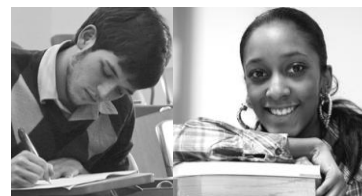


Strategies for Academic Success

PSY 1730 – Spring 2011 (Session 2)



“College requires a different set of study skills than high school to be successful – a set of skills any college student can learn.”

Class: Tuesday/Thursday 12:00 pm-1:15 pm
Room: MAIN 006
Instructor: Dennis Kohler
Office Hours: By Appointment
 Academic Resource Center – TSC 305
E-Mail: dennis.kohler@usu.edu
Phone: 797-0215

Required Text: Effective College Learning: 2nd Edition by Holschuh and Nist
Required Lab Packet: PSY 1730 – Lab Packet by Jensen

Course Description

This is an accelerated skills-based course where students learn a variety of skills and techniques that enable academic success at the college level. Through a combination of lecture, assigned reading, in-class activities, and hands-on practice students will learn concrete ways to improve college-level reading, note taking, self-management, college-level learning and thinking strategies, as well as test preparation and test-taking skills. Students assess their current strengths and weaknesses and focus on specific areas they want to improve. This is a rigorous course where class attendance, participation, and consistent quality of effort are expected.

Course Objectives

1. Identify (or assess) barriers to your academic success.
2. Assess your study skills strengths and weaknesses and implement a plan of improvement.
3. Learn, practice, and use a variety of effective study strategies and learning techniques.
4. Analyze which strategies are most effective for your needs and adapt as necessary to your courses and study requirements.

Grading: 600 Total Course Points

558-600 Points	93-100%	A	438-455 Points	73-75.9%	C
534-557	89-92.9%	A-	414-437	69-72.9%	C-
516-533	86-88.9%	B+	<414	68.9%	F
498-515	83-85.9%	B	No “D+, D, or D-” given in this course.		
474-497	79-82.9%	B-			
456-473	76-78.9%	C+			

Grade Points:	7 Labs	240
	Participation/Attendance/Goals	70
Class Points	Midterm Exam	60
	5 Quizzes	70
	2 Guided Reading/Writing	60
	<u>Final Project/Paper</u>	<u>100</u>
TOTAL COURSE POINTS		600

Class Attendance and Participation: 70 points

Class attendance is required. The student cannot succeed in this course without attending class and participating in class activities. **Missed activities and in-class assignments cannot be made up.** Absences are zeros in the participation category. Excused absences (such as acute illness) are at the professor's discretion and require a phone call **before the missed class.**

Participation

This course is about modeling behaviors conducive to academic success. These include, attending class, being on time and in your seat before class begins, asking appropriate questions, being alert, taking notes, thinking about ideas and concepts introduced in class, and bringing materials for in-class work. **Assignments are due at the BEGINNING of class. No late work is accepted.** Participation checks are taken in the form of in-class exercises, short journal assignments, and unannounced pop quizzes.

Tests and Assignments:

There will be 1 midterm exam, part objective and part subjective, covering information to date. There are also two guided reading assignments which will be completed using Blackboard.

Blackboard:

This class makes extensive use of the online Blackboard system. It is your responsibility to log in to that system daily and check for assignments and deadlines.

Student Responsibility Statement

Not every assignment will fit your needs exactly. If a particular assignment does not meet your needs, it is your responsibility to construct an alternative assignment that meets your needs and still fulfills the class objectives. After discussing the new assignment with the instructor, the student will type a description of the new assignment and turn in a copy well before the old assignment due date. It is the student's right and responsibility to make the assignments for this course fit his/her needs.

Class Conduct:

The class is conducted as a "community" of college learners and each member has the right to feel safe and valued. You are expected to treat each person with dignity and respect. **Discriminatory or offensive behavior or language directed toward a person's race, religion, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, or disability will not be tolerated.**

University-approved absences

(e.g., for athletics, marching band, etc.) must be documented in writing from an official source and presented to your instructor at least one week prior to the absence to receive consideration for alternative assignment or exam due dates. In most cases, you are expected to take an exam before the scheduled date. Please ensure you notify your instructor after our first class if you are involved in activities involving university-approved absences.

