



UNCO 111-10E – Critical Thinking
MW 10:00-10:50AM | Ferguson Social Sciences 312
Course Syllabus: Fall 2016

Instructor: Christopher Hensley
Office Location: Student Access & Success Center (One Stop Shop) 151
Office Hours: By Appointment Only
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COURSE INFORMATION

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.

Required Textbooks/Readings/Materials

Textbooks/Readings

Kleon, A. (2011). *Steal Like An Artist: 10 Things Nobody Told You About Being Creative*. New York: Workman. (ISBN: 978-0761169253)

Additional journal articles may be provided as supplemental readings throughout the semester. PDF versions of these journal articles will always be made available.

Materials

3-Ring Binder or Pocket Folder with Brads

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional Methods

This class will consist of various types of presentation and interaction to accommodate every learning style. Students will be active participants regardless of the method of instruction. Students are expected to come to class ready to participate, both in terms of preparation as assigned and with a positive attitude toward class and colleagues.

Assignments

Attendance (100 points)

Students are expected to attend all scheduled class periods and should be in class on time and stay until the class is dismissed. Students will receive an attendance grade reduction of three (3) points for each unexcused absence. Students may receive a partial attendance grade reduction for being late or tardy to class.

Excused absences 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. For students with excused absences, written documentation must be turned in to the instructor immediately upon return to class. If no documentation is provided within one week the aforementioned point reduction will be implemented.

Participation (100 points)

Students are expected to participate to the extent of their ability 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.

Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) (100 points)

Students must complete both the QEP assessment and the creation of their online, electronic portfolio. These assignments will be completed in computer labs during Weeks Two & Three of the semester. Please see the Course Outline & Calendar at the end of this syllabus for more information. Failure to complete these assignments will automatically lower a student's grade by one letter grade.

Journals (60 points)

Students must complete three (3) journals throughout the semester. These journals will require students to reflect on what they have learned through their reading assignments and in their personal lives. Specific prompts and due dates will be provided in class.

Event Papers (60 points)

Students must complete three (3) event papers throughout the semester. These event papers will require students to document their attendance and/or participation in three different types of University-sponsored events. Further details and due dates will be provided in class.

Content Quizzes (100 points)

Students will have ten (10) content quizzes throughout the semester covering course materials and information presented in class.

Campus Resource Project (60 points)

Students will complete a project and presentation covering an assigned campus resource. Further details will be provided in class.

Final Paper (100 points)

Students will complete a Final Paper reflecting on their personal lives and on ALL of their reading assignments. Information regarding the prompt and due date will be provided in class.

Grading

Course grades will be calculated according to the following scale:

A = 609-680 points

B = 541-593 points

C = 473-521 points

D = 405-463 points

F = 404 points or less

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. Be have the following available to use throughout this course:

-Internet access/connection (high speed recommended)

-Word Processor – Microsoft Word or Pages

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 Internet Explorer (6.0 or newer). Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox web browser on both Windows and Mac operating systems.

ACCESS & NAVIGATION

In addition to face-to-face class sessions, this course will be facilitated using eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To access the course, go to: <https://leo.tamuc.edu/login.aspx> and click eCollege in the navigational links.

You will need your CWID and password to log in to your myLEO portal. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES & POLICIES
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Course Specific Procedures

Supplemental Instructions

Throughout the course of the semester, you will be given additional written instructions that govern the look, content, and scope of your assignments. 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 are found cheating will be punished by one or more of the following sanctions: 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 me. Do not find out the hard way.

Late Work

No assignments will be accepted late unless they are accompanied by a written excuse considered acceptable by the University. Please review the definition of an excused absence in the Course Requirements section of this syllabus. I reserve 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

[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 the *Code of Student Conduct* from the *Student Guidebook*).

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

A course outline will be provided on the first day of class showing planned weekly topics and assignments. I reserve the right to make changes to this course outline. If this outline has to be altered, it will be altered with proper notice and always in a way that benefits students before myself.