Student Success

SLS 1122/3 credits
SPRING 2010

Instructor
Professor Patsy Buckley
407-359-9705
pbuckley@valenciacc.edu
(All emails MUST include your full name, class days and time)

Contact Information

Class Location & CRN-20470; Friday---10:00am-12:45pm---Building 6, Room 206
Class Times CRN-22910; T/R------2:30pm-3:45pm-----Building 6, Room 210
Prereq. None

Course Description
Students learn and apply strategies for success in college and life-long learning. Major topics include setting academic, career and personal goals; effective communication; study strategies; critical thinking; self-discovery; learning styles and mastering Valencia’s core competencies. Students develop educational and career plans utilizing college resources.

Course Purpose
To provide an opportunity to learn about college resources and adopt methods that supports your success in school and life.

Required Text/Materials
All materials needed by 2nd class meeting.
• Becoming a Master Student (12th edition), Ellis
• My Portfolio
• True Colors Booklet
• Access to email through ATLAS

CLAS Competencies (VCC Catalog)
This class will reinforce the following CLAS competencies:
1. Reading Skills
2. Essay Skills
3. English Language Skills
4. Employ Conventional Sentence Structure
5. Logical Reasoning Skills

Valencia Student Core Competencies
1. THINK – Think clearly, critically, and creatively. Analyze, synthesize, integrate, and evaluate in many domains of human inquiry.
2. COMMUNICATE – Communicate with different audiences using varied means.
3. VALUE – Make reasoned value judgments and responsible commitments.
4. ACT – Act purposefully, reflectively, and responsibly.
Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

• Students will identify and evaluate their learning style and use that knowledge to practice effective study strategies across disciplines.
• Students will demonstrate critical thinking by analyzing ideas, patterns, and principles related to college and life situations.
• Students will use critical thinking skills to identify personal, academic and career goals and construct action plans to achieve them.
• Students will communicate effectively with individuals and in groups through verbal and written methods.

Teaching Strategies

The objectives of this course will be achieved through lectures, individual and group experiences, guest lectures, audiovisual presentations, personality and career inventories and assignments outside of class. The instructor’s role is to be a facilitator/guide in your learning experience.

Attendance

Because so much of the learning experience in this class is interactive and participatory, attendance is a must! After two absences, you will not receive ten percent of the 100% of your grade. There are NO excused absences with the exception of jury duty, military requirements, physician’s excuse or documented death in the family. Written documentation must be provided. After two absences, you will receive an excessive absence notification via your ATLAS email. After three absences you may be withdrawn from the course.

(College Policy: 6Hx28:Class Attendance and Grade Records) You are expected to attend all class meetings of all courses for which you are registered. Regular attendance and regular class participation are significant factors which promote success in college. You are expected to know the professor’s specific attendance policy as stated on the syllabus for each professor’s course. In the event of absence, you should contact your professor as soon as possible to indicate the reason and to inquire whether make-up work is possible. (Make-up work is offered solely at the discretion of your professor.) If your absences in a class become excessive, as stated on the course syllabus, your professor will contact you, indicating that further absence may result in your withdrawal from the course. (See entry on Withdrawal in current catalog.) Your professor can withdraw you from a course for excessive absences without your permission.

If you are absent on the day you are presenting, you will lose all points for this assignment. This will dramatically impact your grade.

It is the student’s responsibility to check with their "classroom contacts" or refer to the calendar for missed assignments and class-work. You may turn work in early. Late work will lose points. (See "Make-up/Late Policy")

Make-up/Late Policy

Makeup tests are at the discretion of the instructor. Late assignments will lose points per day.

Withdrawal Procedure

(2009 - 2010 College Catalog) This semester’s withdrawal deadline (for a grade of W) is March 26, 2010. It is your responsibility to withdraw from class, not your instructor’s. Failure to initiate withdrawal procedures may impact your final grade.

Disclaimer: This syllabus is tentative and changes may be necessary. A revised syllabus may be issued at the discretion of the instructor.
Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a letter from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with the professor, preferably during the first two weeks of class.

Electronic Devices

Phones, iPods, MP3s, etc.: Please TURN THEM OFF - this does not mean vibrate or texting! Ringing, beeping, buzzing, vibrating, singing, honking, hooting, tooting, electronic devices are a distraction in class (not to mention just rude). Please pull your headphones out of your ears (yes, both ears). If you cannot survive for less than 3 hours per week without your phone or iPod, then please drop the course. Texting, checking your phone, or answering your phone (this includes leaving class to check) will result in you being asked to leave for the day.

