

Introduction to Collegiate Studies – Fall, 2007
SAM 136-24 T/TH 11:00-12:30
Syllabus

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Texts: Gardner, J.N., A.J. Jeweler, and B.O. Barefoot (2008). Step by step to college and career success (2nd Ed.) Boston, MA: Thomson Wadsworth Publishing.

Bronson, Po (2003). What should I do with my life? The true story of people who answered the ultimate question. New York, NY: Random House.

Course Description: SAM 136 is designed to increase student success at college. The overall goal of the course is to facilitate a smooth transition to college life by engaging the student in a structured curriculum of academic and life skills enhancement. To accomplish this goal, the content of the class includes: locating and utilizing campus resources, goal setting and time management skills, writing skills, test preparation and taking skills, critical thinking skills, career and major/minor exploration, cultural diversity issues, personal health and well-being strategies, money management, and leadership/civic service training.

Learning Objectives:

1. Learning to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions).
2. Developing skill in expressing oneself orally or in writing.
3. Developing a clearer understanding of, and commitment to, personal values.
4. Acquiring skills in working with others as a member or a team.
5. Learning how to find and use resources for answering questions or solving problems.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Develop basic study skills (e.g. reading, writing, note taking and test taking).
2. Enhance critical thinking/problem solving.
3. Develop effective oral and written communication skills.
4. Locate and utilize university resources (e.g. career services, library, SAM Center, student services, etc.).
5. Enhance leadership, service learning, and civic responsibility skills/values.
6. Initiate career exploration and major/minor area of study exploration.
7. Become sensitive to and value different cultures and respect diversity.
8. Develop life skills (e.g. health/stress, nutrition, relationships/sex, alcohol/drugs, and money management).
9. Enhance effective group dynamics through course activities.

Academic Dishonesty: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a

student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

Classroom Rules of Conduct: Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

Visitors in the Classroom: Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

Attendance, Tardiness, and Early Exit Policy: Attending class, arriving for class on time, and remaining in class until the end of the class period are fundamental to academic success. Arriving on time for class and remaining in class until the end of the class period show respect for your instructor, your fellow classmates, and/or any guest speakers. Because of its importance, a combination of 2 tardies and/or early exiting will be counted as 1 absence for the class. A maximum of *two absences* will be allowed. After *two absences*, each absence will result in a half letter grade (5 points) drop in the student's final letter grade. Students who miss class because of official University business will be given the opportunity to make up for missed work without penalty. However, students must inform the instructor prior to the absence.

Absences on Religious Holy Days: University policy states that a student who is absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day must be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. Student must be excused to travel for observance of a religious holy day. A student who wishes to be excused for a religious holy day must present the instructor with a written statement describing the holy day(s) and the travel involved. The instructor should provide the student with a written description of the deadline for the completion of missed exams or assignments.

University ADA Policy: Sam Houston State University seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with Services for Students with Disabilities in the Counseling Center and to contact faculty members in a timely fashion to arrange for suitable accommodations.

Grading Scale:

90-100	A	Excellent Work
80-89	B	Good Work
70-79	C	Acceptable Work
60-69	D	Not Acceptable Work
Below 60	F	Failing Work

Assignments/Grades:

Written (Individual Research Assignments) **40%**

Class Participation **40%**

Includes daily quizzes, journaling, in-class assignments, group work, homework, in-class discussion participation, in-class presentations, service learning and attendance. It is your responsibility to read the chapters before they are covered in class.

Tests, Midterm, Final **20%**

Late assignments will lose 10 points for every class day late. Assignments more than 2 class days late will not be accepted and a zero will be given.

Service Learning Opportunity: (*October 15-18*)

Each student will volunteer 5 hours of service learning to enhance their involvement in the culture of Sam Houston State and the surrounding community. The service learning project for our class will be assisting the Good Shepherd Mission.

Weekly Journal Participation: As a class you will participate in a weekly online discussion of a given topic. You will be graded on the quantity and quality of your contribution to the discussion. You must use complete sentences and refrain from abbreviations commonly used in email or text messaging. Your participation will be date and time stamped and must be recorded by 5 p.m. on the Thursday of the week they are assigned.

Individual Research Assignments: See attached section explaining your project. The paper/project needs to be at least 7 pages in length and have a presentation accompany it. Your paper and presentation will add up to 40 % of your semester grade.

Tests, Midterm and Final Exams:

Final exam will be held on December 13 from 11:00am-1:00pm and will be comprehensive.

Semester project: MY Story

Your project will be at least 7 pages long and will have documentation of at least 3 visits to the writing center. Substantial points will be taken off for failure to visit the writing center. Please use double space, and use APA citations for the research you do.

