



**Fall 2016 Freshman Success Seminar  
University College 111.09E (80909)**

**COURSE SYLLABUS- SEMESTER AND YEAR**

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**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Class:** UNCO 111-09E (80909)  
**Classroom:** TBA  
**Meeting time:** Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00pm to 2:50pm

**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:** Pen/pencil, college rule paper for in class writing assignments,  
folder to organize handouts.

**Course Description**

UNCO 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.
5. Students will improve their listening, speaking, writing, and reading skills.
6. 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.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Instructional Methods / Activities /Assessments

**Instructional Methods:** Class consists of various styles of presentation and interaction. In UNCO 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 arriving more than 5 minutes late will be marked late; students arriving more than 15 minutes late will be marked absent. For grading purposes, two times being late equals one absence. Students arriving after 15 minutes late will lose attendance points, but can still earn participation points by engaging in the class activities. 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 UNCO 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.

Each absence in this course will result in a point reduction on your final attendance grade according to the chart below.

Absences	0	1, 2	3, 4	5, 6	7, 8	9,10	11,12	13,14	15,16	17,18	19,20
Grade	100	94	88	82	76	70	64	58	52	46	40

Absences	21,22	23,24	25, 26	27, 28	29, 30
Grade	34	28	22	16	10

**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)**.

**QEP Assessment I & II:** Students must complete all on-line inventories and portfolios during the second and seventh class weeks as assigned by the instructor. Failure to complete this requirement will automatically drop course grade one complete letter grade. **(100 points)**

**Journal:** Students must complete at least 3 journal activities, each worth 20 points. Details of required journal activities and their due dates are listed in the weekly plan **(60 points)**.

#### Journal Writing Assignments

Journal entries must be type-written using Times New Roman 12 pt. font and double-spaced. Each entry must be a minimum of 2 full-pages in length. Entries are expected to reference information from the readings as appropriate. Journal entries must be submitted to the instructor on the assigned due date as instructed. **LATE assignments will NOT be graded!**

**Event papers:** Three (3) two page event papers, each worth 20 point, documenting attendance/participation in three different types of university events (athletic, academic, cultural, etc.) **(60 points)**.

**Students are required to attend three (3) events** outside of class and write a paper on them. The paper will be based on a summary of attendance of different types of university events: one (1) should cover a **cultural event** (concerts, art shows, plays, etc.); one (1) should cover and university **non-athletic event** (guest speakers, organization events, etc.); and one (1) additional university **event of the student's choice**.

The paper should not be a report of what occurred at the event, rather a critical evaluation of the event using the concepts required for critical thinking. The grading of the event paper will reflect how well the student follows assignment directions, how the student uses critical thinking skills, and the use of proper grammar and word usage.

#### **Paper requirements:**

- Minimum of 2 pages, typed, double-spaced, 12 pt. font, Times New Roman.
- Journal Format addressing questions, such as:
  - Detailed explanation of the event, describing how and why you chose this specific event?
  - How the event enriches university life?
  - How the event encourages/educates people about diversity?
  - How the event can enrich your life during and after your university experience?

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

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

## Final Project 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.

### **Final Essay Topic—Due at the time designated by your instructor**

### **THIS ASSIGNMENT MUST BE A MINIMUM OF FOUR TYPE-WRITTEN PAGES!**

**This assignment will be used as the entry into the Common Reader essay contest to determine who will travel to Washington, DC over Spring Break 2017. Essays will be submitted to two separate readers and then scores will be totaled. The highest 20 rated essays of all submissions will be notified and asked to participate in the DC trip. Essays of less than 4 pages will not be rated.**

### **Grading**

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

A =	594-680 Points
B =	522-593 Points
C =	464-521 Points
D =	430-463 Points
F =	462 Points or less

### **NOTES:**

Please be aware of the grading scale and the percentages utilized in the grade distribution. For example, a student does not need to earn 90% of the points in the course to earn an "A" (594/680= 88%), but a student must earn 70% of the points to receive a "C" in the course. The

moral of the story is that students will be rewarded for working a little more diligently in the course, while students who seek to “survive” in the course will actually have to work harder to earn a lower grade. Due to these allowances, we do not curve grades at the end of the semester.

