



Coll 0171: Strategies for Success  
**Course Syllabus**  
Fall 2011 / Overcoming Obstacles

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**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 3:00-5:30pm, Wednesdays 7:30-11:00am, and other times by appointment

### Course Description

Coll 0171 – Strategies for Success is an eight week course designed to help students improve skills needed for academic achievement and success in their college courses. Topics covered in the course include: learning styles, study techniques, note-taking, test-taking, effective writing and reading, time management, career and educational planning, and interpersonal skills. No book is required for the course. Familiarize yourself with all of the Google applications available to you through your student email account (Calendar, Documents, etc); we will be using many of them these eight weeks. COLL 0171 does not satisfy requirements for any degree plan at Odessa College, has no prerequisites, and is non-transferable. New and current Odessa College students with fewer than 12 hours are required to pass the course.

### Supplies

You are expected to bring paper, pens or pencils, index cards, a student planner, and a 3-brad binder to class each week.

### Method of Evaluation

Your final grade will be determined by scores awarded on weekly assignments, a culminating project, and your active attendance. All approved extra credit opportunities provide a 1% boost to your final grade unless otherwise noted.

**Assignments = 30%**  
**Attendance & Engagement = 40%**  
**Culminating Project = 30%**

You will receive a separate culminating project handout with specific instructions and grading criteria by early September.

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**Extra Credit Potential: +10%**

The method for validating extra credit will necessarily change from week to week so expect regular in-class updates.

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

90-100 = A  
80-89 = B  
70-79 = C  
60-69 = D  
59 or below = F

Your grades should be available to you in real time through the OC Portal – let me know if you have trouble accessing them.

## Course Schedule

*Week 1 / August 23 & 25*

### Class 1 – Welcome!

**Homework** – In one paragraph tell me about your expectations for this course and email it to me (along with an attached photo and your basic course information) from your student Gmail account by next class.

*Extra Credit* - Check out the caricature artist at the pavilion/cafeteria between 10am-2pm tomorrow.

### Class 2 – Campus Tour / Scavenger Hunt

**Homework** – Turn in completed scavenger-hunt form at next class meeting.

*Extra Credit* - If able, donate at the campus blood drive this Tuesday (August 30 at the pavilion between 9am-5pm).

*Week 2 / August 30 & September 1*

Class 3 –Cornell Notes

**Homework** – Bring in a copy of notes from another class done in Cornell Notes style.

*Extra Credit* – Attend Monthly Bingo tonight at the cafeteria (7pm) or check out the henna tattoo artist tomorrow at the pavilion (10am-2pm).

Class 4 -- Achieving Higher Levels of Inquiry

**Homework** – Come prepared this Tuesday to discuss your idea for your culminating project.

*Week 3 / September 6 & 8*

Class 5 –Learning Styles

**Homework** -- Meet with your study group outside of class within the next calendar week.

*Extra Credit* - See the comedian/magician/ventriloquist at 7:00pm in the Fine Arts Building tonight and/or attend the Fall Festival tomorrow at the pavilion (11am-2pm).

Class 6 – Personality Styles, Goal Setting and Time Management

**Homework** – One page Personality Style/True Colors written reflection due by next class.

*Extra Credit* - Check out the “Wrangler Round Up” this Tuesday at the pavilion (11am-1:30pm).

*Week 4 / September 13 & 15*

Class 7 – Learning Resource Center or Student Success Center

**Homework** – Show me evidence that you are effectively using a calendar/scheduling system (digital, paper) by Thursday.

*Extra Credit* – check out the opening OC volleyball match at the Sports Center tomorrow at 7pm.

Class 8 – Learning Resource Center or Student Success Center

**Homework** – Visit with a tutor in the Student Success Center at least once before the end of these eight weeks. The tutoring session can be for any of your classes.

*Week 5 / September 20 & 22*

Class 9 – Fearless Writing

**Homework** – Respond to the formal essay question prompt I provide you by Thursday.

*Extra Credit* - Let loose at Inflatable Boxing– in front of pavilion tomorrow (10am-2pm).

Class 10 – Effective Reading

**Homework** – One page written reflection on your Odessa College experience so far, due on Tuesday.

*Week 6 / September 27 & 29*

Class 11 –Careers and Education

*(Meet at BibLab today, located on the second floor of the LRC, room 200A)*

**Homework** – Finish up your ACT/Discover exercise and write a one page reflection on a career you are interested in pursuing after OC (for this Thursday).

*Extra Credit* - Monthly Bingo tonight at the Cafeteria (7pm).

Class 12 – OC 411

**Homework** - Work on your Culminating Project.

*Week 7 / October 4 & 6*

Class 13 – Money Management and Financial Aid/Scholarships

**Homework** – Culminating Project due at next class period.

*Extra Credit* - Open Mic Night at the Wifi Java Café (6:30pm). Double the extra credit if you perform.

Class 14 – Culminating Project Presentations begin

*Week 8 / October 11 & 13*

Class 15 – Culminating Project Presentations, cont'd

Class 16 – Culminating Project Presentations, cont'd

## Important

### Attendance / Late Work Policy

If you miss a class it is your responsibility to catch up. Late work risks point deductions. You can contact me by email if you have any questions or experience extenuating circumstances regarding late work or absences.

### 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](mailto: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, and more is available at 432-335-MORE (6673).

## Course Learning Outcomes

### 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

### Personality

- Describe your personality types and list majors that match
- Describe your ideal work environment based on personality type
- Describe how personality type affects decision making and time management

### Learning Style

- List learning strategies that match your learning style and personality type

### Managing Time and Money

- Formulate a list of lifetime goals and subsequent priorities
- Select time management strategies to accomplish lifetime goals
- Identify money management techniques that lead to financial security

### Memory and Reading

- Apply memory techniques to college studying and reading
- Apply the SQ4R reading system to college textbooks

### Test Taking

- Use exam preparation techniques to adequately prepare for tests
- Apply techniques to deal with test anxiety
- Use test taking techniques to improve test performance

### Taking Notes and Writing

- Apply listening techniques and effective note-taking systems to college lectures
- Use preparation, organization, writing, editing and revising (POWER writing) for college writing projects

### Career and Education

- Research a career that matches personality and interests
- Create an educational plan that matches skills, personality, interests and values

### Health

- Use government guidelines to develop a plan for healthy nutrition, exercise, and sleep
- Discuss information about stress and practice relaxation exercises
- List the steps for making positive changes in life