

ACADEMICS | PARTNERSHIP | LEADERSHIP | INNOVATION

**Capstone 9 Course Syllabus**

**Instructor Information:** Mr. Charles Becker **Email address**: cmbecke1@asu.edu **Location**: Room: 262

**Phone number**: 602-496-3098

**Course website**: cbeckerasuprep.weebly.com

**Course Description**

A Capstone is a mini-thesis project that students will participate in to develop a deep understanding of topics that interest them in the context of larger, global understandings taught across the curriculum. Students pose a question of research, explore and investigate that question in the context of a broader community, and present their findings in a formal written and oral presentation at the end of each semester.

Students will follow the same peers and advisor throughout all capstone experiences from 9th through 12th grades, allowing each student to develop deep connections to peers and to have a consistent staff resource to support their learning journey. Families will also have a single point of contact with whom they regularly interact to get support for their child’s learning and to discuss their student’s academic and social development.

**Materials Required in Class Everyday**

-1 ½ or 2 inch binder -college-ruled loose-leaf paper -Google account with email

-Agenda ***or*** Electronic agenda app - 5 binder subject dividers -complete homework as assigned

-Pencils or pens and highlighters -Independent reading book (available for check-out from class library)

**Capstone 9 Course Overview\***

Students will work collaboratively and independently with Seed Spot Next to develop a thorough plan and presentation for their community venture project.

Students will work effectively with others to build a community within their classroom and school.

*\*Course Overview texts and plan subject to change at teacher’s discretion.*

**Grading & Assessment**

Students will receive two grades for the course: an academic grade and an effort grade. The academic grade will be reflective of student mastery of the course standards and will give useful feedback for students, parents, and teachers. *The year-end academic grade will also be what colleges see reported as the grade on the academic transcript for Capstone 10.* In accordance with ASU Preparatory Academy High School policy, we will follow this grading scale:

A+ 97%-100% C 70%-79%

A 90%-96% D 60%-69%

B 80%-89% F 50%-59%

Students may meet with me to discuss opportunities to prove that they can meet the standards, which may include an alternative assignment, a different form of assessment, or a resubmission of the same assignment.

Study definition – time spent reviewing class notes, concepts, graded assignments & other related materials to reinforce a student’s knowledge and to seek additional mastery of a concept.

*Studying is something that students must make time for outside of class every day.* It is only through routine study that a student begins to understand concepts from class and therefore increase their ability to perform well in class. Studying is not formally assigned by the teacher but must be a conscious decision by the student in order to exceed their current academic performance.

**Academic Integrity Policy**

At this school we practice the “ASU Prep Way,” and as a part of this policy, it is essential for students to complete their own work at all times.  Academic dishonesty or “cheating” means using some or all of the work of another person as their own, copying information/answers from another student or website, plagiarizing, allowing another student to copy work, excessive collaboration on an assignment meant to be done individually, or sharing test/quiz questions/answers with student who have not yet taken the test/quiz.  If a student is caught violating these guidelines, he/she will receive disciplinary action according to the following classroom policy: 1st offense: Student/teacher conference & no credit for the assignment with possible make-up

2nd offense: Student/teacher & parent conference & no credit for the assignment with no opportunity for make-up

3rd offense: Involvement of the Dean of Students and may lead to no credit for the course.

**Attendance & Make-up Work Policy**

Because we are a college-preparatory school, we use challenging curriculum. Additionally, classes held on Maroon and Gold days are the equivalent of two days of class. This makes it very difficult to catch up when absent. Being absent from school does not just mean a student has missed an assignment. It means that at student has missed a lesson and activity that helps a student practice skills that help them complete an assignment successfully. However we understand that there are days when absences are unavoidable.

