

**Psychology 1730**  
**Strategies For Academic Success**  
**Fall 2009**

**Instructor:** Wendy Beck

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**Office:** University Inn 103

**Office Hours:** M, W 11:00-12:00

or by appointment

**Required text:** Becoming a Master Student (BMS), (12<sup>th</sup> Edition Concise) by David Ellis

**Time:** TR 9:00-10:15

**Location:** ENGR 238

**Class Fee:** \$10.00 This fee is used to fund class resources.

**Course Objectives:**

This course is designed to help students acquire the necessary skills for having a successful college experience. Students will analyze their current academic and personal skills and determine the areas in which they would benefit from changes. A combination of in-class activities and outside readings will present strategies such as effective reading, note taking, problem solving, and test taking. Students will experience “learning by doing” through application of these strategies in PSY 1730 and in other academic courses.

A successful student will be able to meet the following objectives:

1. Describe ways to create a successful college experience.
2. Assess areas that need improvement for academic success.
3. Access resources to create effective strategies for academic success.
4. Understand how to develop short term and long term goals.
5. Analyze which strategies are effective.
6. Evaluate progress and implement new strategies.
7. Practice self management in a way which results in satisfactory academic performance.

**Students with physical, sensory, emotional or medical impairments may be eligible for reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. All accommodations are coordinated through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in Room 101 of the University Inn, 797-2444 voice, 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.**

### **Attendance and Participation:**

Students are expected to attend class. There is a very high correlation between class attendance and high grades. Much of your learning will occur as a result of your **participation**. You are expected to be an active participant in group activities and class discussions. Participation means asking appropriate questions and sharing comments with the class, bringing materials for in-class work, and attending the lectures. This is a class designed to give you modeling behavior for subsequent classes. It is important to practice looking alert, taking notes, and thinking about the ideas presented in class. It will be difficult to earn a satisfactory grade without attending class on a regular basis.

### **Grading Policy:**

The term grade will be based on the following factors:

Assignments	50%
Participation	20%
Exams	20%
Final Paper	10%
TOTAL:	100%

Distribution is a strict 10% ( i.e. 90-100 is the A to A- range)

### **Participation:**

Participation checks will be taken in the form of in-class exercises, short journal assignments, and unannounced quizzes. Participation points may not be made up.

### **Tests:**

There will be two tests, part objective and part subjective covering information that has been introduced to date. The final exam is a term paper that summarizes what you have learned and applied this semester. You will receive a handout with information on topic, format, and due dates. No makeup tests will be given! Read the syllabus carefully.

### **Student Responsibility Statement:**

Not every assignment will fit your needs exactly. If you find that any particular assignment does not meet your needs, it is your responsibility to come up with 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 up a description of the new assignment and hand in a copy. It is the student's right and responsibility to make the assignments in this class fit his/her needs.

## Assignments:

Psychology 1730 is a skill-building class. Out-of-class assignments to help you acquire the skills of a successful student are an integral part of the course and will be assigned throughout the semester.

It is expected that all assignments will be completed and handed in according to the schedule listed below. Any assignment not turned in on the scheduled due date is late. Late assignments will not be accepted without prior approval from the instructor. Please staple or paper clip your assignments before you come to class.

<u>Date assigned</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Date Due</u>	<u>Points</u>
Aug 25	Ex. 1 Textbook Reconnaissance (2)	Aug 27	20
	Ex. 5 Discovery Wheel (25)	Aug 27	20
Aug 27	Time monitor assignment (handout)	Sept 8	50
Sept 15	Note taking assignment–Cornell method	Sept 22	30
Sept 17	Personalized reading strategy	Sept 24	30
Sept 22	Create 8-day study plan	Sept 24	35
Sept 29	Community Service assignment	Nov 19, Nov 24	100
Oct 8	Analyzing Test Results	Oct 13	35
Oct 22	Learning experience paper	Nov 5	60
Dec 1	Coming Full Circle (p. 214)	Dec 3	20

**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**(Subject to change depending on class needs)**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Topic</u></b>	<b><u>Reading Assignment</u></b>
Aug 25	Getting acquainted	Chapter 1
Aug 27	Ideas are Tools	
Sept 1	Campus resources, Policies and Procedures Bring <i>Schedule of Classes</i> book and <i>General Catalog</i> to class	Chapter 2
Sept 3	Time Management	
Sept 8	Goal setting	Chapter 4
Sept 10	Attitudes, Changing Behavior	
Sept 15	Note taking, Listening	Chapter 3
Sept 17	Reading Textbooks	Chapter 5
Sept 22	Test skills, Study guides	
Sept 24	Test skills, Memory	Chapter 8
Sept 29	Service Learning/Diversity	
Oct 1	Techniques for test taking, test anxiety	
Oct 6	<b>Exam</b>	
<b>Oct 8</b>	Analyzing a test	
<b>Oct 13</b>	Academic Advising	Chapter 7
Oct 20	Writing Process	
Oct 22	Writing Practice and Tips	
Oct 27	Peer Response	
Oct 29	Relationships	
Nov 3	Making a presentation/Final paper topic	Chapter 9
Nov 5	Making the most of your money	

Nov 10	Ethical Behavior	Chapter 6
Nov 12	Critical Thinking	
Nov 17	<b>Exam</b>	
<b>Nov 19</b>	Service presentations	
Nov 24	Service presentations	
Dec 1	Managing Stress	
Dec 3	Summing up	Final Paper due