

Course Syllabus—SAM 136 —Fall 2007

Introduction to the Collegiate Experience and SHSU

Prof.: Jessica Payne **Office:** HKC 222/ LEC 321B

Office Hours: M-F 2-5p.m. LEC 321B

e-mail: jmp001@shsu.edu Possibly the best way to keep contact with me is e-mail. I check it several times each day.

Office Phone: 936-294-4459

Text: Gardner, J.N., A.J. Jeweler, and B.O. Barefoot (2008). Step by Step (2nd Ed.) Boston, MA: Wadsworth Publishing.
Bronson, P. (2002). What Should I Do With My Life? New York, NY: Random House, Inc.
ISBN: 0-375-75898-4

Course Description: SAM 136 is designed as an extended freshman orientation course 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).

- a. Alcohol 101+
 - b. Money Management seminars
9. Enhance effective group dynamics through course activities.

Computer Skills and Using Blackboard. We will use Blackboard extensively in this course in order to improve our academic computer skills.

Plagiarism. I have a very strict “Don’t Do It!” Policy. Do your own work and be proud of it. If you make a mistake, learn from it.

Below are official University statements on other aspects of academic conduct and classroom procedures (with a link to the full guidelines). If you have any questions about any of this, please ask.

Student Syllabus Guidelines: Following are some official university guidelines for students to know about. There are more detailed descriptions online, as well as links to the specific university policy or procedure:

<http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

Academic Dishonesty: Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines.*

Classroom Rules of Conduct: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and students with respect. Students are to turn off all cell phones while in the classroom. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of examination. Students may tape record lectures provided they do not disturb other students in the process.

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days: Students are allowed to miss class and other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students remain responsible for all work. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines.*

Students with Disabilities Policy: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines.*

Visitors in the Classroom: Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar’s Office.

Grading Scale:

90-100	A	Excellent Work (Honors-level work)
80-89	B	Good Work
70-79	C	Acceptable Work (But not really acceptable for Honors)
60-69	D	Not Acceptable Work
Below 60	F	Failing Work

Assignments/Grades:

Formal Written Assignments **40%**

Class Participation **40%**

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

Tests, Midterm, Final **20%**

Service Learning Opportunity:

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 SAM 136 for Fall 2007 will be discussed during the first two weeks of class.

Weekly Journal Entries: You will be assigned a weekly journal entry topic or more formal writing assignment. The due dates and the guidelines will be indicated with each assignment. You must write at least one page, double-spaced, to receive credit for each entry. All these journals will be turned in through the Assignments portion of Blackboard.

Individual Research Assignments: The project involves an examination of your own interest in or examination of your intersection with a particular major, minor, cause, initiative, or career field. It will be a researched examination of how you see yourself connected to this field as a student and a future citizen/professional of the community. There will be a section exploring careers you may be interested in. The project will need to be at least 7 pages in length and will be accompanied by a brief presentation, which you will do during the last week of the semester. All of the assignments pertaining to the paper/project throughout the semester (topic selection, notes, outlines, avoiding plagiarism, etc.) will add up to 40 % of your semester grade.

Tests, Midterm and Final Exams: The exams will be 10% each. The mid—term will cover general topics encountered in the assigned readings, classroom discussions, and other assignments. The form will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false and short answer. The final will be a comprehensive exam, which will also be a combination of multiple choice and true/false.

SAM 136—SEMESTER SCHEDULE FALL 2007

Date	Readings and Assignments
Monday, Aug. 20	Course Introduction and Overview
Wednesday, Aug. 22	Ice Breakers
Friday, Aug. 24	SHSU Video/Discuss Semester Book Club
Monday, Aug. 27	Step 1 Beginning Your College Experience
Wednesday, Aug. 29	Campus Activities Assignment
Friday, Aug. 31	Campus Resources Assignment
Monday, Sept. 3	Labor Day: Student Holiday
Wednesday, Sept. 5	Step 2 Managing Time and Staying Motivated
Friday, Sept. 7	Day Planner Activity/Reflection
Monday, Sept. 10	Step 3 Thinking Critically
Wednesday, Sept. 12	Campus Book Club Tour
Friday, Sept. 14	Book Club/Reflection
Monday, Sept. 17	Step 11 Experience College Life to the Fullest
Wednesday, Sept. 19	Presentation: Leah Mulligan, Director of Student Activities
Friday, Sept. 21	Book Club/Online Assignment/Reflection

Monday, Sept. 24	Step 5 Communicating Clearly
Wednesday, Sept. 26	Case Study Exercise/Presentation
Friday, Sept. 28	Book Club/Reflection
Monday, Oct. 1	Step 8 Taking Exams and Tests
Wednesday, Oct. 3	Sam Center Advisement
Friday, Oct. 5	Book Club/Reflection
Monday, Oct. 8	Step 6 Listening, Note-Taking, and Participating
Wednesday, Oct. 10	Mid-Term Exam: Multiple Choice, T/F, Short Answer
Friday, Oct. 12	Book Club/Reflection
Monday, Oct. 15	Step 7 Reading For Success
Wednesday, Oct. 17	Presentation: Wally Barnes, Director of the Reading Center
Friday, Oct. 19	Book Club/Reflection
Monday, Oct. 22	Step 9 Relationships, Diversity, and Values
Wednesday, Oct. 24	Presentation: Dr. Drew Miller
Friday, Oct. 26	Book Club/Reflection
Monday, Oct. 29	Step 10 Staying Healthy
Wednesday, Oct. 31	Presentation: Dr. Wagner/Rec Center Field Trip
Friday, Nov. 2	Book Club/Reflection
Monday, Nov. 5	Step 4 Maximizing Your Learning Success
Wednesday, Nov. 7	Library Field Day/Project: Research Assignment
Friday, Nov. 9	Book Club/Reflection
Monday, Nov. 12	Step 12 Making the Right Choices for Your Major and Career
Wednesday, Nov. 14	Presentation: Meet in Career Services Library
Friday, Nov. 16	Book Club/Reflection
Monday, Nov. 19	Online Project
W/F Nov. 21, 23	Thanksgiving Holiday
Monday, Nov. 26	Review Quiz/Presentations
Wednesday, Nov. 28	Review Quiz/Presentations
Friday, Nov. 30	Review Quiz/Presentations
Monday, Dec. 3	Review Quiz/Presentations
Wednesday, Dec. 5	Sam 136 Party
Friday, Dec. 7	Final Exam Study Day
Monday, Dec 10	Final Exam 2-4pm