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.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

UNCO 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)
- 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.*

## 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.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@tamuc.edu](mailto: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 a respectful manner. All instructor contact information is listed on this syllabus and should be used.

## 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.

***Cheating:*** Plagiarism, appropriating or otherwise using the work of others or yourself, avoiding or aiding others in avoiding class requirements or other activities that contravene ordinary standards of academic integrity will not be tolerated. This includes submitting your own work on more than one assignment in this class. Students who cheat will be punished with one or more of the following: point penalty, failure of the assignment in question or failure for the course. If you are in doubt about whether or not your conduct constitutes cheating, please ask the instructor. Do not find out the hard way.

***Late Work:*** No work will be accepted late unless it is accompanied by a written excuse considered acceptable by the University. Specifically, this includes participation in a University-sponsored event, illness accompanied by a doctor's note, death in the student's immediate family, or a verifiable court appearance. Instructor reserves the right to deduct points for late work regardless of reason.

### **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](mailto: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*: <http://www.tamuc.edu/CampusLife/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>)

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 exercise wise judgment in a manner 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**

Bring the assigned reading to class with you to supplement discussion. This schedule may be adjusted to accommodate our learning goals and objectives.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Unit/Themes</b>	<b>To do before class</b>	<b>Due In Class or eCollege</b>
Week 1 Aug. 30, Sept. 1	T-Community Building R-Syllabus, Social Contract		Name Tents, Introductions, Syllabus Social Contract
Week 2 Sept. 6, 8	T-GCAA Assessment for campus QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan) BA 345 R-Time Management, Organization Skills, and Goal Setting	Read e-mail from Dr. Shonda Gibson about GCAA assessment.	T-GCAA Assessment R-Take Notes
Week 3 Sept. 13,15	T-Time Management, Organization, and Goals (Continued) R-Note Taking and Summarizing	Track Your Time for a Week	<b>Journal #1 due via eCollege on September 15, 5pm.</b>
Week 4 Sept. 20, 22	Review Cornell Notes, Library Week (Research Tools)-Presentation and Activity, Discuss Journal #1	Cornell Notes-Practice	Scavenger Hunt
Week 5 Sept. 27, 29	Financial Literacy, Money Management, Wellness		
Week 6 Oct. 4, 6	University Support Services,	Watch this video: <a href="https://vimeo.com/105143665">https://vimeo.com/105143665</a>	<b>Journal #2 due via eCollege on October</b>

	Title IX		<b>6, 5pm</b>
Week 7 Oct. 11, 13	T-ePortfolio Session by Global Learning and QEP R-No Class	Attend Career/Internship Fair October 12, 2016, 1pm to 3pm. Alternate assignment given if you cannot attend.	
Week 8 Oct. 18, 20	T-Mid-Term Review R-Mid-Term Exam	Summary of Career/Internship Activity	Summary
Week 9 Oct. 25, 27	Career Development Presentation and My Plan		<b>Journal #3 Due via eCollege on October 27, by 5pm.</b>
Week 10 Nov. 1, 3	T-Professional and Academic Communication, Review Journal #3 R-Computer Literacy		
Week 11 Nov. 8, 10	Learning Styles and Self Assessments, Critical thinking		
Week 12 Nov. 15, 17	Common reading	Read <i>Steal Like An Artist: 10 Things Nobody Told You About Being Creative.</i>	<b>Event Papers Due via eCollege on November 17, 2015 by 5pm</b>
Week 13 Nov. 22, 24	T-Class potluck R-No class due to holiday		
Week 14 Nov. 29, Dec. 1	T-Study Skills/Test Taking Strategies R-No Class		
Week 15 Dec. 6, 8	Make-up week		<b>Final Project due in class.</b>
Finals Week Dec. 13, 15	Meet to reflect, share best sections of final essay, etc.		