



**COH 111.006 81085 Theory and Application of Learning and Critical Thinking
Freshman Success Seminar
(Web-enhanced)
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2014
R 4:00-5:40, Main Art Building, room 206
August 25-December 12, 2014**

Instructor: Marilyn R. Thompson, MFA

Office Location: Art Building- room 210

Office Hours: T 2:00-4:00pm or by appointment

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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbooks: Carter, Carol, et al, Keys to Success. 12th edition. Pearson, 2012. (ISBN-13 978-0-13-254171-8; ISBN-10 0-13-254171-8) Available at the on-campus Texas Bookstore, East Texas Bookstore (1606 Lee Street), and online.

Course Description:

COH 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.
6. Students will familiarize oneself with the faculty and programs of study within the Department of Art at Texas A&M University-Commerce.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Instructional Methods: Class consists of various styles of presentation and interaction. In COH 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. 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 COH 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. Students with 4 or more unexcused absences may risk failing this course or they may be administratively dropped. Plan to be successful and attend all class meetings.

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.

Student Reports: Students will be assigned subjects to present to the class in 10-15 minute reports. Assignments will be distributed on or about September 18 and will be scheduled throughout the semester. The topics will be on the variety of academic, social, and cultural services and opportunities offered by the University.

Three Essays: Students are expected to attend on-campus university events or activities as part of their first-year experience. They will write three critical essays on each, explaining what they learned from these events and how attending each event contributed to their being a more successful and educated college student. These papers are expected to demonstrate critical and analytical thought expressed in clear and proper language. The students are expected to go to the Writing Center for review of their papers. **Turn in the Writing Center form to instructor.**

- **Cultural Event: First critical essay** due in eCollege drop box on Thursday, September 25, by 4:00pm. This essay must be an informed critical response to the Art Faculty Exhibition in the University Gallery from August 25-September 12, 2014. It must describe the show in general and focus critically on the work of at least three members of the faculty. You must discuss the content and intent of your chosen works, so it would be a good idea to interview the faculty members and to research information about him or her. Please be sure to attend the opening on Tuesday, September 2, 5-7pm. The essay must be in Word format, double-spaced in a font size of 11 or less, and a minimum of 3-4 pages in length. Don't forget to go to the campus-writing center for help with your paper.
- **University-Wide academic event: Second critical essay** due in eCollege on Thursday, October 16, by 4:00pm. This essay must be an informed critical response to a university-wide academic event. It must describe the event in general and focus critically on the topic of the presentation. The essay must be in Word format, double-spaced in a font size of 11 or less, and a minimum of 3-4 pages in length. Don't forget to go to the campus-writing center for help with your paper.

University-Wide academic events, including guest speakers at university events, presentations at honor or learned societies, breakout entertainment, colloquia, symposia, etc. If you choose a university-sponsored social event, gathering, or club activity, it must be an organization that has open registration and enrollment.

- **Athletic event: Third critical essay** due in eCollege on Thursday, November 13, by 4:00pm. The third essay must be an athletic event. It must record the specific name of the event, the date and time, and discuss in an informed and critical manner the enrichment it furnished you and other attendees. The essay must be in Word format, double-spaced in a font size of 11 or less, and a minimum of 3-4 pages in length. Don't forget to go to the campus-writing center for help with your paper.

Athletic events can be a varsity or organized intramural activities.

University success skills: Document three (3) visits to University support centers

eCollege Online Discussions:

- **Netiquette:**

Students are expected to be polite and courteous and conform to online etiquette at all times. For detailed rules on "netiquette" go to the website:

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

Summaries of netiquette rules are provided below.

Rule 1: Remember the Human

Rule 2: Adhere to the same standards of behavior online that you follow in real life

Rule 3: Know where you are in cyberspace

Rule 4: Respect other people's time and bandwidth

Rule 5: Make yourself look good online

Rule 6: Share expert knowledge

Rule 7: Help keep flame wars under control

Rule 8: Respect other people's privacy

Rule 9: Don't abuse your power

Rule 10: Be forgiving of other people's mistakes

ON-LINE DISCUSSIONS: On Monday of each week a discussion question will be posted that relates to the reading assignments for that week. Students have until midnight (central time) Wednesday of each week to respond to the discussion question. Students are minimally expected to type at least one response to the question to receive 6 points. To receive 7, 8, 9, or 10 points, students are expected to “engage” in the discussion by asking other students questions and/or responding to the posts of other students and/or the professor.

