

College Connections

MWSU 1233

Fall 2023

Location: Moffett Library 113F
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Instructor's Office Hours: M 3:30-5 and TR 10-12

COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to help new students make the transition into a college environment, focusing on the cognitive and behavioral dimensions of learning. Emphasis will be placed on written and oral communication. Students will develop an individualized protocol for efficient and effective learning and review strategies.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students will increase their **academic knowledge** in the following areas: note-taking, test taking, studying, reading, research, critical thinking, learning strategies, time management, academic advising/planning, communication skills, and intellectual discourse.
Learning Outcome: Evidenced by participation in class exercises and assignments including a time management study, implementation of a daily planner, D2L, lecture notes, research project, team project/presentations, and a final exam.
2. Students will increase their **university knowledge** in the following areas: traditions, campus resources and facilities, Moffett Library, MSU Policies, procedures and regulations, and cultural experiences.
Learning Outcome: Evidenced by attendance of campus events/activities and reporting their experience, class discussions and speakers, library tour, health & wellness center tour, and a visit to the Career Management office.
3. Students will increase their skills for living in the following areas: transition into college, relationships, values, awareness, health & wellness, goal setting, and diversity.
Learning Outcome: Evidenced by journal entries, goal setting, career research project/presentation, group interaction, and positive participation in class.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Marquet, L. David. Turn the Ship Around. New York: Penguin Random House, LLC., 2012

Mustangs Adventure Guidebook
Common Read
Binder/Folder
Paper

Other information provided by:

Gardner, John N. and Betsey O. Barefoot. Your College Experience. 14th Edition. Boston, MA: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2021.

ALL STUDENTS MUST HAVE TEXTS AND MATERIALS BY THE THIRD CLASS SESSION AND THEY MUST BE BROUGHT TO EACH AND EVERY CLASS.

GRADES and ASSIGNMENTS

The basis for your final course grade will be the accumulation of points through assignments, tests, papers, projects, and presentations. Students must demonstrate competency in writing through journal entries and other written work, in oral communication through class presentations and participation, and computer competency through specified assignments.

Grades will be assigned as follows:

A- 900-1000

B- 800-899

C-700-799

D-600-699

F-599 and below

Information on the Mustangs Adventure Guidebook:

This guidebook serves as a shared experience across all incoming freshmen enrolled in any of the FYS (First Year Seminar) courses. The Adventure Log in the front of your guidebook was designed for the credit/no credit version of the FYS. You are in the College Connections version of the FYS; therefore, some of the adventure choices have been changed. Please see the following table of required adventures with grading breakdowns:

Adventure	Date	What did you do?	Points available
1	November	Met with my academic advisor to schedule spring classes!	25 points to be awarded in Registration Assignments for this course.
2	October	Attend a tutoring session or homework help.	25 pts to be awarded in Adventure Guide Assignment
3			20 pts Campus Activities
4			20 pts Campus Activities
5			20 pts Campus Activities
6			20 pts Campus Activities
7			20 pts Campus Activities
8			20 pts Campus Activities

There will also be two additional Adventure Planner Guide checks worth 25 pts each:

Early October	25 pts. Planner Check
End of the Semester	25 pts. Planner check

ATTENDANCE & TARDIES

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY! Students are required to attend all class meetings and attendance is documented at the beginning of each class period. Attendance and class participation are deemed essential. Students are advised to plan carefully regarding appointments and/or work schedules to avoid missing class. Each student is allowed up to 4 absences to deal with any emergency which might occur throughout the semester. Any student who misses more than 4 classes will have their letter grade dropped by one letter at the end of the semester no matter how many points the students has earned. Students that arrive late to class will be marked as tardy and 3 tardies will be counted as 1 absence. A student that arrives to class 15 or more minutes late to class will be counted as absent.

Some assignments are experiential in nature and are only completed in class. If a student is absent from class on a day when one of these assignments are completed in class, they will automatically forfeit any points which might have been earned for the assignment. Personal emergencies that arise will be dealt with on an individual basis. Emergencies that result in a student missing multiple classes should be reported to the instructor and the Dean of Students Office.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

As adults, students are expected to behave in a respectful manner. Disrespect, an indifferent attitude, and/or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and will result in the student being dropped from the course with a grade of F **AND** referred to the Dean of Students Office. In life there is a time and a place for everything and that same rule applies to the classroom. We will have interactive classroom discussions and activities and the utmost respect must be followed at all times.

