

Freshman Success Seminar

COURSE SYLLABUS- FALL 2016

Instructor: Mrs. Brittney Yager

Office Location: Ag/IT 222Q

Office Hours: Tuesday 2pm-4pm, Thursday 9am-11am

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COURSE INFORMATION

CRN: 83067

Classroom: Journalism Building 234

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:

Academic day planner that covers the entire semester; folder to collect assignments/syllabi. You will also be required to keep on hand your syllabi from all other courses in which you are enrolled. HB2504 states that syllabi from all courses must be publicly posted by the first class day. If your instructor does not pass out a syllabus, visit eCollege or the schedule of classes to obtain the syllabus (www.tamuc.edu/schedule).

Optional Textbook:

Keys to Success by Sarah Lyman Kravits, Carol Carter, and Joyce Bishop. 2010.

ISBN: 9780132541718. You are not required to purchase this textbook, but I will be using it as a lecture source, and therefore quizzes will include this material.

Course Description

COH 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. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class. Once the first quiz has been turned in, additional quizzes will not be given out. Please show up on time.

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.

GOAL MAP: You will be responsible for constructing a goal map based on one long-term goal that you have set for yourself. Use at least 4 short-term goals and two mid-range goals to make a map to one long-term goal. Each goal should lead to the next. Short-term \Rightarrow mid-range \Rightarrow long-term. Use pictures, photos, or other media to illustrate your goals – do not just write them down in words. Be creative! The long-term goal you choose can be any sort of goal: educational, career, personal, etc. Remember MAPS when you choose your goals – measurable, attainable, positive, and self-chosen. The short-term and mid-range goals are your objectives, or steps to achieving your goal. If you choose a professional/career goal, you may want to do some research on job posting sites as to the hiring requirements for the job. This is also true for educational goals – if your goal is to achieve a PhD, you will need to look at the admission requirements for doctoral programs in which you are interested.

ACADEMIC PLANNER: You will use the academic planner you have purchased to plan out the rest of your semester. Take the syllabi from your classes in which you are enrolled (including this one). Put the major due dates from the syllabi in your planner. For example: First Campus Events Attendance Reflection Essay will go in the box for September 22nd. If you have lost a syllabus from a course, you can find it on the current schedule of classes (www.tamuc.edu/schedule). House Bill 2504 mandates that all syllabi must be posted by the first class day, so there is no excuse as to why you don't have one.

Final essay (Choose one):

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: *Note that attendance alone does not constitute participation. Each student will begin with a mid-passing Participation and Attendance grade of an 80.* Strong effort or lack of effort during each class and over the course of the semester as a whole will either raise or lower that grade. Amongst other things, additional participation credit may be acquired by attendance at certain University-sponsored events as designated by me. Participation includes input in class discussions, input in group assignments, answering questions, preparedness for class sessions, and general attentiveness during lecture.

GRADING

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

Assignment	Percentage of Grade
Quizzes	20%
Goal Map	10%
Academic Planner	10%
Campus Events Attendance Reflection Essays	15%
Final Essay	25%
Class Participation	20%

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

WORKING EMAIL REQUIREMENT: It is a course expectation that you have a working email address that you check daily. Every student has been assigned a Leomail email address by the University – you should be checking it often. There may be times that I need to contact you with important information and email is often the speediest and easiest way of doing so. I will always contact you via your University Leomail address first and foremost, so check it regularly.

SAVING OF ASSIGNMENTS: Unfortunately, papers/projects do occasionally get misplaced. Please, for your sanity, save your work on a thumb drive, external hard drive, etc. Do not depend on your

paper staying on the hard drive of any university computer, as it will be deleted, altered, or worse – turned in by someone else as his/her work! Be aware that it is a course expectation that you keep copies of your original and graded assignments until you receive your final grade for the semester.

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)

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Contacting Mrs. Yager:

I am more than happy to meet with you during office hours, so feel free to drop in. Along with instructing this class, I am also an academic advisor full-time. This means I am on campus almost every day from 8am to 5pm. Because I also see students to register for classes, go over degree plans, and make schedule changes, please make every effort to schedule an appointment in advance if you need to meet outside of office hours. I am here to assist you in success and will do my best to help you achieve it. The fastest and most reliable way to contact me is via email. I check it frequently. If you contact me via phone, please leave a message so I can return your call at my earliest convenience. If you email or call me outside of business hours, I will get back to you on the next business day. This includes holidays, weekends, or outside of my normal 8am-5pm schedule.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures

Attendance Policy:

Random quizzes will be given throughout the semester. When a quiz is given, it will take place at the beginning of the class period. The quiz will also count as your attendance for the day (if you do not turn in a quiz, you will be counted as absent for the period. Roll will be taken each class day that a quiz is not given. 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 COH 111.

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.

Students will be allotted two unexcused absences during the semester. Each additional absence in this course will result in a point reduction on your final attendance grade by 3 points.

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 and University College Dean, Dr. Tabettha Adkins.

