



Freshman Success Seminar

UNCO 111.13E CRITICAL THINKING COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2016

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COURSE INFORMATION

This syllabus is subject to change

CRN: 82288
Classroom: Ferguson Social Science Building Rm. 310
Meeting time: Monday and Wednesday 11:00a-11:50a

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:

Binder or pocket folder

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

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:

Quizzes: Detailed below under attendance policy. Quizzes are worth 40% of your final grade.

QEP Requirement: Students must complete all on-line inventories and portfolios during the second and third class weeks as assigned by the instructor. Failure to complete this requirement will automatically drop course grade one complete letter grade.

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

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, there are two separate event requirements.

1. Service Learning Event – the requirement is to volunteer and serve at an event of your choice. It can be an athletic, club meeting, academic events, cultural events, speakers, et cetera) event. 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 answering the questions below.
2. Global Event - QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan) - The QEP is a plan to implement and assess a focused set of initiatives designed to improve student learning across the university. The goal is to prepare you for an interconnected world and highlight our similarities and uniqueness. Global events happen throughout the semester. Examples include the Hispanic Heritage Month, Multicultural Festival, etc. You may find more information at the link below.

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/administrativeOffices/studentAccessAndSuccess/QualityEnhancementPlan/QEP_Components/

Questions for Event Papers:

Papers must be typed, 12pt. font. You will then be required to upload the paper and any photos, videos into your ePortfolio, which will be explained later in the semester.

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?

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: 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.

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

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. [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 ‘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

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.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures

Attendance Policy:

Attendance: 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 UNCO 111.

If a student is to be absent from class, it is his/her responsibility to notify the instructors beginning with the first day of absence and thereafter. 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. **(100 points)**

A quiz will be given in class period. These quizzes cannot be made up (unless you have a documented university- excused absence.) At the end of the semester.

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, [ENTER DEPARTMENT HEAD'S OR SUPERVISOR'S NAME HERE].

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

Other course policies:

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 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, you had better 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

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

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
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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*).

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

You will be provided a schedule showing weekly topics the first day of class. In a perfect world, all things will go well, and there'll be no change from this schedule. We live in an imperfect world, and so, there may be disruptions. If the schedule has to be altered, it will be altered with proper notice and always in a way that benefits students before me.