

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

Instructor: Karla Ortiz

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Office Hours: M 3:00-5:30pm, T 8:00-10:30am, Th 11:00am – 12:00pm; 1:30 – 2:30 and other times by appointment

Course Description

Coll 0171 – Strategies for Success is a one hour, 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, though we will do individual readings. 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 and is non-transferable. New and current OC students with fewer than 12 hours are required to pass the course; there is no prerequisite.

Supplies

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

Method of Evaluation

Your final grade will be determined by points awarded for assignments, activities, and your engagement with the course.

Assignments: 30%

Attendance/Engagement: 40%

Culminating Project: 30%

Extra Credit Potential: +10%

(The way I validate extra credit opportunities will necessarily vary between activities and events, so stay tuned for updates.)

I will provide scores on your assignments the week following the turn-in date using standard Odessa College ranges.

90-100 = A

80-89 = B

70-79 = C

60-69 = D

59 or below = F

Course Schedule

Week 1 / August 22 & 24

Class 1 – Welcome!

Homework – Write something interesting about yourself and email it to me (with an attached photo) from your student account by next class. *Extra Credit* - Check out the caricature artist at the pavilion/cafeteria between 10am-2pm on Wed. and email me a paragraph (4-6 sentences) as an attachment telling me about the event.

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 Tuesday (Aug 30 at the pavilion between 9am-5pm). Bring me a sticker to prove you donated blood or at least attempted to donate.

Week 2 / August 29 & August 31

Class 3 –Marking the Text (Effective Reading) / Introduction to Cornell Notes

Homework – Bring in a copy of notes from another class done in Cornell Notes style. *Extra Credit* – Attend Monthly Bingo on Tues. night at the cafeteria (7pm) or check out the henna tattoo artist tomorrow at the pavilion (10am-2pm). Email me a paragraph as an attachment telling me about these events OR show me your henna tattoo 😊

Class 4 – Cornell Notes

Week 3 / September 5 & 7

Labor Day

Class 5 -- Achieving Higher Levels of Inquiry / Discuss Obstacles / Socratic Seminar

Homework– Start thinking of ideas for your culminating project.

Week 4 / September 12 & 14

Class 6 – LRC or Student Success Center

Class 7 – LRC or Student Success Center

Homework – Come prepared next week to discuss your idea for your culminating project.

Week 5 / September 19 & 21

Class 8 –Learning Styles & Discuss Culminating Project

Homework - Meet with your new study group outside of class.

Class 9 – Personality Styles, Goal Setting and Time Management

Homework – One page Personality Style / True Colors response due by next class. Email or share through Google Docs. *Extra Credit* - Check out the “Wrangler Round Up” this Tuesday at the pavilion (11am-1:30pm) OR let loose at Inflatable Boxing– in front of pavilion Wed (10am-2pm).

Week 6 / September 26 & 28

Class 10 – Fearless Writing

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 on any of your classes).

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.

Week 7 / October 3 & 5

Class 12 – OC 411

Homework - Work on your Culminating Project.

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 Thurs. night (6:30pm).

Week 8 / October 10 & 12

Class 14 – Culminating Project Presentations

Class 15 – Culminating Project Presentations, cont'

Important

Late Work Policy

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

Drop Policy

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

Academic Dishonesty

You are expected to do your own work. The first instance of academic dishonesty warrants 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 other sources of information that reside within that piece of writing 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 or 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, computer lab, and more at 432-335-MORE (6673).

Coll 0171 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