

Introduction to Collegiate Studies – Fall, 2007

SAM 136W-17 MWF 9:00 a.m.

SAM 136W-19 MWF 10:00 a.m.

Instructor: Amber Van Roekel
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Office Hours: By Appointment Only.

Texts: 1. 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.
2. 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.

Writing Intensive Course: This course counts as one of your *writing intensive courses* required at SHSU. Some of the writings will include the use of reference materials that must be properly cited. To ensure authenticity of your research writings, plagiarism software will be utilized to ensure academic integrity.

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* will be allowed. After *three*, 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 (Career Research Presentation and Final Paper)	40%
Assignments/Response Papers	20%
Class Participation	20%
Includes 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.	
Midterm and Final	20%

Student Organizations - You will write about one or two student organizations that you are interested in and have spent time getting to know – use the following as an outline: Find out as much as possible about each by attending a meeting, talking to an officer or advisor, and obtaining and reading detailed information. The information you gather should be about, but not limited to, the following: what is their purpose, what types of programs or activities do they host or attend, are there membership dues, if so, how much, what are the membership requirements, etc. After doing the research on the organization(s), decide on whether or not you are still interested in pursuing membership in the organization(s). 2-3 pages in length. **Due September 28.**

Service Learning – You will spend some time thinking about how you fit into a community by involving yourself in a service learning project with the class. Each student will volunteer 5 hours of service to enhance their involvement in the culture of Sam Houston State and the surrounding community. The service learning project for Spring 2007 will be to volunteer at the **C.O.M.E. Center** (Section 17 - 10/8-10/20; Section 19 10/22-11/3). Using the handout, you will reflect on the project and write a paper using the questions as a guideline. 2-3 pages in length. **Due October 26 or November 9.**

Professional Growth Presentation – You will begin your exploration of the career you are interested in. Your presentation should include the following: an overview of your chosen industry and various occupations within that industry; job outlook and salary ranges; skills and education needed; role of your personality and how it may pertain to/affect your chosen career; statement regarding your educational goals that will lead to your chosen career (specific classes, coursework, part-time jobs, internships, hands-on experience, personal growth, networking, etc.). Using results from Academic Coach, MBTI, and the Strong Interest Inventory, is the career you are interested in a good “match” for you. If not, will you continue on this path and how will you make it a better “match”?

A minimum of 5 sources needed, of those, no more than 3 internet sources. You must turn in a works cited page with your presentation. This will be a separate grade. Be sure to cite correctly, use the writing center website as a guide:

<http://www.shsu.edu/~wctr/handouts.html>. Use either APA or MLA style.

Presentations will begin November 12.

Academic/Personal Growth – Using our Common Reader as a guide, write “Your Story” with regards to your Academic and Personal Growth this semester. Be creative in your writing and how you express yourself without losing site of the “truth” and that you are writing an academic paper.

Begin by writing a bit about your history, what brought you here both academically and personally. Feel free to share your struggles, triumphs, fears, etc.

Be sure to include and reflect upon what you have learned this semester and spend time focusing on yourself as an individual and some of the more social aspects of college life. You will evaluate what you have learned thus far about study skills and how it has changed the way you manage your time, read a textbook, take notes, outline goals, study for tests, listen in class, engage with your learning, think critically, write better, etc. Be as specific as possible to get across what you have gained thus far from this class (You will be graded on content and how you express yourself, not on what you have learned. Keep in mind; this is NOT an evaluation of the class). Topics to consider while writing about your additional personal growth (and are certainly not limited to) your values and how they have changed since coming to college; how your values influence the decisions you make about substance use/abuse, sexual decisions, alcohol consumption; if there are discrepancies, what does this tell you about how your values are changing; what will you do that you have never done or what will you do differently with regards to managing your finances, credit cards, bills, etc.; how do you, and will you continue to, establish balance and maintain a healthy lifestyle (mentally, physically, spiritually) while attending college; how to reduce stress in your life.

Finish up by writing about what you think your future will hold. What else will need to be done personally or academically to get you there? What sacrifices, struggle and triumphs to anticipate along the road and how will you handle them? Utilize the research done for your Career Presentation in this section. Be sure to cite your sources both in the body of the paper and a works cited page.

YOU MUST VISIT WRITING CENTER FOR HELP WITH THIS PAPER!!!! This will be a part of your grade and if you do not spend time at the writing center, you will lose points on your final paper.

5-7 pages in length. **Due December 6.**

Midterm and Final Exams: In order to test your knowledge of the information given in class, you will be given a midterm and a final exam. The **mid-term exam** will be given **October 22** and the **final exam** (comprehensive) will be given **December 10 or December 12.**

NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Please Plan ahead to manage your time and your assignments to have your work ready on time.

