

Freshman Seminar

Teacher: Claudia Bautista-Nicholas

Office Hours: Before school Monday 7:30-8:15 or by appointment

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Course Description

Freshman Seminar is about making informed choices. The first semester focuses on the choices we make regarding our academic, career, health and lifestyle goals, now and into the future. Using *Get Focused . . . Stay Focused*, students will develop an online, skills-based, 10-year career and education plan that will be used and modified throughout high school in order to help students fulfill their passions. In this course students will identify their interests and life goals, discover a career aligned to those interests and goals, and develop an educational pathway to prepare for that career.

The second semester focuses on how we can learn from historical decisions in order to better understand how our choices impact society today. Using *Facing History and Ourselves* resources and model, students confront the complexities of history by analyzing the American Eugenics movement, the Holocaust, and other examples of genocide and atrocity as lenses for exploring their own identity and community in order to make the essential connections between history and the moral choices they confront in their own lives. One of the many goals of the semester is to engage students of diverse backgrounds in an examination of racism, prejudice, and anti-Semitism in order to promote the development of a more humane and informed citizenry. This semester will culminate in a civic action project that challenges students to become upstanders in their school and community.

Throughout both semesters students will develop the following skills: how to ask higher-level questions, organization, note taking, study strategies, research, debate, seminar, presentation, analysis, and writing. Students will also explore the four domains of Social Justice: Identity, Diversity, Justice, and Action to help create a more just, equitable, and safe community. Students will also utilize the resources available at Santa Monica High School to develop habits for success and plan for the future.

A passing grade in Freshman Seminar is required to graduate from Santa Monica High School.

Textbooks

- Bingham, Mindy, Sandy Stryker, and Tanja Easson. *Career Choices and Changes: A Workbook for Discovering Who You Are, What You Want, and How to Get It*. Santa Barbara, CA: Academic Innovations, 2012.
- Bingham, Mindy, and Sandy Stryker. *Workbook and Portfolio: For the Text: Career Choices: A Guide for Teens and Young Adults: Who Am I?, What Do I Want?, How Do I Get It?* Santa Barbara, CA: Academic Innovations, 2015.
- Facing History and Ourselves. *Holocaust and Human Behavior*. Brookline, MA: Facing History and Ourselves National Foundation, 1994
- Facing History and Ourselves. *Race and Membership in American History: The Eugenics Movement*. Brookline, MA: Facing History and Ourselves National Foundation, 2002.

First Semester Grading Policy

Grades will be calculated through weighted categories. Points will be awarded for the following assignments and activities:

Classwork and Homework are worth 40% of your final grade.

You will record classwork and homework assignments in your notebook or three ring binder. Notebooks will be checked weekly.

10 Year Plan is worth 45% of your final grade.

The foundation for first semester is the completion of your 10 year plan.

Final Interview is worth 15% of your final grade.

Second Semester Grading Policy

Grades will be calculated through weighted categories. Points will be awarded for the following assignments and activities:

Classwork and Homework are worth 40% of your final grade.

Projects and Document Based Questions are worth 45% of your final grade.

Civic Action Project is worth 15% of your final grade. The second semester final is a civic action project presented to the communi.

Grade Scale:

A 90-100% B 80-89.9% C 70-79.9% D 60-69.9% F 0-59.9%

Grades will not be rounded

It is expected that students will complete all assignments and projects. If a student does not complete his/her homework, the instructor will call home to make arrangements with the parent to make sure that the assignment will be completed the following day. If a student is absent, first, he/she should go to my website (www.srabautistanicholas.weebly.com) to search for the assignments missed. Then, he/she should come see me during office hours in order to make sure that all work is complete and that all of his/her questions have been answered. **IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MEET WITH THE TEACHER.**

Plagiarism/Cheating Policy:

A student caught plagiarizing from the Internet, a study aid, any text or other type of unreferenced source, or another student will be handled according to the district-wide cheating policy. If a student feels unable to complete an assignment on his or her own, please see me for office hours or e-mail me questions. Major writing assignments will be submitted to turnitin.com.

Attendance:

It is crucial that you are in class every day. *If you are absent, it is your responsibility to come and get any work you missed while you were absent.* You may see me during my office hours or before school to obtain any work you missed or check the course website. For excused absences, you have the amount of days you were absent to complete the work. **Work for an unexcused absence will not be accepted.**

Class Expectations:

Students are expected to follow all classroom rules and procedures as well as the school wide policies for behavior.

Website: Please see my website for additional updates, electronic versions of handouts and the complete semester assignment list: <http://srabautistanicholas.weebly.com/seminario-de-primer-antildeo.html>

Materials Statement

Students enrolled in *Freshman Seminar* are not required to pay any fee, deposit, or other charge for participation in an educational activity offered by the school or the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, except as authorized by law. Donations are sought and accepted for various activities and supplies, and are at times critical to the continued success of classes and activities, but donations are voluntary.

Recommended Classroom Supplies

Listed below are supplies that we suggest students bring to class this year. This suggested list has been compiled based on needs identified to support the delivery of the *Freshman Seminar* curriculum. These supplies are not required, and full participation in the course does not require the purchase of any of these materials. State law requires us to provide a public education free of charge. Subject to certain exceptions, the right to a free public education means we cannot require students or their families to purchase materials, supplies, equipment or uniforms for any school activity; to pay security deposits for access, participation, materials, or equipment; or to make donations to a class, activity or program. Therefore, while this list suggests that students bring a number of items, they are voluntary. No student will be restricted from participation if they do not bring any of these supplies to school.

Recommended materials:

- Three ring binder 1 ½ inches, or a section in your multiple course binder
- Lined paper
- Pencil or pen
- Binder Reminder
- All photocopies of assigned readings, texts, and handouts for the current unit.
- For final exam interview: Students need a business casual outfit. Please let me know early if you do not have appropriate attire.

The instructor reserves the right to make additions, changes, and deletions to the syllabus during the course of the year as appropriate for student learning.

Materials check is on _____

Back to school night is Tuesday Sept. 11th

Please sign the section below and return it on _____

All parents and students: Please join Remind 101

Remind 101

On your cell phone dial: **81010** or on your computer, go to <https://www.remind.com/join>

Write text: **@9bcedd**

I have read, understood and agree to follow the course syllabus. Period _____

Student Name _____ Student Sig. _____

Parent/ Guardian Name _____ Parent/ Guardian Sig. _____

Please provide a telephone number _____ and an email address

_____ that I may use to get in touch with you.

Please use the space below to write any questions or concerns you may have for me.