

Syllabus for: GS 6: First Year Experience	
Semester & Year:	Fall 2014
Course ID and Section Number:	GS 6 V6329 (036329)
Number of Credits/Units:	3
Day/Time:	GS-6-V6329 (036329) 08/23/14 - 12/13/14
Location:	Days TBA, Times TBA, Room TBA Virtual Campus/Online Classes
Instructor's Name:	Vincent Peloso
Contact Information:	Office: HU108K Office Hours: M 9:00 AM – 10:00AM T 12:00 PM – 1:00PM W 1:15 PM – 2:15 PM TH 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM And by appointment Voice Mail: 707-476-4565 Email: Vinnie-peloso@redwoods.edu
Course Description (catalog description as described in course outline):	
<p>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>	
Student Learning Outcomes (as described in course outline):	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess individual learning preferences which can be applied towards improving lifelong learning skills. 2. Identify college expectations and demonstrate successful navigation within the college system. 3. Develop and complete a formal student education plan. 4. Analyze self-management systems and persistence practices to increase self-motivation and success. 	
<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>	

Special accommodations: 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.

Academic Misconduct: 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.

The student code of conduct is available on the College of the Redwoods website at:
<http://www.redwoods.edu/District/Board/New/Chapter5/Ap5500.pdf>

Requirements for Online Student Success

This course is taught online. To succeed in this course you will need the necessary technical skills and equipment:

- Computer Access: If you do not have a computer at home, it is possible to participate in this class from a public access terminal either on or off campus.
- E-mail Account from which you can send and receive messages and attachments.

To learn more about what it takes to be a successful online student, visit these websites:

Are You Ready for Online Learning?

<http://www.redwoods.edu/departments/distance/index.asp?a=students&b=ready>

What Makes a Successful Online Student?

<http://www.ion.uillinois.edu/resources/tutorials/pedagogy/StudentProfile.asp>

Are Distance Learning Classes for Me?

http://www.cod.edu/dept/CIL/CIL_Surv.htm

Tips for Online Success

<http://www.ion.uillinois.edu/resources/tutorials/pedagogy/tips.asp> or Rules of Netiquette
<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

Online Student Success Tips

- Schedule time to work on class assignments, free of distractions.
- Participate in the class discussion board by posting and responding to the posts of your classmates.
- Ask questions and speak up if you are having problems.
- Start each assignment early to allow for questions and technical difficulties.

Course Website:

- Your login in First initial Last initial and then the last 5 digits of your student ID number
- For example John Smith, ID # 546739, would login JS46739
- Password is “student” (For current/past MyCR users, use the password you submitted)

Attendance: GS 6 is a three-unit, sixteen week online class beginning 8/23/14 and extending through 12/13/14. College of the Redwoods requires three hour per week of class (online) time **and** an additional two to three hours per week to complete course readings and assignments. Be prepared to make the time commitment required to successfully complete this class.

The First Step

After 12:00 am, Sunday, 8/24/14, go to MyCR at Login, find your online class and follow the instructions. **Your first assignment (Week One Discussion) is due by 11:59 pm, Thursday, 8/28/14.**

Technical Support

The CR tech support office can help you with questions regarding the technology (if things just aren't working for you). They can be reached at its@redwoods.edu or by calling either 707-476-4160 or 800-641-0400 ext. 4160 between 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., Monday through Friday. You may send emails to them any time and they will respond during the next working day. You can also visit the Distance Education homepage at <http://www.redwoods.edu/departments/distance/> for more information about online courses, My CR, tutoring and resources.

Please be aware that any problems with the course materials, such as understanding assignments and tests, are not technical difficulties. Should you encounter problems with course materials please contact me.

Course Mechanics

GS 6 is a sixteen week class beginning 8/23/14 and ending 12/13/14. You will be expected to “attend” class at least three times each week to:

- 1) Check your email and respond if needed.

- 2) Respond by midnight, Thursday, each week to the **Discussion Board** prompts posted by the instructor.
- 3) Respond to two of your classmates' **Discussion Board** postings by Sunday midnight each week.
- 4) Complete all **Journal Entry** assignments for the week (posted under "Assignments" on our class website) by 5:00 pm Friday of that week.

Participation: To be successful, you must participate. To participate, you must a) show up and b) speak up. Showing up means being prepared and present for the whole class from beginning to end. Speaking up means a) contributing to class discussions, b) engaging in class activities, c) completing assignments, and d) meeting deadlines.

Attendance is noted every week. Participation in class discussions and assignments is recorded and graded.

Required Textbooks: Available at the CR Bookstore and/or from various booksellers online. A copy is also on reserve in the CR library.

- 1) **On Course: Strategies for Creating Success in College and in Life**, 7th edition, Skip Downing (2011). Boston, MA: Wadsworth.

Grading Policy: Final grades are based on the following:

15 Weekly Discussions (3 points each) =	45
33 Success Journals (5 points each) =	165
Student Education Plan =	30
1 Final Essay =	60
Total Possible Points =	300

Grading Scale:

A = 270-300 points
B = 240-269 points
C = 210-239 points
D = 180-209 points
F = 0 – 179 points

Weekly Discussions (45 Possible Points)

This course is for students who choose to be successful in college and in life. One of the most important factors of success in any endeavor is consistent and active participation. To encourage and reward your preparation for active participation at every class discussion, three points can be earned every week. **One point for your initial posting and one point each for responding to at least two other classmates or the instructor.** If you have read the chapters assigned for the week and completed your journal entries for the previous week, you should have no trouble earning the maximum points (3) for each weekly discussion.