Academic Dishonesty

Your instructor will abide by the Student Code to define cheating and to administer appropriate consequences. Refer to <http://www.usu.edu/studentservices/pdf/StudentCode.pdf> pages 11-12.

Course Fee

You were automatically assessed a \$13.00 course fee when registering. The course fee provides enriched instruction and course outcomes through classroom support materials, handouts, consumable supplies, skills videos, and assessment instruments used to determine learning outcomes.

Disability Statement:

Students with ADA-documented physical, sensory, emotional or medical impairments may be eligible for reasonable accommodations. Veterans may also be eligible for services. All accommodations are coordinated through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in Room 101 of the University Inn, (435)797-2444 voice, (435)797-0740 TTY, or toll free at 1-800-259-2966. Please contact the DRC as early in the semester as possible. Alternate format materials (Braille, large print or digital) are available with advance notice.

Class Format

(Read Carefully and Retain for the Semester)
(Instructor reserves the right to alter the syllabus)

In general, class will include topic introduction, topic discussion, individual or group activities and in-class guided practice.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Some assignments will be done in-class, and others will be done out-of-class. In addition to the assignments listed below, you are also expected to read the assigned chapters in the textbook. Quizzes and assignments are designed to test your understanding of the assigned reading.

Keep in mind that the entire class is designed to build your knowledge, understanding, and skill of effective study techniques and strategies. The instructor is more concerned about how you creatively apply new skills to develop your confidence and satisfaction as a life-long learner, as well as build your emerging GPA!

See Course Outline for Due Dates and Assignment Point Values – page 4

LAB ASSIGNMENTS (usually completed during lab)

Note: Lab days, times, and assignments are separate from class.

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Points</u>
Lab 1: Succeeding Academically	Study Skills Survey/Goal Setting	20
Lab 2: Time Management	Weekly Calendar Study-Time Estimator	30
Lab 3: Getting Organized	Binder/Spiral	30
Lab 4: Effective Note Taking	1 Set of "Cornelled" Lecture Notes	40
Lab 5: Practicing Text Annotation	2-3 Pages Photo-copied Annotated	40
Lab 6: College Study Guides	Visual Organizers	40
Lab 7: Test Preparation	5-day Study Plan	<u>40</u>
	Lab Sub Total	240

COURSE OUTLINE and REQUIRED READINGS
(Instructor reserves the right to alter the syllabus)

			Topic	Reading	Assignment	Quiz Due Date	Lab Topic
Week 1	1	15-Mar	Attitudes and motivation (IC1-GTKY)	1,3,4		QUIZ 1 3/20/2011	LAB 1 Succeeding Academically (Goals)
	2	17-Mar	Time Management	2			
Week 2	3	22-Mar	Organization/Motivation (IC2)	2,3	Guided Reading One 3/27/2011	QUIZ 2 3/27/2011	LAB 2 Time Management
	4	24-Mar	Student beliefs and how people learn	4,6			
Week 3	5	29-Mar	Active Listening	7,8	Predicting Exam Questions (IC3) 4/3/2011	QUIZ 3 4/3/2011	LAB 3 Get Organized
	6	31-Mar	Note Taking	8			
Week 4	7	5-Apr	Textbook Reading	9			LAB 4 Note Taking
	8	7-Apr	PROGRESS EXAM (CHS 1-4 and 6-9) DUE 10-APR				
Week 5	9	12-Apr	Analyzing Returned Tests - Final Project Check (IC4)	9		QUIZ 4 4/17/2011	LAB 5 Text Annotation
	10	14-Apr	Concentration and Memory / Rehearsal Strategies	10,11			
Week 6	11	19-Apr	Stress Management (IC5)	5	Guided Reading Two 4/24/2011	QUIZ 5 4/24/2011	LAB 6 Study Guides
	12	21-Apr	Exam Preparation	12,13			
Week 7	13	26-Apr	Final Project Discussion (IC6)	14,15			LAB 7 5-day Study Plan
	14	28-Apr	Final Project DUE 4-MAY				

*Note: In-class participation/attendance points CANNOT be made up – even in the event of illness or emergency.

**Quizzes will be taken outside of class using Blackboard, they will be based on assigned chapter readings. Quizzes will not be comprehensive.