GPA Concerns Alleviated

I've heard many students (and their parents) have questions over the past few years regarding GPA concerns related to earning the Zell Miller Scholarship for college. I got a nameless transcript from Dr. Strother a couple years ago and ran a few numbers. The Zell Miller Scholarship requires a 3.7 GPA (weighted by the HOPE adjusted scale). Here are few scenarios to consider. In all actuality, one class will not affect a student's GPA during their senior year significantly. Most of the concerns we hear are in AP classes and the fear that one class will "ruin" a good GPA. Take a look at this for a student with a borderline-Zell GPA headed into senior year...

GPA after junior year = 3.738

If, during their senior year, they make...
ALL A'S = 3.78 (raised +.042)
2 A'S + 2 B'S = 3.7 (fell -.038)
3 A'S + 1 C = 3.7 (-.038)
2 A'S + 1 B + 1 C = 3.66 (-.078)
ALL B'S = 3.62 (-.118)
1 A, 2 B'S, 1 C = 3.62 (-.118)

Hopefully you can see that GPA will rise and fall very little. And most students are not this borderline. AND most students are taking more than 4 classes their senior year. This example is pretty much the worst case scenario for a student who is extremely borderline for Zell. Bottom line, one class will not affect GPA significantly.

***Note: When taking an AP class, a student receives an extra .5 GPA point from his or her unweighted grade. This mathematically equates to the 5 points we give students as an AP curve. None of that was factored into the above numbers. So, note that all of the values above would be slightly higher for each AP class a student was taking.*