

## **COWL 10 Syllabus**

### **Becoming a Successful Student**

Summer Session 1, June 22 – July 24, 2015

M/W 10:00-11:30

Earth & Marine Room B210

Instructor: Andrew Bockus [abockus@ucsc.edu](mailto:abockus@ucsc.edu)

Office Hours: Monday 11:40-1:00 pm Earth & Marine Lobby, or by appointment

### **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 covered.

### **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. Students will have experience networking with people in their field of study. 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/interview project, and an oral presentation.

## **Course requirements and evaluation**

***Class Participation 20%***: Students are expected to be actively engaged in lecture, activities, and discussion of the assigned reading.

***Self-Reflection Journal 20%***: A total of 9 short reflective journal entries will be submitted, one for each class session.

***Podcast Project 30%***: Students will write and produce an interview (10 - 30 min) with a 'successful' person in their field of study. Topics, resources, scheduling, and the fate of the podcasts will be discussed in class.

***Theory-to-Practice Paper 30%***: In this 3-page paper, students should identify their specific academic and career goals and describe how they will use concepts and strategies from this course and their interviews to accomplish these goals. Students will give short oral presentations on the final day of class.

## **Required materials**

A positive attitude

Textbook: *Motivation and Learning Strategies for College Success: A Focus on Self-Regulated Learning* by Myron H. Dembo and Helena Seli

Pen/Pencil, Notebook, Folder for handouts

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

## **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**

Class	Topic	Read	Journal	Projects
June 22	Success and Motivation	28-65		
June 24	Learning Styles	74-100	Entry 1 Due	
June 29	Goal Setting Time Management	101-118 145-193	Entry 2 Due	Interview Approval
July 1	Learning from Textbooks	195-223	Entry 3 Due	
July 6	Learning from Lectures	224-241	Entry 4 Due	
July 8	Preparing for and Taking Exams	242-279	Entry 5 Due	
July 13	Communication Relationships and Diversity	172-190	Entry 6 Due	
July 15	Student Health	119-143	Entry 7 Due	1 <sup>st</sup> Draft of Final Paper Due
July 20	Majors and Careers/Odds and Ends		Entry 8 Due	
July 22	Presentations Reflections		Entry 9 Due	Final Paper Due
July 24				Interview Due

## **Office hours.**

Office hours will be determined by a class poll and posted on ecommons. 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/interview 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.