Coll 0171: Strategies for Success
Course Syllabus
Spring 2012

Course Instructor: Tracy Glover
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:00-5:30pm, Thursdays 8:00-12:00pm, and other times by appointment

AVID Tutor: Crystal Estopellan **Phone**: 432-335-6473 **Office**: LRC 301
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Course Description

Coll 0171 – Strategies for Success is a one credit, eight week course designed to provide students with the tools needed to persist and succeed at Odessa College. Topics covered in the course include: learning styles, study techniques, note-taking, test-taking, personal wellness, effective writing and reading, time management, career and educational planning, and interpersonal skill development. We will be using *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch as our reader for the course. Familiarize yourself with all of the Google applications available to you through your student Gmail account (Calendar, Voice, Documents, etc); we will be using many of these applications these eight weeks. We will also be using Blackboard to supplement course material. Your final exam and two quizzes will be administered through Blackboard and your grades will be regularly updated in the Gradebook (accessible through the Odessa College Portal). New and current Odessa College students with fewer than 12 hours are required to pass COLL 0171. The course does not satisfy requirements for any degree plan at Odessa College, has no prerequisites, is non-transferable, and satisfies one credit toward your total semester credit hours.

Supplies

You are expected to bring paper and pencils, a planner or scheduling system, your copy of *The Last Lecture* (available in the Odessa College Bookstore), and a three-ring binder to class each week.

Method of Evaluation

Your final grade will be determined by scores awarded on seven homework assignments, three in-class assignments, four journal entries (some online), two binder and two planner checks, your final examination, as well as your active attendance and engagement. All approved extra credit opportunities provide a 1% boost to your final grade.

Attendance	Assignments	Journals	Binder	Planner	Final Exam
15%	*15%*	*15%*	*15%*	*15%*	*25%*

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Extra Credit Potential: +5%
The method for validating extra credit will vary depending on the event/activity.

I will return all graded work back to you within one calendar week and will follow the following standard score ranges:

90-100 = A
80-89 = B
70-79 = C
60-69 = retake course

Your grades should be available to you in real time through the OC Portal – meet with a tutor in the Student Success Center if you have any trouble with access.

Course Schedule

January

Class 1 – Welcome
Homework – Return your completed biographic note card to me, with a photo, by Monday. Get a good start on *The Last Lecture* this weekend.
Extra Credit - Open Mic Night at the Wifi Java Café tonight (time tbd)

Class 2 – Campus Tour / Scavenger Hunt*
Homework – Take the syllabus quiz through Blackboard by Monday.
Extra Credit – Intramural Ultimate Frisbee (meet at the field by the track at 6pm tomorrow)

Class 3 –Student Success Center*
Journal Entry– Write a one-paragraph Blackboard journal entry outlining your expectations for this course (by Monday). Finish *The Last Lecture* this weekend and take the quiz (also through Blackboard) by February 6.

Class 4 – Goal Setting & Time Management
Homework – LifeWheel exercise due in class Wednesday.
Extra Credit – Intramural 5 on 5 Basketball Meeting at the Sports Center (6:30pm) or Monthly Bingo tonight in the Cafeteria (7pm tomorrow)

February

Class 5 – Marking Your Texts
Planner Check – Show me you are effectively using a planner or scheduling system in class this Monday

Class 6 – Taking Cornell Notes
Homework – Show me a copy of lecture notes from another class done in Cornell Notes style on Wednesday

Class 7– Academic Inquiry
Binder Check – Show me your well-organized binder this Monday in class.
Extra Credit – Wrangler Men's Basketball at the Sports Center (7:45pm tomorrow).

Class 8 – Studying and Test-Taking Strategies
Journal Entry (in class) – Listen for in-class journal prompt today
Extra Credit –Valentine's Day Gift Exchange in the Cafeteria (10am) or the Bernard Woma Band at the Fine Arts Building (7pm) tomorrow

Class 9 –College Survival/Learning Styles
Homework – Interview one of your other instructors during his/her office hours by next Monday (February 27)

Class 10 – Personality Styles*
Planner Check– Show me you are effectively using a planner or scheduling system (again) in class on Wednesday
Extra Credit – Wrangler Women's Basketball at the Sports Center (5:45pm tonight) or Inflatable Jousting at the Pavilion (10am-2pm tomorrow)