CLASS SCHEDULE

- August 20** Introductions
- August 22** Review Syllabus and Class Schedule
- August 24** Step 1: Beginning your College Experience: Setting off on the Right Foot
- August 27** Step 2: Managing Time and Staying Motivated: The Starting Line for Academic Success
Text
- August 29** Step 2: Managing Time and Staying Motivated: The Starting Line for Academic Success
Making Schedules...what you actually did and syllabi due Friday.
- August 31** Scavenger Hunt
- September 3** **Labor Day, No Classes**
- September 5** Step 7: Reading for Success: Mastering an Essential Skill
Wally Barnes, Director of Reading Center
- September 7** Library Presentation and tour, Meet in Library
- September 10** Step 3: Thinking Critically: Searching beyond Right and Wrong
Text
- September 12** Step 3: Thinking Critically: Searching beyond Right and Wrong
Bloom's Taxonomy
- September 14** Step 3: Thinking Critically: Searching beyond Right and Wrong
Thinking Hats
- September 17** Step 4: Maximizing your Learning and Success: Engaging with Learning and Making the Most of your
Learning Style.
- September 19** Step 4: Maximizing your Learning and Success: Engaging with Learning and Making the Most of your
Learning Style
Take Career Services Assessments
- September 21** Book Club
- September 24** Step 6: Listening, Notetaking, and Participating in Class: Committing to Classroom Success
Listening and Participating
- September 26** Step 6: Listening, Notetaking, and Participating in Class: Committing to Classroom Success
Notetaking (bring notes Friday)
- September 28** Step 11: Experiencing College Life to the Fullest: Getting Involved on Campus and in the Wider
Community
On campus involvement
Student Organization Paper Due
- October 1** Step 12: Making the Right Choices for your Major and Career: Planning Early and Keeping an Open
Mind (Career Services)
Meet in Career Services

- October 3** Step 12: Making the Right Choices for your Major and Career: Planning Early and Keeping and Open Mind (Assessments)
Meet in Career Services
- October 5** Step 12: Making the Right Choices for your Major and Career: Planning Early and Keeping and Open Mind (Start Research)
Meet in Career Services
- October 8** SAMCenter
Dr. Bill Fleming, Director
- October 10** Step 11: Experienceing College Life to the Fullest: Getting Involved on Campus and in the Wider Community
Service Learning
OR
Advising (Section 19 only) – Meet in SAMCenter
- October 12** Step 11: Experienceing College Life to the Fullest: Getting Involved on Campus and in the Wider Community
Service Learning
OR
Advising (Section 17 only) – Meet in SAMCenter
- October 15** Step 8: Taking Exams and Test: Putting *All* Your Essential Skills to the Test
Tips
- October 17** Step 8: Taking Exams and Test: Putting *All* Your Essential Skills to the Test
Anxiety
- October 19** Book Club
- October 22** **MID TERM** – on Blackboard
- October 24** Catch-up/Research Day
- October 26** SHSU Jeopardy
Service Learning Paper Due (Section 17)
- October 29** Step 5: Communicating Clearly: Writing and Speaking for Success
Writing
- October 31** Step 5: Communicating Clearly: Writing and Speaking for Success
Writing (Academic Integrity) and Speaking
- November 2** Step 5: Communicating Clearly: Writing and Speaking for Success
Speaking
- November 5** Step 9: Values: Understanding and Respecting Yourself
- November 7** Step 9: Values: Understanding and Respecting Yourself
- November 9** Alcohol Use and Abuse
Service Learning Paper Due (Section 17)
- November 12** Career Presentation

- November 14** Career Presentation
- November 16** Career Presentation
- November 19** Career Presentation (if needed)
Final Book Club
- November 21** **Thanksgiving Holiday – No classes.**
- November 23** **Thanksgiving Holiday – No classes.**
- November 26** Step 9: Diversity: Understanding and Respecting Yourself
- November 28** Step 9: Relationships: Understanding and Respecting Yourself
- November 30** Money Management
- December 3** Step 10: Staying Healthy: Managing Stress and Achieving Wellness
- December 5** Wrap up and Review
Academic/Personal Growth Paper due
- December 7** **Study Day – No classes.**
- December 10** **MWF 10 a.m. FINAL EXAM** (on Blackboard) 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- December 12** **MWF 9 a.m. FINAL EXAM** (on Blackboard) 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Other Important Dates to Remember:

- August 27** Last day to register and to process schedule changes.
- September 3** Labor Day Holiday for students and faculty.
- September 5** Last day to drop without a “Q” and receive 100% refund.
- October 10** Last day to drop without grade of F. Last day to resign without receiving mark of W.
- November 20** Thanksgiving holidays for students begin at 9:00 p.m. Residence halls close at 10:00 p.m.
- November 21, 22, 23** WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY. Thanksgiving holidays for students and faculty.
- November 25** Residence halls open. Time will be posted.
- November 26** Classes resume at 8:00 a.m.
- December 6** Last Class Day. Last day to resign.
- December 7** Study Day.
- December 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13** Final Exams, check schedule
- December 14** Residence halls close at 12:00 Noon.

COMMON READER READING ASSIGNMENTS

READING DUE BY:

August 31	Chapters 1-5
September 7	Chapters 6-10
September 14	Chapters 11-15
Sept. 21	Book Club - Chapters 1-20
September 28	Chapters 21-25
October 5	Chapters 26-30
October 12	Chapters 31-35
October 19	Book Club – Chapters 21-40
October 26	Chapters 41-45
November 2	Chapters 46-50
November 9	Chapters 51-55
November 19	final Book Club - Chapters 41-57