



UNCO 111.09E 23254 Theory and Application of Learning and Critical Thinking
AVID Freshman Success Seminar
Global Frontier Program
(Web-enhanced)
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2013
R 3:30a-5:10a, room Main Art Building room 206
January 14-May 10, 2013

Instructor: Marilyn R. Thompson, MFA

Office Location: Art Building- room 210

Office Hours: MW 10:00-11:00a & Thursday 4:00-5:00p or by appointment

Office Phone: 903 886-5208

Office Fax: 903 886-5987

University Email Address: Marilyn.Thompson@tamuc.edu

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| COURSE INFORMATION |
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Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbooks: Gladwell, M. Outliers: The Story of Success. (2008. Little, Brown, and Co.
ISBN: 978-0-316-01792-3

Course Description:

UC 111 prepares students for optimal success at the university and beyond by motivating them to develop skills, knowledge and behaviors that will create confident, self-sufficient learners.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate critical thinking by asking and answering higher level questions and solving increasingly complex problems.
2. Students will improve their listening, speaking, writing, and reading skills.
3. Students will demonstrate habits of the mind that produce academic improvement across the semester. This will include organization, time management, note-taking, and study skills.
4. Students will acquire the knowledge and apply the necessary skills to successfully navigate university life.
5. Students will take ownership of their learning experiences and develop greater awareness of self and others.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Instructional Methods: Class consists of various styles of presentation and interaction. In UC 111, students will be active participants regardless of the mode of instruction. Students should come to class ready to participate, both in terms of preparation as assigned and with a positive attitude toward class and colleagues.

Assignments:

Attendance: Roll will be taken each class day and students are expected to attend all scheduled class periods. Each section of this course is scheduled for 16 weeks of one weekly meeting of 100 minutes each. Students should make arrangements to be in class on time and to stay until the class is dismissed. Attendance is part of your participation grade for UNCO 111.

For students with excused absences, which include participation in a University-sponsored event, illness accompanied by a doctor's note, death in the student's immediate family, a verifiable court appearance or any other similar circumstance in the view of the instructor, written documentation must be turned in to the instructor immediately upon return to class.

Participation: Students must attend all class sessions and participate to the extent possible in each class activity. The activities in this course are designed to help you improve your communication skills and increase your knowledge set in order to make you a more effective and successful college student. **(100 points)**

AVID requirements: Students must complete both the LASSI and PEEK on-line inventories during the third and twelfth class weeks as assigned by the instructor. This must be completed outside of class! Failure to complete this requirement will automatically drop course grade one complete letter grade. **(100 points)**

Journal: Students must complete 3 journal papers worth 60 points each. Students are required to go to the writing lab for help with each paper and turn in the writing lab form for 10 points. Details of required journal activities and their due dates are listed in the weekly plan for the course which will be handed out on the first day of class. **(180 points)**

Event paper: One page event paper covering three events, worth 60 points, documenting attendance/participation in three different types of university events (athletic, academic, cultural, etc.). **(60 points)**

University success skills: Document three (3) visits to University support centers. **(60 points)**

Exams: Students will have a mid-term and final exam, each worth 100 points, in this course over the materials presented. **(200 points)**

Cornell Notes and quick writes: Students will turn in a class set of notes in the Cornell format and quick writes. **(20 points)**

Grading

Students' course grade will be calculated according to the following scale:

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| A = | 634-720 Points |
| B = | 562-633 Points |
| C = | 504-561 Points |
| D = | 470-503 Points |
| F = | 469 Points or less |

I utilize the Grade book feature in eCollege, so students will be able to view grades for each assignment as soon as I post them. However, be mindful that the grading scale in the course (see above) DOES NOT correspond to the percentages of points displayed in eCollege. If you strive for a specific grade in the course, be sure to notice how many points you need to accumulate to achieve that grade rather than focusing on the percentage of points you have earned in eCollege.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

UC 111 is a web-enhanced course. Delivery problems can result if technological requirements are not taken into consideration.

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course. [List those technologies needed for your course.]

- Internet access/connection – high speed recommended (not dial-up)
- Headset/Microphone (if required for synchronous sessions in an online course)
- Word Processor (i.e. MS Word or Word Perfect)

Additionally, the following hardware and software are necessary to use eCollege:

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0, or 8.0).

Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems.

It is strongly recommended that you perform a "Browser Test" prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login in to eCollege, click on the 'my Courses' tab, and then select the "Browser Test" link under Support Services.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

This course will be facilitated using eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.tamu-commerce.edu/login.aspx>.

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Students will be expected to interact with the instructor(s) in class or via electronic means in an appropriate manner. All instructor contact information is listed on this syllabus and should be used.

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Please feel free to contact me through email or stop by during my office hours. I encourage classes to interact with me as much as possible, especially if a student feels challenged by the academic content of a course or has missed classes.

Email: Marilyn.Thompson@tamuc.edu **Office Hours:** MW 10:00-11:00a & Thursday 4:00-5:00p or by appointment

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Supplemental Instructions: In the course of your work in this class, you will be given additional written instructions that govern the look, content and scope of your projects. These supplemental instructions have the same force as the syllabus for grading purposes.

University Specific Procedures:

ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

All students are expected to exercise self-discipline and respect for the rights of others at all times. Behavioral disruptions that interfere with the business of the classroom or with an individual's ability to learn may be referred to the Dean of Students.

Please be sure that cell phones and other electronic devices are off or silent. If you expect to have to get up, please select an inconspicuous position to minimize disruptions. Courtesy to others is important. That means respecting the opinions of others, and in general, doing your part to make this a positive learning environment for all students. Food and beverages, while acceptable, should be consumed as quietly as possible, and you must clean up after yourself.

Course Schedule will be handed out on the first day of class.