DUE DATES

All Assigned work will be due at the beginning of class on the dates specified. No late work will be accepted unless specific arrangements have been made with the instructor in advance. A missed assignment will be eligible for makeup only if due to an officially excused absence with *proper documentation provided, and must be scheduled the day the student returns to class. It is the student's responsibility to stay current with class activities and assignments. If documentation is provided as to the reason for the absence and the absence is excused in accordance with university policy, the student must request the missed work/materials the first class after they return.

Students are expected to adhere to the Standards of Conduct as published in the Student Handbook. Students should refer to the current MSU student handbook and activities calendar for University policies and Student Honor Creed on academic dishonesty, class attendance, students rights, and activities.

CELL PHONES

There will be some kind of Cell Phone use allowed in class during specific and designated times. Other than instructed Cell Phone use all phones must be cleared from your desk during class time. Any emergency situations should be discussed with the instructor before class. Continued use of Cell Phones during unauthorized times may result in being asked to leave class and being marked as absent for the day.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

Students should inform the instructor if they have a disability and need accommodations for this class.

CAMPUS CARRY STATEMENT

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at <https://mwsu.edu/campus-carry/rules-policies>

Class Attendance Policy and Contract

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. Although in general students are graded on intellectual effort and performance rather than attendance, absences may lower the student's grade where class attendance and class participation are deemed essential by the faculty member. In those classes where attendance is considered as part of the grade, the instructor should so inform students of the specifics in writing at the beginning of the semester in a syllabus or separate attendance policy statement. An instructor who has an attendance policy must keep records on a daily basis. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to being dropped from the class. Instructor records will stand as evidence of absences. A student with excessive absences may be dropped from a course by the instructor. Any individual faculty member or college has the authority to establish an attendance policy, providing the policy is in accordance with the General University Policies.

Authorized Absences

Absences due to required participation in university-sponsored activities must be approved by the college dean or Athletic Director and the Provost. Students with written approval must present a signed letter or memo to each instructor at least two class days prior to the date of the absence. Only prior notification can guarantee lack of penalty for these absences. It is the responsibility of the student to arrange with the instructor to make up all work missed during an authorized absence.

Academically-related activities (class field trips, attendance at conferences, etc.) which result in absences require the cooperation of individual faculty members. Even though such activities are educational in nature, they do not qualify as university-sponsored activities. Faculty members who organize such activities should assist their students in contacting and informing relevant faculty of the planned activity. Excused absences for such activities may be given at the discretion of the faculty member whose class is missed.

Procedures for Authorized Absences

The Provost will approve one copy of a request which includes the names of all students involved. The faculty sponsor or coach upon receipt of the approval, will make copies for each student.

1. Faculty sponsors or coaches should draft a memorandum or letter to the Provost. This memorandum should include information concerning the nature of the event, the date(s) on which students would be absent from class, and the names and identification numbers of the students involved.
2. Upon approval of the Provost, a copy of the memorandum should be given to each student listed
3. Students should be directed to communicate with their instructor(s) at least two class days prior to the date of the planned absence. Make-up assignments will occur at the convenience of the professor

Assistance with notification of professors with regard to absences are available from the following. Note - excused absences may be given at the discretion of the faculty member whose class is missed:

1. Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities - For personal emergencies such as hospitalization or family emergency, or a prolonged absence, a student should notify the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities.
2. Vinson Health Center - When a student's illness warrants verification, the student may seek medical treatment through the Vinson Health Center, after which the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities and/or faculty members will be notified by the Vinson Health Center.

Religious Holy Days

State law requires that an institution of higher education shall allow a student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. However, not later than the 15th day after the first day of the semester, the student must notify the instructor of each observance the student has scheduled on that date and that the student will be absent for a religious holy day.

Examinations and in-class assignments must be completed within a reasonable time after the date of observance. It is the responsibility of the student to make up the work on or before the date arranged with the instructor, but in no case later than the day of the final examination for that class.. (MSU Undergraduate Handbook 2020-2021).

I, _____, understand what MSU and my College Connections course expect of me concerning my attendance. I acknowledge that students are required to attend all class meetings and attendance will be recorded each class period. I understand that I will be allowed **4** unexcused absences and after the 4th unexcused absence, my overall grade will drop a letter grade in MWSU-1233. I understand that in addition to my instructor, I should also keep track of my own absences in the event of a dispute. I know that arriving late to class may result in a tardy, and 3 tardies will be counted as one absence. I understand that a student who arrives 15 or more minutes late will be counted absent – not tardy. I understand the above terms and agree to comply.

Print Name

M#

Signature

Date

