SLS 1510: Developing Academic Skills
Spring 2017
University of Florida College of Education

Class Meeting: Online with in-person meeting every other Tuesday, 4 & 5th period
Beaty Commons Classroom; BEC 112

Lead Instructors: Dr. Jeanne Repetto - jrepetto@coe.ufl.edu
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Textbook:

Other Readings/Materials:
Purdue OWL on-line writing lab: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/
Other readings listed in Canvas modules

Course Description: The primary goal of this course is to equip students with the tools that will enable them to become independent learners. Course objectives will focus upon study skills, the learning process and library research, as well as an introduction to analytical thinking.

Course Objectives: Students will:
➢ Apply organization and use of time management techniques.
➢ Apply note-taking techniques.
➢ Demonstrate knowledge of library resources and ability to use resources appropriately for various academic tasks
➢ Demonstrate knowledge of and apply study strategies and test-taking techniques.
➢ Apply learning strategies and techniques to improve memory retention and understanding of individual strengths and weaknesses.
➢ Apply editing skills on written assignments.
➢ Identify different Learning Styles and their implications towards learning.
➢ Identify ways motivation plays a role in success.

Grades Based on:

Why Are You Here? Paper (30 points)
One of your first assignments will be to submit a 3-5-page paper on why you are here, in college, at UF. Refer to the course policies section of this syllabus for more information on the format of written work in this course.

Critical Thinking Activities (12 CTAs @ 10 points each = 120 points)
At the beginning of each chapter is a Critical Thinking Activity (CTA) to be completed prior to reading the chapter. At the beginning of each module, you will complete the CTA by answering the questions in Canvas. CTAs are to be submitted in Canvas no later than 11:59pm on the Sunday night prior to the in-class meeting when the topic will be discussed.

**Weekly Topical Assignments (7 topics areas @ 25 points each = 175 points)**
For each week we meet in person there will be at least one assignment due that you will have completed prior to class related to the weekly topic(s). These assignments will aid in class discussions about the weekly topic(s). Examples include a learning styles inventory, a time tracking assignment, a campus resource visit, etc. These assignments are due in Canvas no later than 11:59pm on the Monday night prior to the in-class meeting when the topic will be discussed.

**Final Project/Presentation (35 points)**
TBA

**Attendance/Participation (40 points)**
Since this class meets biweekly, attendance is vital to being an engaged participant in class topics and discussion. The purposefulness with which you approach your learning experience in the class will correlate with your learning outcomes. Your participation/contributions are essential for your learning and the learning of your classmates. You will receive 5 points for every class in which you are fully present and engaged in the material. If you are absent, for any reason, you will lose 5 points for that day. This allows you to miss once because of sickness or emergency without irreparably damaging your grade; however, your absence will be noted. If you know ahead of time that you will be absent or late for class, please contact the instructor via e-mail or text message prior to that class. Knowing that sometimes it may be difficult to contact the instructor prior to class depending on the situation, please do so as soon as possible. In addition to attendance, students are expected to arrive on time and be prepared for class to begin promptly at the assigned time.

Mature and respectful behavior is expected from all members of our class in all interactions with instructors, guest presenters, and other students. Side conversations, sleeping, and reading other course material (or the Alligator, e-mail, etc.) are not appropriate and may negatively impact the attendance/participation grade for that day. Please turn off or silence all cell phones or any other electronic devices and put them away prior to the start of class. The use of laptops and “i-” devices will be monitored and if they become a distraction, students may be asked to put them away.

**Grading Scale:** Total points for class - 400
- 93% to 100 is an A
- 91% to 92% is an A-
- 88% to 90% is a B+
- 83% to 87% is a B
- 81% to 82% is a B-
- 78% to 80% is a C+
- 73% to 77% is a C
- 71% to 72% is a C-
68% to 70% is a D+
63% to 67% is a D
61% to 62% is a D-
60 and below is an E

Outline of Class:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/Assignment Due</th>
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| Modules 1 & 2 January 10 in class | Course Overview  
Connecting to Resources |                                                |
| January 17 in class | Adjusting to College  
Connecting to Resources | Complete CTA 1.1 & 2.1 prior to reading  
Read Chapters 1 & 2 |
| Modules 3 & 4 January 24 on line | Learning and Grades  
Learning Preferences | Complete CTA 3.1 & 4.1 prior reading  
Read Chapters 3 & 4 |
| January 31 in class | Learning Styles Discussion | Bring completed learning styles inventory |
| Module 5 February 7 on line | Getting Organized | Complete CTA 5.1 prior to reading  
Read Chapter 5 |
| February 14 in class | Getting Organized | Time Audit due |
| Modules 6 & 7 February 21 on line | Listening & Taking Notes  
Reading Textbooks | Complete CTA 6.1 & 7.1 prior to reading  
Read Chapters 6 & 7 |
| February 28 in class | Listening & Taking Notes  
Reading Textbooks |                                                |
| March 7 | Spring Break | Enjoy and catch up if you need to! |
| Module 8 March 14 on line | Writing College Papers | Complete CTA 8.1 prior to reading  
Read Chapter 8 |
| March 21 in class | Writing College Papers |                                                |
| Modules 9 & 10 March 28 on line | Psychological Balance  
Physical Balance | Complete CTA 9.1 & 10.1 prior to reading  
Read Chapters 9 & 10 |
| April 4 in class | Psychological Balance  
Physical Balance |                                                |
| Modules 11 & 12 April 11 on line | Managing Your Money  
Planning Your Future | Complete CTA 11.1 & 12.1 prior to reading  
Read Chapters 11 & 12 |
| April 18 in class | Managing Your Money  
Planning Your Future |                                                |
| April 25 on line | Final Reflection |                                                |

Course Policies:

**Attendance and Make-up Exams and Assignments**
Late assignments may receive a maximum of one-half of the total assigned points. Make-up exams and assignments will be administered with a written physician's or other appropriate documentation only.
Assignments should be proofread carefully, because only assignments with minimal or no errors will receive high scores. Create assignments in a Word file (.doc or .TXT) using Times New Roman font at least 12 point.

The schedule and procedures in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

Students are expected to be involved in regular interactions with their classmates and with the instructor. Active participation is essential to building an effective learning community. All students are expected to be regular and active participants in discussion and learning activities throughout the semester.

Absence for permitted religious reasons, documented medical concerns, and other reasons as noted in University policy will be handled accordingly. Requirements for make-up exams, assignments, and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at:


Students not meeting expectations for exams, assignments, and attendance/participation for unexcused absences not covered in the university attendance and make-up policies should contact the instructor as soon as possible to determine whether make-up assignments or exams are possible. Assignments submitted after their due dates will receive no more than half credit.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity (see Student Conduct Code or this web site for more details):


Cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior and may result in a reduction of course grade and a report to university officials.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you require classroom accommodation because of a disability, you must first register with the Dean of Students Office (352 392-8565, http://www.dso.ufl.edu/). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to you, which you then give to the instructor when requesting accommodation. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.
Counseling and Student Health

Students with academic concerns related to this course should contact the instructor in person or via email. Students also may occasionally have personal issues that arise in the course of pursuing higher education or that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing problems affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and to seek confidential assistance at the UF Counseling & Wellness Center, 352-392-1575. Visit their web site for more information: http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/. Also, crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from: Alachua County Crisis Center: (352) 264-6789.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at https://evaluations.ufl.edu.

Summary evaluation results available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/