



CED 111.005E

THEORY & APPLICATION OF LEARNING & CRITICAL THINKING FIRST-YEAR SUCCESS SEMINAR (EDUCATION MAJORS) 1 credit

Texas A&M University-Commerce
College of Education & Human Services
Course Syllabus
FALL, 2016

Instructor: Major Nathan R. (Nate) Templeton, Ed.D.

Assistant Professor, Educational Leadership

Office Location: Young Education North, 123

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; Virtual Conferencing by Appointment

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COURSE INFORMATION

Text

Kleon, A. (2012). *Steal Like An Artist: 10 Things Nobody Told You About Being Creative*. New York: Workman. ISBN 978-0761169253

Course Description

This course introduces students to theories of learning and critical thinking and provides a learning framework to apply them to their college and life experiences. Concepts studied include research and theory on how people learn, critical thinking, problem solving, perception, learning styles, memory, creativity, and how attitudes and values affect the learning and thinking processes. The course also shows students how to apply these theories and research findings to help develop practical skills in time management, reading, note taking, test taking, and other areas that will help them be more successful students and lifelong learners.

Student Learning Outcomes

The First-year Success Seminar is designed to provide an opportunity for students to explore and learn from a variety of methods designed to increase academic and personal success in college. The focus of the course is on the development of practical skills and knowledge in the areas of critical thinking, reading, note taking, time management, memory skills, study techniques, communication skills, and an understanding of a variety of learning styles and how they relate to college success. Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Apply creative and critical thinking skills to their college experience and everyday lives

- Identify and utilize a variety of learning styles to help create a successful college experience
- Develop and utilize skills in time management note taking, test taking, memory techniques, muscle reading, and other effective study techniques
- Effectively communicate in both written and oral form
- Use the University Library effectively
- Use the Internet and e-mail effectively
- Explore career opportunities related to college education majors and/or minors

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Performance Expectations

Every effort will be made to provide the best possible learning experience by blending brief lectures with discussions, field trips, group work, and reading and writing assignments. This class is primarily taught as a seminar. Therefore class participation is not only expected; it is *required*. Evaluation will be based on successful demonstration of the following activities. Regardless of points earned, a course grade of *A* cannot be obtained if all assignments are not completed. The following represents student expectations for this course. While the final course grade is the judgment of the professor of record, the following scale will be used as a guide

Participation (40 points): Successful students attend class. Attendance will be taken every class period and you will receive 1 point for every class you attend and participate (there are a total of 30 class periods—40 points will be figured into the grading scale, so perfect attendance earns you 10 bonus points). Good attendance is essential for doing well in this course and every course you will take in college. While you can borrow someone else's notes, there is no way to gain the information from questions, discussions, group work, etc., when a class period is missed. Remember that if you miss a critical thinking paper/assignment, it cannot be made up. Also, any changes to the tentative course outline will be announced in class—another important reason to be here each time the class meets!

NOTE: Successful students come to class on time! Lateness communicates a "don't care" attitude, and is also extremely disruptive. Repeated tardiness will not be tolerated. If you cannot come to class on time, drop the course! Also, it is quite possible that you might miss a critical thinking paper/assignment if you come in late. Remember, these cannot be made-up under any circumstances.

Major Exams (200 points):

There will be two major examinations (mid-term and final) in this course worth 100 points each. The exams include multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. The dates for these exams are noted on the tentative course schedule. Exams must be taken as scheduled and cannot be made up. The professor reserves the right to make exceptions for university-sponsored excused absences.

Critical Thinking Papers/Assignments (60 points):

Students will attend three (3) events outside of class and submit reflection papers between 250-500 words. These papers will be based on a summary of attendance at different types of university events: one (1) should cover an athletic/sporting event (football, volleyball, soccer,

intramurals, etc.); one (1) should cover a cultural event (concerts, art shows, plays, etc.); and one (1) should be a general university non-athletic event (guest speakers, convocations, organization events, etc.). The paper due dates are spaced out during the fifteen-week period as indicated on the course outline. These papers are worth 20 points each and should summarize general observations, what was learned and how the event better the collegiate experience. Please use the following format for written assignments: New Times Roman font, double-spaced, one-inch margins, and 12-point type.

Career Awareness/Resume Assignment & Presentation (100 points):

Using the campus library, students will research a selected career in education. Explore educational requirements, average salary, best locations for this career, etc. Next, create a professional resume that can be used for a prospective job interview. Each student will make a presentation of his/her career in class. Presentation options are at student discretion.

Policy on Late Work

Late work is not accepted in this course for any reason. Please plan accordingly.

Grading Scale

The grading scale listed below is a guide. The instructor reserves the right to evaluate and assign the final course grade. There are 400 possible points in this course.