In order to foster responsibility and maturity in high school students, the following procedure has been established for make-up work:

The ***student must arrange*** a ***make-up work appointment*** with the teacher after school to discuss the missed class. This should be done as soon as the student returns to school and should not wait for the day the student is in class. **Students will have two calendar days to make-up work missed due to an excused absence.** *After this time period a grade of zero will be entered in the grade book and the student will need to follow the policy for missing work to make-up the assignment.*

**Classroom Rules, Rewards, and Expectations**

School is a place where students come to prepare for their future. The expectation is that you will come with a professional attitude, prepared for class and in professional dress. As high school students, the expectation is professionalism and maturity. The ASU Prep Way encompasses all aspects of classroom and school conduct: **Be Kind, Work Hard, Be Smart**

***Be Kind***

The English 9 classroom is a place where all students will feel safe to learn. While we are together, we will respect each other’s opinions, listen to one another, and establish a supportive learning community. My classroom will be a place of kindness, and I will not tolerate any bullying and/or disrespectful behavior toward anyone (teacher or student) or any unprofessional conduct of any kind.

***Work Hard***

We will have fun in English 9, but we will do so while working hard! Our purpose at ASU Prep is to prepare you for success in college and in the community at large. In order to do so, we will commit in solidarity to a challenging and rigorous learning environment. I expect students to be on task, complete all assignments to the best of their ability, and seek help when needed. Coming to class prepared will be instrumental in accomplishing this. If you meet this standard then you will achieve greatness in English 9!

***Be Smart***

This expectation does not refer to intelligence, as all students at ASU Prep are already intelligent and intellectually curious. Rather, this expectation encompasses wisdom and good judgment with regard to all the rules in the ASU Prep Handbook including issues with technology, mobile devices, uniform, attendance, etc. I will enforce all school rules. In addition, each assignment or learning task will have specific directions. It is your job to read each set of directions **very carefully** and to ***plan time accordingly*** in order to ensure your success.

*Please keep the course syllabus in a safe place in order to have access to the contact information and policies. Students are also provided a copy and required to have it in their class binder for reference.*

**“I have read the course syllabus for Capstone 9 at ASU Preparatory Academy and agree to the policies and academic and behavioral expectations.”**

**Student Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Best Parent Contact Information:**

**Email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Preferred method of communication (circle one): email or phone call**

**Any other information you would like to let me know about your child:**

Wednesday, July 27, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Welcome to the 2016-2017 year school year at ASU Preparatory Academy. I look forward to working in conjunction with you throughout this school year to ensure a successful educational experience for your child. This letter will give you a clear understanding of the expectations for my classroom and will let you know how I will be communicating with you this year.

First, I would like to share a little about myself. I am a graduate of Arizona State University. I have been teaching in high schools since 2011 and have extensive experience in social studies, mentorship, and coaching. I am excited to be a part of such an enriched educational community.

From the first day of school, students will enter my classroom with these expectations: Be kind. Work hard. Be smart. I have found through my experience that these three guidelines encompass all procedures and establish the environment I hope to achieve. I commit to getting to know your child because the best way to maintain a learning environment will be to establish a relationship built upon solidarity, with students, parents, and teachers working toward a common goal of educational excellence. You will find that I will have very high expectations of your son or daughter but that I will also be very caring and respectful in this approach.

As your child’s teacher I commit to coming to class prepared, with regular attendance and providing a respectful environment for them learn. In order to provide the best opportunity for your child I hope to see them with supplies and completed assignments and in class everyday. If supplies are an issue please do not hesitate to contact me. I can find help with many of these issues. If there is ever a time when they need to be absent please remind them to follow the make-up work policy so that we can get them back on track.

Additionally, the best educational experience happens when there is sync between home and school. Therefore, I commit to creating an open communication line between myself and you, your child’s first teachers. *Emails will be responded to promptly and phone calls within 24 hours on school days.* Please visit my website: cbeckerasuprep.weebly.com for updates on assignments. I’m always available by email throughout the day but if you prefer a phone call please leave a message on the voicemail and I will return your call after school.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the mission of ASU Preparatory academy. Together we will promote the four pillars of this school: Academics, Partnership, Leadership, and Innovation.

Best regards,

Mr. Charles Becker

Government/Economics Instructor

Room 261

Arizona State University Preparatory Academy

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