2. Success Journals (165 Possible Points)

Your Success Journal provides an opportunity to explore in writing your thoughts and feelings as you experiment with the success strategies presented in **On Course**. By carefully examining each strategy in your journal, you will discover which ones will assist you to create a rich, personally fulfilling life. **Although I will look through what you write, please write your journals for yourself, not for me.**

Journal Entries: During this semester, you will write 33 numbered journal entries from our textbook. At various times you may be asked to share what you have written with the class.

Many students come to regard their journal as one of their most valued possessions.

You can submit your Journal Entries electronically through our class website on MyCR. Journal Entries are listed under the Assignments tab. Again, you will receive 5 points for each completed Journal Entry submitted on time.

Journal Evaluations: To be eligible for full credit (5 points), all Journal Entries must be submitted by 5:00 pm on the Friday of the week they are assigned. **Late Journal Entries will be marked down accordingly.**

It is not my intention to read and comment on every journal entry you write. Instead, I will look through your journal entries to verify the completion of each assignment and to give credit for a job well done. However, I will read occasional entries just to get a sense of the issues you are working on. With this knowledge I can be of greater assistance to you this semester. If you want my comment on a specific journal entry, just let me know with a note in your journal.

Journal Points: Each journal entry can be awarded up to 5 points. Thus, all 33 journal entries are worth a possible total of 165 points. A journal entry will be awarded the maximum points if it is a) complete (all steps in the directions have been responded to), and b) there is evidence of an attempt to **Dive Deep**.

Grammar, spelling, and punctuation will **NOT** be factors in awarding points for journal entries. Feel free to express yourself without concern for standard English conventions.

3. Student Education Plan (30 Points)

Meet with your counselor or advisor sometime during the semester to complete your Student Education Plan (SEP), send me a copy of it when it's done, and earn 30 points! The deadline to complete this assignment is **Wednesday, 11/26/14, 5:00 pm.**

4. Final Essay (60 Possible Points)

All essays must be a) typed, b) submitted as an attachment (doc., docx., or rtf. files only), c) in MLA format and d) at least three pages (750 words) in length. **Final Essays are due Friday, 12/5/14, 5:00 pm.**

Choose one of the two following topics and either a) write an essay or b) give a class presentation:

Topic One: One Student's Story: Relate the story of how you used a specific **On Course** strategy to overcome an obstacle to your success in college or in life. Use the "One Student's Story" essays in our textbook as models of how to write your story.

An "A" paper will . . .

1. Explain a specific obstacle the writer faced.
2. Describe the specific On Course strategy used to overcome the specific obstacle.
3. Present the outcome of using the specific On Course strategy to overcome the specific obstacle the writer faced.
4. Show a commitment to excellence of expressions including professional appearance and a command of standard English.

Topic Two: 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!

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, including professional appearance and a command of Standard English.

GS 6 S14 Semester Schedule

WEEK 1	8/25/14 – 8/31/14	Introductions
WEEK 2	9/1/14 – 9/7/14	Preparations
WEEK 3	9/8/14 – 9/14/14	Chapter One, “Getting On Course,” pp. 1-38, Journal Entries 1-4 due Friday, 9/12/14, 5:00 pm
WEEK 4	9/15/14 – 9/21/14	Chapter Two, “Personal Responsibility,” pp. 39-74, Journal Entries 5-8 due Friday, 9/19/14, 5:00 pm
WEEK 5	9/22/14 – 9/28/14	Chapter Three, “Self-Motivation,” pp. 75-110, Journal Entries 9-12 due Friday, 9/26/14, 5:00 pm
WEEK 6	9/29/14 – 10/5/14	Chapters 1-3 Review
WEEK 7	10/6/14 – 10/12/14	Chapter Four, “Mastering Self-Management,” pp. 111-148, Journal Entries 13-16 due Friday, 10/10/14, 5:00 pm
WEEK 8	10/13/14 – 10/19/14	Chapter Five, “Employing Interdependence,” pp. 149-180, Journal Entries 17-20 due Friday, 10/17/14, 5:00 pm
WEEK 9	10/20/14 – 10/26/14	Chapter Six, “Gaining Self-Awareness,” pp. 181-214, Journal Entries 21-24 due Friday, 10/24/14, 5:00 pm
WEEK 10	10/27/14 – 11/2/14	Chapters 4-6 Review
WEEK 11	11/3/14 – 11/9/14	Chapter Seven, “Adopting Lifelong Learning,” pp. 215-252, Journal Entries 25-28 due Friday, 11/7/14, 5:00 pm
WEEK 12	11/10/14 – 11/16/14	Chapter Eight, “Emotional Intelligence,” pp. 253-288, Journal Entries, Journal Entries 29-32 due Friday, 11/14/14, 5:00 pm
WEEK 13	11/17/14 – 11/23/14	Chapter Nine, “Staying On Course to Your Success” pp. 289-298, Journal Entry 33 due Friday, 11/21/14, 5:00 pm
WEEK 14	11/24/14 – 11/30/14	Chapters 7-9 Review, Student Education Plans Deadline, Wednesday, 11/26/14, 5:00 pm
WEEK 15	12/1/14 – 12/7/14	Planning Your Next Steps, Final Essay Deadline, Friday, 12/5/14, 5:00 pm
FINALS	12/8/14 – 12/13/14	Results