If electronic devices become an issue, disciplinary action will occur (you will not like it). If you have an emergency situation, please notify your instructor at the beginning of class and keep your phone on vibrate.

Expected Student Conduct

(Valencia College Catalog) Valencia Community College is dedicated not only to the advancement of knowledge and learning but it is concerned with the development of responsible personal and social conduct. By enrolling at Valencia Community College, a student assumes the responsibility for becoming familiar with and abiding by the general rules of conduct. The primary responsibility for managing the classroom environment rests with the faculty. Students who engage in any prohibited or unlawful acts that result in disruption of a class may be directed by the faculty member to leave the classroom. Violation of any classroom or Valencia’s rules may lead to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from Valencia. Disciplinary action could include being withdrawn from class, disciplinary warning, probation, suspension, expulsion, or other appropriate and authorized actions. You will find the Student Code of Conduct in the current Valencia Student Handbook.

If disruptive classroom behavior (coming in and out of class, side-conversations, and rude remarks, disrespectful behavior to fellow students or instructor) continues, you will be asked to leave.

In addition, please follow college policy relating to children on campus. Please make arrangements for childcare outside the classrooms or labs.

Academic Honesty

(Valencia Catalog) All students are expected to be in complete compliance with Valencia Community College’s policy on academic honesty. In NO instance will cheating of any type be tolerated. All work must be your own: any student involved in cheating or plagiarism (including the use of another student’s work) may receive a grade of “F” on a specific assignment, examination, or project, or may be assigned a grade of “F” for the course.

Disclaimer: This syllabus is tentative and changes may be necessary. A revised syllabus may be issued at the discretion of the instructor.
Additional Information

- Students will develop a learning portfolio. Put all class materials, notes, homework, quizzes, and papers in your portfolio (this will come in very handy at the end of the term!)
- The Goals Paper, Career Exploration Paper, and Educational Plan are mandatory! Failure to complete them will result in an “F” in the course!
- Reading assignments MUST BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO THE CLASS PERIOD FOR WHICH THEY ARE DUE. Class discussion is based on reading; informed participation discussion is expected.
- Writing and/or other homework will often accompany reading assignments and are due at the beginning of the class period. Name, date and class meeting times must be on each assignment.
- Technology problems are no excuse for lateness. (For example: “My printer broke...ran out of ink...etc.”) You may print in the ATLAS Lab free of charge; there are also printers in the library for a small fee. Please plan ahead.
- All writing assignments, including book exercises, are expected to be at college level. Hastily written work, without depth or thought, will be returned. The 1st occurrence can be resubmitted for a grade, all other occurrences will result in a loss of points.
- NO accounts of plagiarism will be tolerated! Please cite your sources in any written work.
- Students are expected to bring all materials, book, pencil/pen and paper to each and every class. Students without materials may be asked to leave.
- All assigned material in book (even if I didn’t talk about it), lectures, and presentation materials are fair game for midterm and final exam.
- Regular, unannounced quizzes may be given over the textbook material to ensure that students are reading the assigned chapters.
- Extra credit can be earned by completing additional assignments or activities as given.
- Keep this syllabus and refer to it often.

Grading

It is encouraged that you keep track of all assignments and their grades.

A = 90 - 100 points; B = 80- 89 points; C = 70 – 79 points; D = 60 – 69 points;
F = 59 or less points (SEE ATTACHED GRADING CHART).

Final Exam Period

The final exam is mandatory. It is your responsibility to be present and on time. If you do not attend the final examination and do not have an approved absence, you will receive an F for the course. (See Valencia College Catalog)

Final Exam Schedule Attached.
**Last Word**

- **What Works And**
  1. BE ATTENTIVE and feel free to ask questions!
  2. GET ASSIGNMENTS DONE on time and completely!
  3. KEEP UP WITH THE READING tests will cover material in book (even if I don’t)!
  4. ACKNOWLEDGE OTHERS’ VIEWPOINTS since we all have them!

- **What Doesn’t**
  1. PRESUMING you have learned it all.
  2. ASSUMING you can “coast” through to an "A."
  3. BELIEVING I am kidding on deadlines, mandatory assignments or plagiarism.
  4. FIGURING you can beat the odds and fake the work.
  5. NOT CARING enough about your education.

---

**Course Schedule Attached.**

**Grading Chart Attached**

**Final Exam Schedule**

---

Disclaimer: This syllabus is tentative and changes may be necessary. A revised syllabus may be issued at the discretion of the instructor.