

Jefferson Academy High School

11251 Reed Way
Broomfield, CO 80021
(720)887-1992

Senior Seminar – Figure it out!

Course Term: Fall Term, first quarter August 14 – October 12
Instructor Name: Mr. Eric Thimsen & Mrs. Mary Beth Mellott
Contact Information: ethimsen@jajags.com mmellott@jajags.com
Class Location: Room 241 Thimsen office hours 7:35 – 8:00 M, T, Th. *due to coaching, unavailable after school*
A Block EVERFI code: 857f451b
C Block EVERFI code: 91803085
D Block EVERFI code: 47e0f1ff

Course Description - Mission

This course is designed to facilitate a smooth transition from high school to college or career. To help accomplish this, students will develop and demonstrate their understanding of personal responsibility in finances, college preparation and formal correspondence. In order to demonstrate financial viability, students must be 'certified' on the EVERFI financial site as a precondition for passing the finance portion of the course. Additionally, students will complete college application essays (personal statement) and conduct a large inquiry-based research project, which includes a research paper and media presentation that draws on a specific aspect of their career of interest.

Course materials

As with any other class, you should have a spiral notebook or some type of notebook with paper, blue or black pens or pencils, a calculator and a box of tissue or container of disinfectant wipes. The use of your own computer will be especially useful in senior seminar. Those with a device will find that it will be used daily and will mesh well with the demands of a college readiness course.

Course policies and procedures:

1. You should be to class daily and on time. I will enforce the absent and late policies outlined for you in the JA student handbook
2. Students may have closed drink containers and light snacks. The ability to have this policy is directly related to the ability of students to throw trash away and keep food or drink off of the floor.
3. Students are only permitted to use personal electronic devices in the classroom on a limited basis. Mobile phones will be stored in the 'phone jail' on the wall. If a student chooses to use their phone in violation of class policy, the device may be confiscated following the procedures outlined in the student handbook. For the first confiscation, I will simply have a word with you and give the phone back after class. For the second confiscation, I will take the phone to the office for the remainder of the day. For subsequent confiscations, you will be assigned to Friday school and administration may apply additional consequences.
4. Make up work for those serving a suspension will follow JA policy on suspended students.
5. Academic honesty and integrity is central to the JA course of study. There is a ZERO tolerance policy for those that engage in academic dishonesty. Cheating, copying, or plagiarizing will result in a zero for that assignment. When writing or doing projects, it is important to attribute all ideas, words or thoughts of another, to that person. JA and district policies apply in all cases of plagiarism.
6. Respect for others ideas and items are paramount to a safe learning environment. All communication should be honoring and respectful. There is to be no hazing, no unwanted communication or harassing, and no touching things that don't belong to you as per JA and district policy.
7. All work and presentations should be turned in on time and done to the best of your ability. As a rule, I do not accept late work unless the student has pre-cleared the reason for the late assignment. As a senior, it is paramount that you begin to submit things in a timely manner. When this isn't possible, communication is essential if you hope to have the assignment accepted.

Course grading

Grades in this class are determined on a weighted basis. The categories and weights attached to them are as follows:

- College Application and Research paper - 25%
- Presentation - 25%
- Homework and in-class assignments including your Everfi work- 25%

- Portfolio - 25%

Students should monitor their own grades continually as they will be updated regularly. The grading scale is as follows:

A = 90 – 100%

B= 80 – 89%

C= 70 – 79%

D= 60 – 69%

In the most general terms, you can expect to receive an 'A' if you perform at an exceptional level, meet and exceed the expectations of the course, complete your work on time, and show exceptional creativity and critical thinking in the senior thesis and presentation.

Those that earn a 'B' will have worked hard, met the course objectives, turned assignments in on time and showed a solid amount of creativity in the thesis and presentation.

A 'C' student will have met the basic objectives of the course but will not have gone above and beyond on assignments and research. Most 'C' students in senior seminar put assignments off until the very last minute but meet minimum expectations for the course.

A 'D' or an 'F' student in senior seminar failed to turn in many assignments, likely put little time into their senior thesis and did not approach the course with the seriousness demanded of a J.A. graduate. In many cases, this student needs to think long and hard about whether they are college ready.

1st Quarter sequence of topics and events **Please note that this calendar is subject to change. I will advise you of changes as they arise**

<u>Week/Dates</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Approximate Dates</u>
1	Cover Letters/Talking points/SAVINGS	August 14 - 17
Aug. 14	(Mrs. Mellott/Mr. Thimsen) - Rules, syllabus, talking points	
Aug. 15	(Thimsen) writing cover letters:	
Aug. 16	(Mellott).	
Aug. 17	(Thimsen) Senior Thesis. Intro and discussion Saving is due by the end of class.	
2	Banking/Payment Types/Finalize cover letters	August 20-24
Aug. 20	(Mellott) -	
Aug. 21	(Thimsen) – Intro to Banking and Payment Due: Get onto and figure out your turnitin and Easybib login – submit proof of enrollment into these programs	
Aug 22	(Mellott)	
Aug. 23	(Thimsen) – Due: Cover Letters.	
Aug. 24	(Thimsen): DUE: both Banking and Payment types lessons on EVERFI	
3	Credit scores/Personal Statements	August 27 – 31
Aug. 27	(Mellott)	
Aug. 28	(Mellott)	

Aug. 29 (Thimsen) **Due: 1) 10 note cards on easybibfor research project and 2) Intro paragraph for research project with a thesis and compete detailed outline. Topic:** personal statement drafting

Aug. 30 (Thimsen) **Topic:** Debt: Debunking credit myths, credit scores

Aug. 31 (Thimsen) **Topic:** Due: Credit Scores on Everfi

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4 Higher Education/Personal Statements/Topic finalize September 3-7

Sept. 3 NO SCHOOL - LABOR DAY

Sept. 4 (Mellott)

Sept. 5 (Mellott) **Due:** Personal Statements

Topic: Life After High School; Not taking on debt, cash flowing college and education options Continue Research topic proposal

Sept. 6 (Thimsen) **Topic: Research topic proposals**

Sept. 7 (Thimsen) **Due: Research Topic Proposals and Higher Ed. On Everfi**

5 Renting vs. Owning/ September 10-14

Sept. 10 (Mellott)

Sept. 11 (Mellott)

Sept. 12 (Thimsen) **Topic:** Renting vs. Owning

Sept. 13 (Thimsen) **Due: Home ownership/ Life plan research and report .**

Sept. 14 (Thimsen) **Due: Renting vs. Owning on Everfi**

6 Insurance & Taxes September 17-21

Sept. 17 (Mellott)

Sept. 18 (Mellott)

Sept. 19 (Thimsen) **Topic:** Money and Relationships Understanding your money personality, marriage and money and communication

Sept. 20 (Thimsen) **Careers and taxes;** Best practices of successful people, Income and taxes

Sept. 21 (Thimsen) **Due: Insurance and Taxes on Everfi**

7 Consumer Protection/Research Project September 24-28

Sept. 24 (Thimsen)

Topic: Research Project

Sept. 25 (Mellott)

Sept. 26 (Mellott)

Sept. 27 (Thimsen) Work on research project or paper

Sept. 28 (Thimsen) **Due: Consumer Protection on Everfi**

8 & 9 Investing, Tying up loose ends, preparing for presentations October 1-5

Oct. 1 (Mellott)

Oct. 2 (Mellott)

Oct. 3 (Thimsen)

Oct. 4 (Thimsen)

Oct. 5 (Thimsen) **Due: Investing on Everfi. This should earn your certification.**