Turnitin (through AP Digital Portfolio)	Privacy Policy
	TED Ed	TED Ed Science and Technology lessons	Privacy Policy

**** The following resources are web-based resources that require parent permission. By signing the syllabus, the parent is approving these resources. Should you have any questions regarding any of these classroom resources, please contact your student's teacher via email.**

I, _____, have read this course syllabus and approve of its contents. I agree to allow my student to use each of the classroom resources listed in the learning resource section. I will support my student in following the classroom expectations outlined in this course syllabus. I agree that I am the person who is legally allowed to consent for my student, whose name is listed below.

_____
Student's Name (Print)

_____
Parent's Name (Print)

_____   _____
Parent Signature   Date