Nothing that you will learn in the course of your studies will be of the slightest possible use to you [later in] life -- save only this -- that if you work hard and diligently you should be able to detect when a [person] is talking rot, and that, in my view, is the main, if not sole purpose of education.  J.A. Smith, Professor of Philosophy, University of Oxford, 1914

Education is when you read the fine print. Experience is what you get if you don’t. Pete Seeger, folk singer

INSTRUCTOR: Chris McDougal, M.A.
OFFICE: Orient Building 116
OFFICE HOURS: By appt. during Aug. session; will be posted for Sept.-Dec. portion of semester
E-MAIL: mcdougd@sunysuffolk.edu or stripes70@aol.com

TEXT:

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:
This course is designed to acclimate students to the college environment and introduce them to methods and strategies that may help them to succeed as students.
Objectives for this course are:
--To understand the appropriate relationship between the faculty and students
--Be introduced to the library and demonstrate competency in research techniques
--Understand basic time management skills
--Develop note taking and study strategies
--Learn critical thinking skills
--Develop test-taking strategies
--Learn to refine reading and writing skills
--Participate in scheduled social activities and be introduced to campus resources

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
--Regular class attendance
--Completion of required textbook readings
--Satisfactory completion on all exams and assignments
--Extensive class participation

Average of two exams (multiple choice) = 40% of course grade
Average of text assignments/quizzes = 15% of course grade
Research/Oral report = 15% of course grade
In-class participation = 30% of course grade (half of which is to be fulfilled by setting up and completing three appointments with Theresa Dereme)
**GRADING SYSTEM:**

The grade scale for exams, as well as the final course grade, is as follows (%):

- 90-100 = A
- 86-89 = B+
- 80-85 = B
- 76-79 = C+
- 70-75 = C
- 66-69 = D+
- 60-65 = D
- Below 60 = F

**MAKE-UP POLICY:**

All make-up exams, taken for any reason, will consist of an essay format. The responsibility to take a make-up exam lies with the student, and failure to take a make-up exam prior to my administration of the subsequent exam to the class will result in a ‘0’ for the missed exam (Missing the final exam will result in a ‘0’ at my discretion, since I will turn in course grades shortly after the final exam is administered and will not allow make-up exams at that point.). Make-up of other assignments is possible only at the discretion of the instructor, in accordance with SCCC policy as described in the student handbook and/or course catalog.

**CLASS ATTENDANCE:**

All students are expected to attend class regularly and to participate in discussions. Attendance will be taken regularly, and on some occasions, I will announce that the attendance check for that day counts for bonus credit. Students who are present for these announced days will receive one bonus point for each such check, with the points to be added to the person’s final grade. So, for example, if out of all the attendance checks I announce on three occasions that the checks are for bonus credit, students present all three times would have three points added to their final course grade. Please note: to be counted present, you must be present for the entire class period; please schedule outside appointments (doctor, dentist, school counselor, taking someone to the airport, etc.) so that you do not have to leave or arrive in the middle of class, which can be a distraction to other students and me. Also, please note that the excused absence policy, the sole purpose of which is to allow for the making up of missed work, does not apply to the earning of bonus points.

More than 2 absences will result in the automatic subtraction of 10 points (one letter grade). Students who miss more than 5 classes will be given an ‘F’ (a ‘W’ may be given only in accordance with SCCC policy as described in the student handbook and/or college catalog).

**DISABILITIES STATEMENT:**

Suffolk County Community College provides equal opportunity to qualified students. If you have a disability (medical, physical, learning, psychological, etc.) and wish to request disability-related accommodations to complete course requirements, contact the Counseling Center (located in Peconic Building; 631-548-2527). Course requirements cannot be waived, but reasonable accommodations may be provided based on disability documentation and course objectives. Accommodations cannot be made retroactively.
DATES, TOPICS, AND REQUIRED READINGS (Note: This schedule is tentative; additional readings may be required):

M Aug. 3 – M Aug. 10  Chs. 1-6
T Aug. 11             EXAM I
W Aug. 12 – M Aug. 17  Chs. 7-13
T Aug. 20             EXAM II