

**COURSE:** Gifted and Talented Seminar II (2015-2016)

**SCHOOL:** Cabot High School

**INSTRUCTOR:** Sarah Cantrell

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Classroom 1508

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Plan Period: 11:00-11:30 (4th)

Website: <http://gtseminar.weebly.com>

**REQUIRED BOOKS & MATERIALS**

- A small binder (½” or 1”) or folder filled with paper
- Writing utensils (pens, pencils, etc.)
- Graphing calculator

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed for students who have scored well on the PSAT and/or the ACT as sophomores AND have successfully completed GT Seminar I or received the approval of the GT instructor. The primary mission of this class is to prepare students to maximize their score on the PSAT/NMSQT and achieve National Merit Semifinalist status. Moreover, the class will provide support to the students as they take the SAT to confirm their PSAT/NMSQT scores to achieve National Merit Finalist status. For those students who do not score high enough for to achieve National Merit Semifinalist status, the course will provide opportunities to raise their SAT or ACT scores enough to earn the Distinguished Governor’s Scholarship. Students will also develop post-secondary educational plans, complete a semester-long career project, and visit at least 2 universities. Finally, students will learn to accept responsibility for their learning, use convergent and divergent thinking to develop alternate solutions, and value inquiry and lifelong learning.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES**

The student will:

1. Learn strategies and advanced content to enable him/herself to maximize his/her performance on high stakes exams.
2. Demonstrate growth in ability to collaborate in learning and support the learning of others.
3. Demonstrate growth in ability to use reflection as a tool for learning.
4. Explore methods to enhance decision making, to develop leadership characteristics, and to meet or exceed in personal growth goals.

**EVALUATION AND GRADING**

1. Active participation in weekly assignments: test strategies, content focus assignments, and process learning skills (both independently and as groups)
2. I update grades once a week, generally on Fridays. In HAC (the online grading system), you will see the following numbers or letters:

- X: stands for “exempt.” You will see this when you have missed a day and cannot make up an assignment or activity that we did in class. An X does not factor into your grade *at all*; it neither helps you nor harms you.
- Z: stands for “zero.” You have not turned in an assignment that I have graded. If you turn in an assignment for which you have received a Z, the paper will be graded and will replace the Z. Zs calculate as *zeroes* in your grade. Simply turn in your assignment to eliminate the Zs!
- Any number: this is your grade. Numbers indicate an assignment has been graded. Numbers will never change. Once you get a grade, it will be your grade forever. Do your assignments right the first time!

**\*A note about missing assignments:** The penalty for missing an assignment is simply DOING THE ASSIGNMENT. If you are unable to complete the assignment in class or on your own time, I will reserve a space for you in detention hall. If that is not sufficient time for you to complete the missing assignment, I will reserve you a space in Saturday school. Please let me know if you require this service. It is thoughtfully provided at no charge to you as a benefit for being part of GT Seminar II.

#### **ABSENCE PROCEDURES**

- 1.** If you are absent, check the calendar at the front of the class or online to see what you have missed.
- 2.** Handouts are placed daily in the labeled drawers in front of my desk. Help yourself to what you have missed. Handouts older than one week are placed in the bottom drawer. They are also made available to you online.
- 3.** According to the handbook, you have as many days as you have missed for making up assignments. Please see the note about missing assignments above.
- 4.** You are responsible for learning the material that was covered while you were absent! Make sure that you get with a classmate and copy their notes, learn the vocabulary, etc.
- 5.** All handouts, notes, presentations, etc. are on my website. I update the website pretty much daily and upload all digital course materials. Material from previous weeks is archived until the end of the grading period so that you can access it for study or makeup purposes.

#### **CLASS RULES**

1. Respect yourself.
2. Respect others.
3. Responsibility for all your actions.