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

Other course policies:

1. **LATE WORK:** Late Written Work/Projects – Late assignments are not accepted except in extreme emergencies. This means that if you have to be absent for some reason on the day a written assignment is due, you must give your assignment to one of your classmates to hand in for you, or you will receive a grading deduction. If you know you will not be in class, make arrangements to turn in your assignment early. All assignments are due within the first ten minutes of the class period unless I specify otherwise. If you turn in your assignment at 3:11 pm on the day it is due, the assignment is considered late.
2. **SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS:** All assignments must be submitted in hard copy to the instructor. While you are welcome to email me any questions that you may have, please understand that under normal circumstances, I cannot accept emailed student work at this time. If you do not own a printer, Gee Library offers printing services for a small fee – please plan accordingly.
3. **ADAPTATION OF ASSIGNMENTS:** Any shifts in calendar or assignments will be announced before implementation.
4. **FOOD, DRINK, GUM, and SMOKING:** When bringing food to class, please be respectful of other students. Please refrain from bringing hot or fragrant food to class – cold snacks or chips are fine. Students are not allowed to smoke during class time.
5. **INCOMPLETES:** Under normal circumstances, an Incomplete (I or X) will not be given for a final grade in this course.

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.)

Campus Concealed Carry

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

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

Bring necessary materials to class with you to supplement discussion. Printed or digital copies are both acceptable.

Date	Unit	To do	Due In Class
Week 1	8/30 - Introductions, syllabus discussion 9/1 - Welcome to College (Chapter 1)	8/30 - Print syllabus (before class) 9/1 - What do you want to get out of this class?	
Week 2	9/6 - Learning How You Learn (Chapter 3) 9/8 - GCAA Assessment for campus QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan) Meet in Ed South 125 Computer Lab for GCAA Assessment	9/6 - Learning Style Activity Review Academic Planner Assignment 9/8 - Read e-mail from Dr. Shonda Gibson about GCAA assessment before class (Students will automatically receive this e-mail)	9/8 - meet in Ed South 125 Computer Lab for GCAA Assessment
Week 3	9/13 - Syllabus review 9/15 - Grade Academic Planner Assignment	9/13 - Syllabi and Planning activity ; Bring syllabi from all other courses, Bring planner to class 9/15 - Bring completed planner to class for grading	9/15 Academic Planner due
Week 4	9/20-Academic Skills Center - Jodi Oelrich Listening and Note Taking (Chapter 6) 9/22 - Communication (Chapter 9)	9/20 - Cornell Notes reading activity 9/22 - How to Talk to a Professor power point	9/22 First Campus Events Attendance Reflection Essay due
Week 5	9/27 - Plagiarism Tutorial	9/27 - none	9/29 Plagiarism

	9/29 - College computer literacy	9/29 - 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.	Certificate due in class
Week 6	10/4 - Title 9 10/6 – No class – begin reading for final essay	10/4 - Video in class https://vimeo.com/105143665 10/6 – Read <i>Steal Like An Artist: 10 Things Nobody Told You About Being Creative</i> .	10/4 - Second Campus Events Attendance Reflection Essay due
Week 7	10/11 - Test Taking (Chapter 8) 10/13 - GCAA Results review – Meet in Ed South computer lab	10/11 – None 10/13 - Read GCAA report from the assessment completed in week 2 before class. Bring to class.	10/13 Meet in Ed South 125 Computer Lab
Week 8	10/18 - Registration 10/20 - Goals (Chapter 2)	10/18 - Look over DegreeWorks in myLeo before class 10/20 - Review Goal Map Assignment	10/20 - Third Campus Events Attendance Reflection Essay due
Week 9	10/25 - Wellness Stress Management Workshop 10/27 – Wellness and Stress Management (Chapter 10)	10/25 - none 10/27 - Review physical and mental health power point	
Week 10	11/1 - Financial literacy – Financial Aid and tuition 11/3 – Money Management and Budgeting (Chapter 11)	11/1 - Read FASFA infographic 11/3 – Budgeting exercise	11/3- Fourth Campus Events Attendance Reflection Essay due
Week 11	11/8 - Critical thinking (Chapter 4)	11/8 - Review critical thinking power point	11/10 – Goal Map due

	11/10 – Memory and Studying (Chapter 7)	11/10 - None	
Week 12	11/15 - Time management 11/17 – Career Development	11/15 - Time management PDF and power point; 11/17 - MyPlan assessment (bring to class)	11/17 - Fifth Campus Events Attendance Reflection Essay due
Week 13	11/22 – No class, read for final paper 11/24 – Thanksgiving break, no class	Read <i>Steal Like An Artist: 10 Things Nobody Told You About Being Creative</i> .	
Week 14	11/29 - Work on final assignment- essay on common reading 12/1 – Group Interaction	11/29 – Q&A about final assignment 12/1 – Survivor Exercise	
Week 15	Make-up week		12/8 - Final Essay due
Finals Week	No class		