To earn these points students must post some type of response to the question as well as a comment/question that is on topic and contributes to the overall discussion (see rubric below). Online discussions are not the same as texting or tweets. They should reflect critical thinking and contain **complete sentences that are grammatically correct with as few spelling and punctuation mistakes as possible**. Do not use slang or popular abbreviations such as btw, lol, etc. Discussions will be worth a total of 80 pts. Always be polite and courteous when responding to someone else’s comments or questions.

NOTE: Online discussions should not be viewed as similar to a discussion around the dinner table with friends or family where everybody expresses their views, opinions, and beliefs on some topic often, which they know absolutely nothing about. This is an academic course and your discussion topics are directly linked to the reading assignments in your textbook. Consequently, your posts should reflect a certain amount of knowledge on the topic based on research, facts, and data. It is fine to critique, interpret, and occasionally interject an opinion or two, but for the most part, this should be an academic and intellectual discussion of the topic at hand.

Grading Rubric for Online Discussions:

Did student respond to question posed? (6 pts)

Does the response reflect critical thinking, facts, and data as opposed to just personal opinion? (2 pts)

Does the student’s response add to and/or stimulate other discussion? (1pt)

Is the response grammatically correct and free of abbreviations and spelling errors? (1 pt)

Academic Planning and Time Management Assignments:

- **Academic planning assignment** due Thursday, September 25: Purchase or otherwise obtain an academic planner, preferably a planner with an academic year schedule (2014-2015) rather than a calendar year. Study carefully each of the syllabuses and

handouts from all of your classes and enter all assignments, exams, quizzes, term and research papers, final examinations, and deadlines for each and every one of your classes. Be sure to put your name and contact information in the front of the planner when you turn it in. Since I will have the planner in my possession from September 18-25, be sure that you have noted any assignments due within that period of time and a few days beyond.

- **Global Competence Aptitude Assessment (GCAA) and ePortfolio**
file:///Users/Art/Downloads/ManeSync%20Pictorial%20Guide%20Students.pdf
- **Degree plan assignment** due Thursday, September 25. Go online to myLEO and locate your current degree plan in Degree Works. Print it and submit it in class on September 25. You will receive in-class instructions on how to navigate myLEO. Be sure that your name is visible on the document so that I know whose plan I am looking at.
- **MyPlan assignment** due Thursday, September 25. Student will fill out the MyPlan assessment report. Visit www.myplan.com and click on the "Account" tab at the top of the page. Under "New User" click on "Create Free Account" and enter license code KM3DYHUF (case-sensitive) and click submit. Take all FOUR assessments and print results: Career Personality Test, Career Interest Inventory, Career Skills Profiler, and Career Values Assessment.
- **Resume assignment** due Thursday, November 20. Students in COH 111 will prepare, print, and submit a resume that targets a profession in their chosen field and emphasizes their unique achievements and qualifications for such employment. Students may seek the help of the office of Career Services (Student Access and Success Center) or use the office's online templates.

Final Exam: The comprehensive final will cover the information from the text and course.

***Late work: 10 points will be subtracted from all unexcused late work**

Grading:

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

- A = 500-450 Points
- B = 449-400 Points
- C = 399-350 Points
- D = 349-300 Points
- F = 299-0 Points

Break down of points possible:

eCollege discussions=10 points each a total of 80 points possible
Library scavenger hunt=10 points possible
Academic planner=10 points possible
MyPlan=10 points possible
Resume=20 points possible
Global Competence Aptitude Assessment (GCAA) and ePortfolio= 30
3 Essays=50 points each a total of 150 points possible
Degree plan=10 points possible

University Success Support Centers=10 points possible
Final exam=50 points possible
Participation & attendance=120

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

COH 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@tamu-commerce.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.

