CONGRATULATIONS! You are a freshman in college and are among an elite group. “The Freshman Seminar” is a course designed specifically for you with a goal of assisting you in the transition from being a high school student or a student returning to school after a hiatus. As a member of a Learning Community, you have the unique opportunity to develop strong relationships with both students and faculty that will sustain you through your college career.

This course is designed to introduce methods and techniques, students can adopt to promote their perseverance and success at the college. Specific topics include knowledge of college procedures, resources, and academic advisement, time management, goal setting, test and notetaking, health issues and other areas related to student success in college.

We believe that successful students exhibit positive habits such as:
1. considering others feelings before speaking
2. arriving to class early and prepared
3. committing themselves to the creation of the very best work they can do
4. moving through their day with integrity
5. turning off all electronic devices such as pagers and cell phones
6. expecting and trusting your classmates to do their best work
7. actively contributing to class discussions

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Upon successful completion of COL 101 students will be able to:

1. To promote a positive academic and social adjustment and assimilation into Suffolk County Community College.

2. To define short-term as well as long-term goals, within professional and educational spheres {i.e., career development and academic advisement}.

3. To improve student attitudes toward the teaching/learning process and towards faculty who are responsible for providing this process.

4. To expand knowledge of information literacy, research writing and tutoring services.

5. To promote computer literacy and activities involving the use of word processing, E-mail, the Internet and My SCCC.

6. To provide students with additional training, practice, experience, and knowledge in the following, skills areas: decision-making, goal setting, planning, values, time management, relationships, and group/teamwork.
PROCEDURES FOR ACCOMPLISHING OBJECTIVES:
The instructor will use methodologies including lecture, discussion, demonstration, discovery and other problem solving techniques. Classroom work will be supplemented with journals, handouts, and guest speakers.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
*ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY!* Class time will involve a variety of activities, discussions, and presentations on a number of topics relevant to college survival. The excessive absence or lateness (note - lateness is equal to 1/2 absence) will result in your removal from the class roster. If you are more than 15 minutes late or leave 15 minutes early it will be considered a 1/2 (one-half) absence. A student who misses more than one class will automatically receive a grade of W and be dropped from the class. It is the students' responsibility to keep the professor informed of any anticipated situation, or health issues, that may cause him to be away from class.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT:
Students and faculty share the responsibilities of creating a classroom atmosphere honoring learning, these responsibilities include behaving courteously and respectfully toward one another. Such disruptions as talking, eating, leaving and reentering the room, arriving late to class, not turning off cell phones, text messaging your friends will not be tolerated.

NOTE: CELL PHONES / COMMUNICATION DEVICES ARE TO BE TURNED OFF DURING CLASS.
TEXTING DURING CLASS IS DISRUPTIVE AND INCONSIDERATE TO EVERYONE (PROFESSORS, AND YOUR CLASSMATES). IF YOU DECIDE TO TEXT DURING CLASS YOU MAY BE ASKED TO LEAVE AND RECEIVE AN ABSENCE FOR THAT CLASS.

GRADING SYSTEM:

PLEASE NOTE—
The grade you earn results from the day-to-day effort you display as well as the cumulative reflection of your work on tests, papers and projects. There is some distinction between grades that you earn. Please read the following descriptions and think about your work in these terms, and the grade you will strive for.

An "A" reflects that a student made outstanding contributions to the success of the course. They participated in class, turned in all assignments on time, attended outside activities and excelled on tests, in written work and in discussions - their attendance record reflects that this class was among their highest commitments. They learned and they helped others to learn... even us!

The grade of "B" reflects that a student was reliable, consistent and positive with regular and solid contributions to the success of the course. Students who make "B’s" sometimes miss a class and sometimes have perfect attendance. The work is always completed, they attend all activities, and they perform well on tests. It is the quality of their presence that distinguishes them from "A’s" and "C’s".

Students who earn "Cs" come to class regularly (1 absence, or several lateness’) and participate often in class discussions and occasionally present important ideas and insights. They usually complete all but a few assignments on time, attend everything but sometimes refuse to accept responsibility for their own decisions. Overall they are successful students with admirable goals.

Students who choose to make "D’s" are often distinguished by a couple of “tardy” arrivals to class, occasional absences (because of other priorities), one or two contributions to class and a rather laissez-faire attitude towards the activities and assignments. They might do well on tests or they might do poorly. In other words, the individual does not make it a priority to be a member of our class.
The student who earns an "F" is detached and unwilling to change. We ask that students who believe they are in jeopardy of earning an "F" will meet with us as soon as they recognize this concern and see if we can develop a strategy to avoid this grade.

The grading system is described in the college catalog. Final grades will be determined using the following criteria.

- Library Assignment ------------------------------- 15%
- Four (4) campus event reports--------------------- 20%
- Five journals (content to be discussed in class)----- 25%
- Evaluation of in-class work and participation ------ 40%
  (This includes class attendance (on time), class participation
  (enthusiastic, contributing, and prepared with homework), tests, individual and
  group activities.)
- TOTAL ------------------------------------------- 100%

REMEMBER IF YOU'RE NOT IN CLASS AND THE HOMEWORK IS NOT TURNED IN THEN YOU'RE NOT PARTICIPATING!

HOMEWORK:
Homework is due on assigned date.
Projects are due on the day assigned.
Proper heading and identification must appear on all papers submitted.
  • NOTE: Assignments serve as a foundation for class discussion
    and activities.

STUDENT CONFERENCES:
Student conferences are by appointment only.

  Office location: Orient Building - Room O-117.
  Mail Box:    Orient Building - Room O-112.

  I look forward to working with you this semester. You will find Freshman Seminar a stimulating and useful course, which will help you pursue your personal, academic and occupational goals.

  Research on success rates for those achieving a "C" grade or higher in OS-15, indicate that these students have a significantly better chance of remaining in college and achieving their academic goals.