

Freshman Success Seminar

COURSE SYLLABUS- FALL 2016

Instructor: Brandon E. Palmore

Office Location: Rayburn Student Center - 262

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COURSE INFORMATION

CRN: UC 111

Classroom: SS 312

Meeting time: TR: 3:00 – 3:50pm

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbooks Required:

Kleon, Austin. *Steal Like An Artist: 10 Things Nobody Told You About Being Creative.*

New York: Workman, 2012. (ISBN: 978-0761169253)

Accessibility: Available in the bookstore; on Amazon. \$6.74; \$6.40 Kindle

Other Materials Required:

One (1) Three Ring Binder

One (1) Pen

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 be able to identify and describe relevant campus resources.
2. Students will be able to view themselves as engaged citizens within an interconnected and diverse world.
3. Students will be able to explain their responsibilities as a student.
4. Students will demonstrate critical thinking skills.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Assignments:

Quizzes: Detailed below under attendance policy. Quizzes are worth 40% of your final grade, and your lowest two quiz scores will be dropped at the end of the semester.

Campus Events Attendance Reflection Essays: College is about more than going to class—there are many events to attend on campus that will enhance your experience here. Watch your email, flyers on campus, and the menu on the main page of MyLeo for information about events on campus. Look especially for Global Events—you should load your reflection of these events into your ePortfolio toward your application of being a Global Scholar.

For this part of your grade, attend a campus event (athletic, club meeting, academic events, cultural events, speakers, et cetera). Bring an artifact of the event (a program, e-mail a selfie of you at the event, et cetera), then write a two-page paper in which you describe and reflect on the event.

1. Describe or summarize the event. What was the event? What was the purpose? Who attended? What was it like?
2. Reflect on the event. Consider some or all of the following questions: What did you learn at this event? What did you learn about the campus or people related to the campus? How can you implement what you learned to help you be successful in college? How can what you learned help prepare you for an interconnected world?

You must attend **five** events throughout the semester and write about each of them. Do not wait until the end of the semester to attend these events—they will be due throughout the semester.

Final essay:

Option One:

In this class, we read Austin Kleon's book *Steal Like An Artist: 10 Things Nobody Told You About Being Creative*, which details some ideas about how attitude, learning, and the people and things you surround yourself with can affect creativity. This assignment asks you to reflect on the personal value you see in creativity. How can creativity help you prepare to solve the problems of the future? How can creativity help you accomplish your goals in college and beyond?

Kleon's book uses anecdotes and examples to make his points. Be sure to do the same. Also be sure to refer to the book in your essay (quote and cite his essay). You can refer to Kleon's book by agreeing with one of his points, disagreeing with one of his points, building on one of his points, or even using one of his points to start your own argument about the value of education.

Option Two:

Can learning strategies for creativity actually help you be more creative? Choose one of the strategies detailed in Austin Kleon's book *Steal Like An Artist* and explore its possibilities for encouraging creativity. Experiment with one or more of the strategies for a period of time (for example, a week) and reflect on the effectiveness of that strategy.

Kleon's book uses anecdotes and examples to make his points. Be sure to do the same. Also be sure to refer to the book in your essay (quote and cite his essay). You can refer to Kleon's book by agreeing with one of his points, disagreeing with one of his points, building on one of his points, or even using one of his points to start your own argument about the value of education.

Class Participation: Participation will be based upon a student's involvement in class discussion, activities, and motivation.

GRADING

90%-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, 59% & below = F

Assignment	Percentage of Grade [suggested]
Quizzes	40%
Campus Events Attendance Reflection Essays	15%
Final Essay	25%
Class Participation	20%

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Access to MyLeo & Leomail email will be required as all information will be passed through email.

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.

- 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 ‘myCourses’ tab, and then select the “Browser Test” link under Support Services.

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.tamuc.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

Students may contact me through email, phone number, or during my office hours.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures

Attendance Policy:

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 twice weekly meetings of 50 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 grade for UC 111. (100 points)

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.

Five (5) unexcused absences in this course will result in a letter grade deduction on your final grade.

Academic dishonesty/ Plagiarism:

Instructors at Texas A&M University-Commerce do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion.

Here is the university policy:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Grievance Procedure:

Students who have concerns regarding their courses should first address those concerns with the assigned instructor in order to reach a resolution. Students who are unsatisfied with the outcome of that conversation or have not been able to meet individually with their instructor, whether in-person, by email, by telephone, or by another communication medium, should then schedule an appointment with the Department Head, Dr. Tabetha J. Adkins.

Where applicable, students should also consult University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.05 (“Student Appeal of Instructor Evaluation”).

Other course policies:

1. A late assignment will result in a 10% grade reduction per day late unless the student gives viable reason as to the reason for the lateness of assignment (Please refer to attendance policy for examples).

UNIVERSITY SPECIFIC PROCEDURES

Students with Disabilities information

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, Gee Library, Room 132 (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835 phone (903) 468-8148 fax Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@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.)

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

This schedule may be adjusted to accommodate for student learning needs.

Bring the assigned reading to class with you to supplement discussion. Printed or digital copies are both acceptable.

Date	Unit	To do before class	Due In Class
Week 1	Introductions, syllabus discussion		
Week 2	GCAA Assessment for campus QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan)	Read e-mail from Dr. Shonda Gibson about GCAA assessment (Students will automatically receive this e-mail; instructors need to do nothing.)	
Week 3	Academic Success In class: University Support Services 30 second expert activity	Learning Style activity or Cornell Notes reading How to Talk to a Professor power point could be used in class instead of homework assignment	
Week 4	Syllabus review	Syllabi and Planning activity	First Campus Events Attendance Reflection Essay due
Week 5	College computer literacy	Find and watch and/or read online tutorials about how to use word processing program (like Word); a slide show program (like Power Point); a spread sheet program (like Excel). If you own a computer, find tutorials for the software on your computer.	
Week 6	Title 9	Watch this video: https://vimeo.com/105143665	Second Campus Events Attendance Reflection Essay due
Week 7	[Either you go over GCAA results with students or use open lab time scheduled by QEP committee to send students to discuss GCAA results]	Read GCAA report from the assessment completed in week 2. Bring to class.	
Week 8	Registration	Activity for Registration	Third Campus

	Invite the Success Coaches to your class by emailing them at successcoaches@tamuc.edu (or switch with wellness)		Events Attendance Reflection Essay due
Week 9	Wellness (or switch with registration)	View physical and mental health power point Drugs and Alcohol video Look at wellness wheel	
Week 10	Financial literacy (or switch with career services)	Read FASFA infographic could be used in class instead of homework assignment	Fourth Campus Events Attendance Reflection Essay due
Week 11	Critical thinking	Watch critical thinking power point could be used in class instead of homework assignment Additional readings as desired	
Week 12	Common reading	Read <i>Steal Like An Artist: 10 Things Nobody Told You About Being Creative.</i>	Fifth Campus Events Attendance Reflection Essay due
Week 13	Time management/ career services (or switch with financial literacy) [Career services will come to your class if you give them ample notice.]	Time management PDF and power point.	
Week 14	Work on final assignment-essay on common reading		
Week 15	Make-up week		Final Essay due
Finals Week	Meet to reflect, share best sections of final essay, etc.		

I have read this syllabus and hereby agree to the terms set by the instructor for the curriculum of this class and will abide by the rules and regulations set.

Name:_____

Date:_____

Signature:_____