

<b>Syllabus for: GS-6 First Year Experience</b>	
<b>Semester &amp; Year:</b>	Spring 2014
<b>Course ID and Section Number:</b>	GS-6 – M5443
<b>Number of Credits/Units:</b>	3
<b>Day/Time:</b>	M, W from 10:30 – 11:55 AM
<b>Location:</b>	Room 112
<b>Instructor's Name:</b>	Diana Dominguez
<b>Contact Information:</b>	Office location and hours: by appointment Email: diana-dominguez@redwoods.edu
<p><b>Course Description (catalog description as described in course outline):</b> A first year experience course focusing on the development of academic and personal skills necessary to succeed in college and beyond. Students will learn how to manage time, understand classroom dynamics, and improve note-taking and test-taking skills. Students will be able to identify campus services and understand the technology used in higher education. Students will be directed towards specific educational goals and develop a comprehensive student education plan.</p> <p><b>Required Text: On Course; By Skip Downing, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition 2012. Wadsworth – Boston, MA.</b></p>	
<p><b>Student Learning Outcomes (as described in course outline):</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assess individual learning preferences, which can be applied towards improving lifelong learning skills.</li> <li>2. Identify college expectations and demonstrate successful navigation within the college system.</li> <li>3. Develop and complete a formal student education plan.</li> <li>4. Analyze self-management systems and persistence practices to increase self-motivation and success.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Special accommodations:</b> College of the Redwoods complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written accommodation request at least one week before the first test so that necessary arrangements can be made. No last-minute arrangements or post-test adjustments will be made. If you have a disability or believe you might benefit from disability related services and may need accommodations, please see me or contact Disabled Students Programs and Services. Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS.</p>	
<p><b>Academic Misconduct:</b> Cheating, plagiarism, collusion, abuse of resource materials, computer misuse, fabrication or falsification, multiple submissions, complicity in academic misconduct, and/ or bearing false witness will not be tolerated. Violations will be dealt with according to the procedures and sanctions proscribed by the College of the Redwoods. Students caught plagiarizing or cheating on exams will receive an “F” in the course.</p> <p>The student code of conduct is available on the College of the Redwoods website at:  <a href="http://www.redwoods.edu/District/Board/New/Chapter5/AP%20500%20Conduct%20Code%20final%2002-07-2012.pdf">http://www.redwoods.edu/District/Board/New/Chapter5/AP%20500%20Conduct%20Code%20final%2002-07-2012.pdf</a></p>	
<p>College of the Redwoods is committed to equal opportunity in employment, admission to the college, and in the conduct of all of its programs and activities.</p>	

**Welcome!** We have such a wonderful opportunity to have time together this semester to learn strategies that will improve our success in college as well as to get us all closer to our goals. May this be a wonderful semester for us all!!

On the following pages you will find an overview of the activities and major projects that are essential for a positive outcome in this class. Please review this document when completing all assignments and please let me know if you have any questions.

**Journal Entries:** Your journal provides you an opportunity to explore your thoughts and feelings as you experiment with the success strategies presented in your textbook. By carefully examining each strategy in your journal, you will discover which ones will assist you to create a better life. Although I will be collecting your journals and looking through them, **write your journal for yourself**, not for me. The numbered journal entries found in the book will be done outside of class. Additionally, you will write in-class entries. These entries will be lettered.

All journal entries will be written in a special journal notebook. The notebook should house only your journal and it should feel comfortable writing in (e.g., a composition notebook or a spiral notebook or a folder for typed entries). **Please bring your textbook and journal to every class.**

*Privacy:* Occasionally you may write a journal entry that you wish to keep private. If so, simply fold the appropriate pages over and staple them closed at the top and bottom. You have my word that I will respect the privacy of your journal. *You may lock up to three journal entries.* On occasion, you may be asked to share your journal entries with classmates. The same privacy rule applies.

*General Freewrite:* If the guided prompt is particularly difficult for you, you have choices. First, ask a classmate for help. Second, ask me for help: before or after class or by email. Another choice is to freewrite at least one page about whatever you would like. The only catch to the general freewrite is *you'll only receive credit for two during the term.*

*Evaluation:* You will turn in your journals four times during the semester (see below) for a thorough reading. If you want my comment on a specific part of your journal, simply turn down the corner of the appropriate page and write me a note.