Class 11 – Learning Resources Center*
In-Class Assignment- Turn in your LRC Scavenger Hunt activity packet at the end of class

Class 12 – Fearless Writing
Binder Check– Show me your well-organized binder (again) in class this Wednesday
Extra Credit - Monthly Bingo at the Cafeteria (7pm tomorrow)

Class 13 – Act/Discover and Advising
Homework –Write a half-page, single-spaced reflection on a career or plan of study you are interested in pursuing after OC for Monday. Relate your plan to Randy Pausch's life journey in your essay.
Extra Credit - Intramural Volleyball Meeting at the Sports Center (6:30pm tonight)

March

Class 14 – Wellness
Journal Entry– Check out Mint.com and write a brief journal entry on your impressions of the service by Wednesday
Extra Credit - Rockwall Climbing**–** Next to the Wifi Café (10am-2pm tomorrow)

Class 15 – Financial Literacy & OC 411
Final – Take your final comprehensive course exam on Blackboard by the end of the day Sunday, March 11
Journal Entry (in class) – "What have you gained from your Coll 0171 experience?"
Extra Credit - St. Patty's Day Snacks at the Cafeteria this Friday (10am-1:30pm)

*These classes may be flip-flopped

Important

Attendance / Late Work Policy

If you miss class it is solely your responsibility to catch up. A loss of 1% off your final course grade will accompany each of your absences. Though there is no differentiation made between excused or unexcused absences, late work will only be accepted the class period after an absence and only if I have been notified (by phone or email) prior to the absence. Some assignments occur in class and cannot be made up as homework.

Drop Policy

Students cannot drop COLL 0171 because it is an institutional requirement.

Academic Dishonesty

You are expected to do your individually-assigned work independently. The first instance of academic dishonesty results in a warning; the second instance will result in a failing grade for the course. When you submit a piece of writing that bears your name as author, you are claiming that all the words and ideas in that work are yours unless otherwise noted. Failure to identify and document outside sources of information constitutes academic dishonesty.

Statement of Special Accommodations

Odessa College complies with Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have any special needs of issues pertaining to your access to and participation in this or any other class at Odessa College, please feel free to contact me to discuss your accommodation options. You may also call or email the Office of Disability Services at 432-335-6861 or email Becky at brivera@odessa.edu to request accommodations.

Helpful Resources

Learning Resource Center (Library)

The Learning Resources Center provides research assistance via the LRC's catalog and databases. Research guides, tutorials, and the "Ask a Librarian" service offer students a wealth of academic resources.

Student Success Center

Free group and one-to-one tutoring, use of the computer lab, help with online courses, and more is available at 432-335-MORE (6673).

Crisis Intervention

Odessa College cares about the health and safety of all members of our campus community. Contact me directly or contact Student Success Coach Katherine Phillips, member of our Behavior Intervention Team, at 432-335-6478 if you are concerned about your own well-being or the well-being of a fellow student.

Course Learning Objectives

Coll 0171 will improve academic skills, empower positive decision making, and assist with educational and career planning

Motivation

- Use motivation techniques to persist in college
- Set up an effective study environment
- Complete a behavior modification project to establish habits that lead to success
- Form positive, collaborative relationships with other course instructors

Personality and Learning Styles

- Learn about your personality type and find a program of study to match
- Identify your ideal work environment
- Discover how personality type affects decision making and time management styles
- Utilize learning strategies that match your learning style and personality type

Managing Time and Money

- Select time management strategies to accomplish lifetime goals
- Learn to effectively utilize a planner or scheduling system
- Use money management techniques that lead to financial security

Studying and Test Taking

- Use preparation techniques to prepare for tests
- Apply techniques to deal with test anxiety
- Use study techniques to improve academic performance

Reading, Writing, and Note Taking

- Apply marking-the-text techniques to academic reading
- Apply listening techniques and the Cornell Notes note-taking system to course lectures
- Use preparation, organization, writing, editing and revising for college writing projects

Career and Education

- Research a career and create an educational plan that matches your interests, abilities, and values
- Formulate a list of lifetime goals and priorities that aligns with your educational and career plan

Health

- Incorporate healthy nutrition, exercise, sleep habits into the student lifestyle
- Minimize stress and practice relaxation exercises