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:** T 2:30-4:30pm 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 Outline/Calendar: (Subject to change)

Week 1

Thursday, August 28:

Introduction to the course

Discussion: Assignments and expectations

Reading Assignment for the week: Carter, *Keys to Success*, Chapter 1 (“Welcome to College”) and Chapter 2 (“Goals and Time”)

Discussion: FAQ’s, strategies for success, degree plan, MyPlan, time management, and planning and navigating MyLeo & **Global**

Competence Aptitude Assessment (GCAA) and ePortfolio

Discussion: Resumes and Academic planners

Art Faculty Exhibition 2014, August 25-September 12, 2014

Reception: Tuesday, September 2, 5-7pm

Week 2

Thursday, September 4: **Meet in Ed South room 125******

Global Competence Aptitude Assessment (GCAA) and ePortfolio

Reading Assignment for the week: Carter, *Keys to Success*, Chapter 3 (“Learning How You Learn”)

Homework Assignment: Academic planning (Due September 11 at the start of class)

#1 Discussion question in eCollege

Week 3

Thursday, September 11: **Meet in Ed South room 125******

Global Competence Aptitude Assessment (GCAA) and ePortfolio

Reading Assignment for the week: Carter, *Keys to Success*, Chapter 4 (“Critical, Creative, and Practical Thinking”)

#2 Discussion question in eCollege:

Week 4

Thursday, September 18: Meet in Room 230 (2nd floor) of Gee Library for the Library Research Tutorial. The Librarian will demonstrate the online resources for research at TAMUC.

Activity: Library scavenger hunt (Due Week 5)

Week 5

Thursday, September 25: Career Development guest speaker

Due: Bring to class your MyPlan

Discussion: Resumes and Academic planners

Due today: Academic planner & Library Scavenger Hunt

First critical essay due in your eCollege drop boxes today by 4:00pm.

Reading Assignment for the week: Carter, *Keys to Success*, Chapter 5 (“Reading and Information Literacy”)

Discussion: Degree Plan

Due today: Your printed degree plan from Degree Works.

Discussion: Cornell Method of Note Taking

Class topic: student reports

#3 Discussion question in eCollege

Reading Assignment for the week: Carter, *Keys to Success*, Chapter 6 (“Listening and Note Taking”)

WEEK 6

Thursday, October 2: **TAMUC Counseling Center guest speaker**
The Curve of Forgetting and Test taking skills
Reading Assignment for the week: Carter, *Keys to Success*, Chapter 7
("Memory and Studying") & Chapter 8 ("Test Taking")
#4 Discussion question in eCollege

Week 7

Thursday, October 9: **Guest speaker Nathan Harness: International Studies**
Reading Assignment for the week: Carter, *Keys to Success*, Chapter 9
("Diversity and Communication")
#5 Discussion question in eCollege

Week 8

Thursday, October 16: **Discussion: Student Reports**
****Second critical essay due in your eCollege drop boxes today by 4:00pm.**
#6 Discussion question in eCollege

Week 9

Thursday, October 23: **No class meeting**
Outside assignment: University Success Skills (Due week 10)
Visit three University support centers. Be sure to have them sign your handout.

Week 10

Thursday, October 30: **Class topic:** Group 1 of student reports presented
Reading Assignment for the week: Carter, *Keys to Success*, Chapter 10
("Wellness and Stress Management")
#7 Discussion question in eCollege

Week 11

Thursday, November 6: **No Class Meeting (TAEA Conference)**

Week 12

Thursday, November 13: **Class topic:** Group 2 of student reports presented
****Third critical essay due in your eCollege drop boxes today by 4:00pm.**
Reading Assignment for the week: Carter, *Keys to Success*, Chapter 11
("Managing Money") & Chapter 12 ("Careers and More")
#8 Discussion question in eCollege

Week 13

Thursday, November 20: **Final Exam Review: review for the comprehensive final exam**
Resume due today

Week 14

Thursday, November 27: **THANKSGIVING (No class meeting)**

Week 15

Thursday, December 4: **Final Exam**
You will have from Monday until Thursday at 5:30pm to do your final exam in eCollege.
Discussion: Wrapping it all up
Resume due today

Week 16: Finals Week December 8-12:

We will not have class during finals week. Use this time to focus on all your other exams.