90%-100% A

80%- 89% B

70-79% C

60%-69% D

Below 60% F

Interaction with Instructor

Beyond posted office hours, email is the primary mode of communication with the professor. E-mail communication must be sent from your university issued MyLeo account. It is critical for you to check your MyLeo email everyday, as I will often communicate with you through university email. Expect a reply within 24 hours, depending on when your message was sent. If you do not receive a response in that time frame, please assume your message was not received and email again or contact me via cell phone. Additionally, virtual conferencing is available by appointment via Adobe Connect. If you prefer to talk on the phone you may call my office during posted hours or my cell at your convenience. Please do not call after 9:00 p.m. (cst).

Dropping a Course

A student may drop a course by logging into their myLEO account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled "Drop a class" from among the choices found under the myLEO section of the Web page.

Administrative Withdrawal

Students who miss two sections of class (virtually or in person, depending on the status of the course) may be administratively dropped for excessive absences.

Incomplete Grades

Per university policy, you must visit with the instructor, develop, and sign "Plan for Completing the Grade of X" before you may receive an incomplete for the course. The reason for such

requests is limited to “circumstances beyond student’s control which prevented student from attending classes during Finals Week or the preceding three weeks” (Policy A 122.07, 1998). You are notified that the deadline date for all plans is not to exceed one semester. Failure to fulfill plan requirements within the specified time will result in a course grade of F. Be further notified that an Incomplete for this Freshman Seminar course is not available.

Academic Honesty

Texas A&M University-Commerce does not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Conduct that violates generally accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material.

Recommended websites to review include:

<http://www.plagiarism.org/>

<http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/plagiarism.html> or

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>

Students with Disabilities

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 Disability Resources & Services

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).

Classroom Decorum

Students are expected to be polite and courteous at all times. Disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. Class time should be focused on the topic at hand. Please do not bring food or drink into the classroom. Please eat your meals and snacks before or after class.

Please turn off or silence all telephones, pagers, CD players, I-pods, Sonar detectors, nuclear missile launchers, and any other electronic devices that might in anyway disrupt class or disturb others.

University Mission and Vision Statements

The Texas A&M University-Commerce Mission: Texas A&M University-Commerce provides a personal educational experience for a diverse community of life-long learners. Our purpose is to discover and disseminate knowledge for leadership and service in an interconnected and dynamic world. Our challenge is to nurture partnerships for the intellectual, cultural, social and economic vitality of Texas and beyond.

The College of Education and Human Services (COEHS) Mission: The College of Education and Human Services promotes and enhances the development of researchers, professional practitioners and leaders through the discovery and dissemination of knowledge.

The College of Education and Human Services (COEHS) Vision: The College of Education & Human Services will be recognized nationally for our excellence in practice, programs, research, and services.

COURSE CALENDAR

The following outline is tentative. The professor reserves the right to amend assignments and due dates at his discretion. All changes will be announced in class.

DATE	TOPIC/ASSIGNMENT
T, 30 August	Syllabus, Introductions, Overview of Course
	Lecture: Goal Setting
Th, Sept. 1	Lecture: Leadership & Ethical Decision Making
T, Sept 6	Lecture: Time Management & Study Skills
Th, Sept 8	Guest Speaker: Dr. Patience Bryant, Associate Director, Campus Life
T, Sept 13	Library Orientation
	Begin the Career Presentation Assignment
Th, Sept 15	Experiential: Learning Styles/Preferred Senses
T, Sept 20	Experiential: Right Brain/Left Brain
Th, Sept 22	Lecture: Memory
T, Sept 27	Guest Speaker: TBA Counseling & Center
Th, Sept 29	Lecture: The Courage to Teach *Critical Thinking Assignment 1 Due
T, Oct 4	Experiential: The 6+ 1 Writing Process
Th, Oct 6	Guest Speaker: Justin Bryant, Coordinator, Outside Adventure
T, Oct 11	Notes/Review

Th, Oct 13	Mid-Term Exam
T, Oct 18	*Career Presentations (Group 1)
Th, Oct 20	*Career Presentations (Group 2)
T, Oct 25	*Career Presentations (Group 3)
Th, Oct 27	No Class: Begin Reading, <i>Steal Like An Artist: 10 Things Nobody Told You About Being Creative</i>
T, Nov 1	Class Group Project: Group Dynamics
Th, Nov 3	Class Group Project: Group Dynamics
T, Nov 8	Guest Speaker: Dr. Zach Shirley, Director, Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life *Critical Thinking Assignment 2 Due
Th, Nov 10	Lecture: Health Related Issues
T, Nov 15	Lecture: Latest Drug Trends With College Students
Th, Nov 17	Guest Speaker: Dr. Lavelle Hendricks
T, Nov 22	No Class: Continue Reading, <i>Steal Like An Artist: 10 Things Nobody Told You About Being Creative</i>
Th, Nov 24	NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
T, Nov 29	Book Chapters Discussion (1-5)
Th, Dec 1	Book Chapters Discussion (6-10)
T, Dec 6	Lecture: The Courage to Teach *Critical Thinking Assignment 3 Due
Th, Dec 8	Study Session
T, Dec 13	Final Exam