

**Introduction to Collegiate Studies – Fall, 2007**  
**SAM 136-03 (MWF 12-12:50pm) Syllabus**

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**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday 8:00a.m. – 5:00p.m.

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

Bonson, 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 **three absences for MWF classes** will be allowed. After **three 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	<b>A</b>	Excellent Work
80-89	<b>B</b>	Good Work
70-79	<b>C</b>	Acceptable Work
60-69	<b>D</b>	Not Acceptable Work
Below 60	<b>F</b>	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%**

Will consist of short answer, listing, multiple choice, true/false, essay etc. questions.

***Late assignments will not be accepted. Please set an appointment with me if you feel this is unfair.***

**Service Learning Opportunity: (September 24 - October 6, 2007)**

*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 Fall 2007 will involve our class assisting the Community Organization for Missionary Endeavor (COME) Center. We will be assisting with a variety of projects such as checking in and sorting donations. The COME Center also has a food pantry for the working poor that may need organized.*

**Weekly Journal Entries:** *You will be assigned a weekly journal entry topic. Your entries are always due by 5 p.m. on the Friday of the week they are assigned.* You must type at least one page, double-spaced, to receive credit for each entry. Each journal should include paragraphs for the introduction, body and conclusion. Any exceptions will be noted on the class schedule and/or in class. Keep all of your entries together in your folder/binder.

**Individual Research Assignments: (Presentations week of Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>)**

*Instructors can choose the topic for this paper or project, but you are strongly encouraged to select a global topic that can be personalized by the student that deals with the student's growth as a student as well as a future citizen/professional of the community. There should be a section exploring careers the student may be interested in. Additionally, we recommend that the paper/project be spread out throughout the entire semester (i.e. personality tests, note cards for research, checking for plagiarism, career exploration in groups – see sample schedule for specific examples). The paper/project needs to be at least 7 pages in length and have a presentation accompany it. 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 their semester grade.*

**Final Exam:** *The final will be a comprehensive exam given Monday, December 10, 2007 from 2:00p.m. – 4:00p.m.*

**SAM 136-06 CLASS SCHEDULE**

Aug. 20 <sup>st</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup>	Introductions & Icebreakers SAM 136-06 Syllabus, Set a Goal for your GPA, Understanding the University catalog Introductions to Goal Setting and Time Management
Aug. 27 <sup>th</sup> - 31 <sup>st</sup>	“Beginning Your College Experience” (Step 1 and 2) Newton Gresham Library Presentation (8/29/07 @ Library, Rm 157) <b>Journal Entry: Case Study 4 “Picky, Picky, Picky”</b> <b>Book Club Friday – Chapters from That Sense of “Rightness”</b>
Sept. 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup>	Labor Day – September 3 <sup>rd</sup> (NO CLASS) “Staying Healthy” (Step 10) <b>SHSU Alcohol Abuse Initiative Presentation</b> <b>Journal Entry: Case Study 6 “My Instructor – What a Pain!”</b> <b><u>Quiz #1 over Steps 1, 2, 10</u></b>
Sept. 10 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup>	“Listening, Note-Taking, Communicating Clearly” (Step 5, 6, 7) SHSU Reading & Writing Center Presentation <b>Journal Entry: Case Study 8 “What Do You Mean Plagiarism”</b> <b>Book Club Friday – Chapters from Destination vs. Journey?</b>
Sept. 17 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup>	“Maximizing Your Learning Success (Step 3 and 4) Critical Thinking Activities <b><u>Quiz #2 over Steps 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7</u></b> <b>Funny Money (LSC Ballroom, 9/18/07 at 6:00pm)</b>

- Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> – Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> “Experience College Life to the Fullest” (Step 11)  
 Discussion of Service Learning Project  
 SAM Center Advising (9/24/07)  
**Journal Entry: Case Study 9 “But I’ve Always Wanted to be a Veterinarian”**  
*Book Club Friday – Chapters from Temptation vs. Aspirations*  
Service Learning Project (To be completed by 10/6/07)
- Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> “Taking Exams and Tests” (Step 8)  
*Book Club Friday – Chapters from That Sense of “Rightness”*  
*Introduction to Individual Research Work*  
*Submit 2 page types essay expressing your experiences of the Service Learning project.*
- Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> SHSU Traditions - SHSU Homecoming Week  
 SAM 136 Scavenger Hunt  
**DWI Educational Seminar (LSC Theater 6-730pm)**  
**Journal Entry: Case Study 10 “Nightmare”**
- Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> “Making the Right Choice” (Step 12)  
*Career Services Orientation*  
*Co-Curricular Transcript Presentation*  
**Journal Entry: Case Study 11 “I Have to Write a Paper Too!”**  
*Book Club Friday – Chapters from Know Thyself*
- Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> “Make a Little Go a Long Way – Managing Your Money” (Step 1 & other resources)  
 Devise a personal budget & other money management activities  
**Journal Entry: Case Study 20 “Money, Money, Money”**  
*Book Club Friday – Chapters from Changes of Scenery*
- Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> – Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> “Relationships, Diversity and Values” (Step 9)  
 MISS Presentation  
*Book Club Friday – Chapters from In Another Class*  
Quiz #3 over Steps 8, 9, 11 and 12
- Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> “Now That You’re a Bearkat, How Are You Going to Involved”  
 Student Activities Presentation  
**Journal Entry: Case Study 21 & 22 “He/She Was My Friend”**  
*Book Club Friday – Chapters from The Appropriate Time Frame*
- Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> “It’s Your Life ... Do The Right Thing” (Step 10)  
 Health and Sex Education Presentation  
*Book Club Friday – Chapters from Relationships and Family*  
*Submit 2-4 page typed essay describing your life experiences (the good, bad and ugly.)*
- Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> **No class 11/19/07**  
 Thanksgiving Holiday – Nov. 21-23, 2007
- Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> Research Paper Presentations
- Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Research Paper Presentations  
 Wrap Up and Review  
 University Study Day 12/7/06 (NO CLASS)
- Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> Final Exam from 2:00p.m.– 4:00p.m.