*Grading:* Your journal will receive an "A" if it fulfills the following criteria:

1. All entries assigned to that point are present.
2. Each entry is complete (all bolded steps in the directions have been numbered, written and responded to)
3. The entries demonstrate thought: introspection, exploration, insight.
4. Turned in on due date

Grammar, spelling, and punctuation will **NOT** be factors in grading journals.

\*Journal Entries 1-8: Due February 12<sup>th</sup>

\*Journal Entries 9-16 Due March 10<sup>th</sup>

\*Journal Entries 17-24 Due April 9<sup>th</sup>

\*Journal Entries 25-32 Due April 30<sup>th</sup>

**Collage:** Review your notes on Chapter 1 and 2. Choose at least 4 ideas from these chapters to represent without words. You may draw or use pictures printed or found in magazines.

Your "A" Collage will have the following features:

1. Minimum area of 160 square inches
2. Four ideas from the text are illustrated
3. An experience or feeling of your own is reflected in at least one of the images in some way.
4. A typed explanation explaining how you met the three criteria above.

\*Due February 19<sup>th</sup>

**Wise Choices Project:** Review the information at the end of chapters 4 and 5 headed “Wise Choices in College”. Choose one of the following projects to complete:

A. Organizing Study Materials pg 141

- Apply at least three of the suggested strategies to a course you are taking now. Write an essay explaining how you applied each strategy to your course. Reflect on the experience and write about how you feel the activity helped you, or how you would improve a strategy to take your learning even further. Include any evidence that is relevant (old vs new notes, charts, flashcards, etc)

B. Rehearsing and Memorizing Study Materials pg 175

- Select a sample of material that you wish to memorize from a course you are taking now. Make yourself a test or quiz on the material and give yourself a due date by which you will test your memorization skills. Utilize the strategies outlined in the text to master the material and assess yourself on your due date. Write an essay describing which techniques you used and how you applied them. Include any material you may have generated (flash cards, diagrams, etc) and your assessment and timeline.

An “A” Project will include:

1. An essay (500-1000) words showing your understanding of the strategies and appropriate application to your course of study.
2. Evidence

\*Due April 14<sup>th</sup>

**Final Essay:** As your final project, you will write a **Personal Philosophy of Success Essay**

In this essay, you will present your own Personal Philosophy of Success, identifying the *On Course* success strategies that you will use for years to come. This essay is your opportunity to write the script that will keep you on course to a rich, personally fulfilling life! Minimum length: 1000 words.

An “A” paper will . . .

1. Offer the writer’s personal definition of success.
2. Demonstrate the writer’s careful consideration of three or more *On Course* success strategies that he or she will use to achieve success.
3. Contain extensive support (examples, experiences, evidence, and/or explanation) for each strategy.
4. Show a commitment to excellence in preparation with attention to grammar, spelling and punctuation.

\*Due May 12<sup>th</sup>

**Student Education Plan:** It is a requirement for this course that you visit the Student Support Services office and work with the counselor to create a Student Education Plan (SEP). The SEP will be your guide to making sure you are on track here at College of the Redwoods and are clear about the path you need to take to accomplish your goals.

\*Due

**In-Class Activities:** Attendance is essential for success in this class, as we will be doing in-class activities daily to help us develop the academic and personal skills necessary to succeed in college and beyond. In-class activities cannot be made up; therefore one in-class activity will be excused to account for any unforeseen emergencies.

Grade Breakdown

In class activities	200 points
Journal Entries	200 points
Student Education Plan	100 points
Collage	150 points
Wise Choices Project	150 points
Final Essay	200 points
<u>Total</u>	<u>1000 points</u>

Letter Grade Breakdown:

A 930-1000pts	A- 900-929	B+ 870-899
B 830-869	B- 800-829	C+ 770-799
C 700-769	D 600-699	F 0-599

Late Work: Your projects will not be turned in late. However, so that you know my policy, any project or assignment turned in late will have the grade reduced by 5% for each class session that it is late. All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Tardiness on the day an assignment is due will result in a 2% decrease in grade for that assignment.