

| Class Meetings  | Instructor       | Office Location | Phone #          | Email                      | Office Hours   |
|---|------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------------|--|
| MWF<br>10:00-10:50<br>11:00-11:50<br>113G Moffett<br>Library LC | Scott<br>Feldman | 113C Moffett LC | 940-397-<br>6233 | Scott.feldman@msutexas.edu | MWF 2:00-<br>4:30<br>TR 11:00-<br>11:45<br><br>1:00-4:30 |

### Course Goals

The purpose of this course is to help new students make the transition to a college environment, focusing on the cognitive, behavioral, and experiential dimensions of learning. There is an emphasis on study skills as well as written and oral communication. There will be a common read, as well as a career exploration project. Attendance will be required at selected activities, and every class.

### 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 with the Career Management Center.

3. Students will increase their skill for living in the following areas: transition in to 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 Texts

Marquet, David L. Turn the Ship Around. Edmonton, Alberta, Canada: Portfolio Publishing, May 2013.

### Required Class Materials

At the beginning of the semester the student will receive an “Adventure Guide” which will be used as a planner for the semester. The student will also need a GroupMe Account.

## **Grades**

The basis for the final grade will be the average of assignments, projects, tests, and participation. In other words, everything a student does in and for class counts. 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 as follows: (A) 900-1000, (B) 800-899, (C) 700-799, (D) 600-699, and (F) 599 and below.

## **Attendance and Punctuality**

**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 3 absences to deal with any emergency which might occur throughout the semester. Any student who misses more than 3 classes will have their letter grade dropped by 1 letter at the end of the semester no matter how many points the student has earned. An additional letter grade will then be dropped for each absence following 4. 4 absences= 1 letter grade, 5= 2 letter grades, 6= 3 letter grades, 7= 4 letter grades. Students are required to keep track of their own attendance and are responsible for knowing how many absences they have incurred. A student that arrives to class 25 or more minutes late 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 the 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 could 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 due to an officially excused absence with \*proper\* documentation provided, and must be scheduled the day the student returns to class. It is the students 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.

## **Cell Phones**

**Put them away unless asked by the instructor to use them for a class exercise. Students may be asked to leave class if cell phone use continues after being asked to put them away.**

## **Disability Accommodations**

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

