

There are four components to the senior seminar course:

1. Write a **research paper** -a student driven paper demonstrating the student's ability to access, sort, select and validate information, and incorporate it in a research paper centered around a student chosen research topic and focused thesis. (150 pts)
2. Design and develop a **project**- (related to the paper) showcasing the application of knowledge, personal and interpersonal skills and core skills-reading, writing, thinking, speaking, presenting, problem solving as well as live skills time management etc. (75 pts)
3. Compile a **portfolio**- demonstrating/ validating the student's Senior Project learning journey. Before hearing each student speak, the judges will preview the student's Senior Project portfolio. (40 pts)
4. Deliver a related formal **speech** demonstrating oral communication skills. (The speech is presented to a board of judges selected from faculty, community members, classified staff and administration who have some background in the students' areas of study.) (100 pts)

Course Goals:

- To design and implement a culminating, capstone requirement for high school exit students
- To integrate, focus, standardize and unify the curriculum
- To allow students to demonstrate self directed, goal setting peak performance
- To provide opportunities for students to take *risks* while remaining in an environment of high expectations, standards and safety nets
- To provide a performance based learning experience that authentically checks for acquisition of attitudes, skills and knowledge

Schedule of Due Dates:

Due dates are very important. An excel spreadsheet with projected due dates will be given and discussed with each student.

Class time

Every Friday for forty-five minutes to an hour and fifteen minutes the instructors will be given direct instruction on how to complete tasks, along the journey of senior seminar. The student will receive step by step instructions on how to complete each step of the senior seminar course.

Valley Oaks Charter School
Senior Seminar Syllabus

Choosing a general topic area, completing effective research, choosing the appropriate project, assembling the portfolio and giving an effective speech are key steps the students will learn in the course.

Many class sessions will be used to meet with the student individually and check progress and give individual suggestions and constructive criticism, in order to prepare the student for the next phase in the course.

Grading:

The following list explains the points earned in this course:

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|--|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research Paper | 150 pts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Project | 75 pts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Portfolio | 40 pts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Speech | 100 pts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization (In class points) | 75 pts |

Total Points: 440 pts

If the student should fall way behind in course due dates, the instructor may, in the best interest of the student, encourage the student to repeat the course.

My goal is to provide student support throughout the course. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

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