

COWL 10 Syllabus

Becoming a Successful Student

Summer Session 1, June 23 – July 25, 2014

T/Th 10:00-11:30

Soc Sci I Room 153

Instructor: Andrew Bockus abockus@ucsc.edu

Office Hours: TBD

Course overview

This 2-unit seminar uses an interactive approach to investigate and assess effective studying, note taking, critical thinking, and examination strategies. Goal setting, time management, communication with staff and faculty, major and career exploration, college culture, the use of campus resources, and beliefs about learning will also be discussed.

Learning objectives

By the end of the quarter, students will be able to confidently approach new learning opportunities and environments with the basic skills required for success. Students will be able to set defined goals and develop and step-wise plans to achieve them. Students will have a grasp of their own learning styles and will know how to take advantage of their strengths. Students will be familiar with multiple effective reading, note taking, studying, writing, and test taking strategies and will be able to apply them in a variety of subject areas. Students will gain experience working in groups, using research tools, and communicating effectively. By experimenting with new approaches to learning and reflecting on the outcomes, students will design personalized learning methods and assume ownership of their college careers.

General approach

Each class will consist of short lectures interspersed with group activities

and discussions. Activities and assignments are designed to emulate learning experiences in other classes. Students will synthesize material by integrating content and practice in the form of reflective journaling, a research project, and an oral presentation.

Course requirements and evaluation

Class participation 25%: Students are expected to be actively engaged in lecture, activities, and discussion.

Self-Reflection Journal 25%: A total of 10 reflective journal entries must be submitted, one for each class session. In the final culminating experience entry, students should highlight discoveries made throughout the course and should outline a plan for successful attainment of goals in college and beyond. More details will be provided closer to the due date.

Theory-to-Practice Project 50%: A research project on an approved topic will serve as a tool for research, note taking, critical thinking, writing, and presentation skill development. A creative project will be submitted and presented on the final day of class. More details will be provided closer to the due date.

Required Materials

A positive attitude

Textbook: *Becoming a Master Student*, 13th ed. By Dave Ellis

Pen/Pencil, Notebook, Folder for handouts

ecommons.ucsc.edu account; computer access in Social Sciences 1, Room 135

Policies

Absences Students must attend 8 of the 10 class meetings for a Passing grade (*P*).

Late work 10 points will be deducted from the grade of all assignments for

every day past the due date.

Tentative Schedule

Session	Date	Topic	Project
1	June 24	Introduction, Goal Setting, Time Management	
2	June 26	Motivation, Attitudes, and Learning Styles	Research Project Assigned
3	July 1	Acquiring Information: Notes and Research	
4	July 3	Processing Information 1: Reading and Remembering	Research Topic Approval
5	July 8	Processing Information 2: Critical Thinking and Examinations	
6	July 10	Communicating Information: Writing and Presenting	1st Draft Due for review
7	July 15	Majors and Careers	
8	July 17	Student Health	2 nd draft due for review/Final reflective journal entry assigned
9	July 22	College Social Culture: Relationships and Diversity	Practice Presentation with a Partner
10	July 24	Presentations/Reflections/Closing Remarks	Final Presentations

Office hours.

Office hours will be determined by a class poll and posted on ecommons when finalized. Additional office hours can be arranged by appointment.

Estimate of student workload

Students are expected to attend two 1 h 30 min classes per week and spend at least 2 h per week reviewing notes, reading assignments, journaling, and/or working on the final project. The research project is expected to take ~8 h, and cumulative self-reflection journal entry is expected to take a maximum of 2 h of outside of class to complete.

Students with special needs

Contact the [Disability Resource Center](#) if you need special accommodation for exam taking and/or timely completion of final projects.