1) Where I come from

This section will consist of a biographical account of your life from birth until now. What shaping influences were in your early years? Who influenced you greatly as you grew up. Was there any defining moment or circumstances that have caused you to become who you are?

2) Who I am

What have you learned about yourself this first semester in college? What goals have you set? How do you think and learn? What motivates you to reach your goals. What do you value and how are your values reflected in your day to day life? Please use specific examples from SAM 136.

Your rough draft of Sections 1 and 2 are due on October 4. The final draft of all 3 sections are due Nov. 8 with documented proof of 3 visits to the writing center.

3) How I want my story to continue

Now that you have the wonderful opportunity to attend and graduate from a university, what would you like your future to look like? Please share specific goals as well as how you plan to accomplish them. Special emphasis in this section needs to be on your chosen major and career. Please provide accurate citations for the research you have gathered regarding your career choice.

Along with section 3, You will present a **10-minute presentation** that shares your story with the class. Creativity is a must! Let who you are shine through. You may use any medium you wish as long as you follow the guidelines for effective speaking and use concrete examples from SAM 136 to illustrate your personal story. Your class schedule has the due dates for the presentation.

The presentation are due on Nov. 27.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Step 1: Beginning Your College Experience: Setting Off on the Right Foot.

Aug. 21 Hand out Syllabus

Aug. 23 Intro/Syllabus/Welcome to College!

Aug. 28 Determine Your Priorities /Goal Setting/Academic Honesty
Sam Scavenger Hunt 9am-1pm (LSC room 328) – bring proof of completion to class on Thursday

Aug. 30 Managing a budget/Managing Debt /Blackboard Discussion #1

Step 2: Managing Time and Staying Motivated

Sept. 4 Time Management/ Bring Syllabi from all your classes

Sept. 6 Academic Honesty/ Blackboard Discussion #2

Step 3 Thinking Critically: Beyond Wrong and Right

Sept. 11 Critical Thinking

Sept. 13 Library Tutorial/ Blackboard Discussion #3

Sept. 18 Test # 1: Steps 1, 2 & 3, Notes from class, Completed Academic Planner Take MBTI (<http://online.cpp.com>) before Tuesday Sept. 25

Sept. 20 Book Club: Come to class ready to discuss Chapters 1-10 of Bronson: What Should I do With my Life? Blackboard Discussion #4

Step 4 Maximize Your Learning Success: Making the Most of Your Learning Style

Sept. 25 Learning Style

Sept. 27 Advising at Sam Center/Blackboard Discussion #5

Step 5: Communicating Clearly: Writing and Speaking for Success

Oct. 2 Writing well /Public Speaking

Oct. 4 Book Club: Ch. 11-19: Blackboard Discussion #6.

Bring first draft of Sections 1 and 2 of Project .as well as outline for section 3. Take notes on the evening news and bring them to class on Tuesday

Step 6: Listening, Note- Taking and Participating in Class

Step 7 Reading for Success: Mastering an Essential Skill

Oct. 9 Active Listening & Note-Taking

Oct. 11 Reading Center : Director Wally Barnes /Blackboard discussion #7

(Service Learning at Good Shepherd Mission this week)

Oct. 16 Test #2 : Steps 3-7, Notes, MBTI Results

Oct. 18 Service Learning and becoming a citizen of your community/ Blackboard Discussion #6

Step 8 Taking Exams: Putting all Your Essential Skills to the Test

Oct. 23 Taking Exams/Sharpening your Memory/Mindmaps

Oct. 25 Book Club Chapters 20-35 / Blackboard Discussion #9

Step 9 Relationships, Diversity and Values: Understanding and Respecting Yourself and Others

Oct. 30 What do I value?

Nov. 1 Book Club Chapters 36-42 / Blackboard Discussion #10/ Take Strong's Inventory (<http://online.cpp.com>)

Step 10 Staying Healthy: Managing Stress and Achieving Wellness

Step 12 Making the Right Choices for Your Major and Career

Nov. 6 SHSU Health Center Michelle Lovering

Nov. 8 SHSU Career Center/Careers / Visit writing center before class on Monday Nov.

Nov. 13 Test #3: Steps 7-10, P. 97 completed study guide and Mindmap for this class or another class/proof of Strong's Inventory,

Nov. 15 Final book Club : Chapters 43-57

Nov. 20 Bring final draft of all 3 sections of your paper as well as outline for presentation section/Writing center proof

Nov. 22 Thanksgiving Holiday No Class

Putting it all together: My Story

Nov. 27 Begin "My Story " Presentations

Nov. 29 Projects

Dec. 4 Projects

Dec. 6 Last Day of SAM 136- Exam Review

Thursday, Dec. 13 Final Exam from 11:00-1:00pm

