

University of Kansas
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
LA&S 292
Topics and Problems: Academic Success Seminar
Fall 2011
Course Number: xxxxx

Course and Instructor Information

Instructors: xxx

Credit: 1 hour

Prerequisites: none

Meeting Time: xxx

Required ONLINE Text: www.strengthsquest.com/schoolaccess

Access to the Strengths Quest text and StrengthsFinder assessment can be purchased for \$12.50 at this website. We will use the website and the chapters from the text throughout the semester. A paper text is also available at local bookstores:

Strengths Quest by Clifton, Anderson and Schreiner, Second Edition

Gallup Press, 2006 ISBN: 978-1-59562-011-8

Must be a new text to access the required StrengthsFinder assessment.

Recommended Materials: Planner

Course Description:

This is a one credit hour course designed specifically for students on academic probation (or whose prior term GPA was below 2.0) who desire greater success in college and in life.

This course will:

1. Help you identify your greatest talents and apply them to academic settings.
2. Show you how to develop and apply your strengths.
3. Encourage you to improve your study skills.
4. Explain KU academic policies and procedures affecting your status at the university.

Note: All probation students in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences have the choice of enrolling in either LA&S 292 or a Blackboard course through the University Advising Center to fulfill the terms of their probation contracts.

Course Requirements

Attendance

You are expected to attend every class meeting. Attendance is worth 300 points (20 points per class session), 30% toward your final grade. No attendance points will be given for any absences. If you find that you need to miss multiple classes, contact me individually to make arrangements. You are responsible for obtaining the information presented and determining what you have missed. I expect you to stay caught up with the weekly material and bring questions over anything that is unclear. **I do not allow any electronic devices to be used in my classroom.**

Strengths Finder

Much of the course is centered on your results on the Strengths Finder, so it is crucial that you complete this online questionnaire early and email your results to me. We will discuss throughout the semester how you can develop your talents into strengths and use them to your advantage in an academic setting.

Assignments

The majority of your points in this class will be earned through three large projects: a goal-setting portfolio, a StrengthsQuest project, and two final essays due during finals week. Smaller assignments may be assigned throughout the semester to aid in progress toward larger goals. Plan to attend every class to receive the most information and the most points toward your grade.

Late assignments

Late assignments are **not** accepted, but most of our assignments can be submitted over email. If you miss the due date you will earn a zero for the assignment. If you would like to submit the assignment late, I am happy to accept it to provide feedback, but you will not receive any points for late assignments. An assignment is considered late if it is received after class time on the due date. Plan ahead for broken printers and computer problems as these are **not** excuses for late papers. Extreme emergency circumstances will be reviewed by the LA&S 292 Development Committee for a decision on accepting a late project.

Individual Appointments

You will have two individual meetings with me to discuss policies and resources and to review your semester progress. Please be on time. Each appointment is worth 20 points (including any corresponding assignments due at time of appointment).

Take Home Exam

This course requires one take-home exam toward the end of the course. This will cover campus resources and information discussed in class. The exam is worth 40 points and will be administered over the Blackboard website.

Goal Setting Portfolio – due Week 6 – worth 200 points

Your first project is a portfolio covering the first third of the semester of LA&S 292. The portfolio has many different components and all should be completed by the due date. This portfolio should help

you reflect on what you have learned in class and through the StrengthsQuest website. Late assignments will not be accepted.

StrengthsQuest Project – due Week 11 – worth 200 points

For this project you'll choose 3 of 8 possible activities to explore your Signature themes; will include written and oral presentation components. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Final Essays – due during Finals Week – worth 200 points

In lieu of a final exam, you will be presented with four options and will choose two to submit. The minimum length of each essay is 750 words per essay. These must be typed and submitted via email. **Your essays must be submitted to earn a passing grade in the course** and are worth 200 points or 20% of your final grade.

Extra Credit

A maximum of 100 points extra credit can be earned by attending various workshops, events, and other opportunities as they arise throughout the semester. See attached document.

Students with Physical or Learning Disabilities

The KU Office of Disability Resources (DR) coordinates accommodations and services for all eligible students with disabilities. If you have a disability and wish to request accommodations, please contact DR as soon as possible. Their office is located in 22 Strong Hall; their phone number is 785-864-2620 (V/TTY). Information about their services can be found at <http://www.disability.ku.edu/>. Please also contact me privately in regard to your needs in this course.

Withdrawing, Adding, and Electing Credit/No Credit Deadlines for full semester classes

Withdrawal dates for the semester are:

- 1st period: Aug. 22 – Sept. 12 (class does not show on your transcript)
- 2nd period: Sept. 13 – Nov. 16 (receive a grade of W on your record)
- Last day to withdraw from classes = Nov. 16

Last day to add a class

- Sept. 19 (requires instructor permission after Aug. 26)

Electing Credit/No Credit

- Sept. 20 - Oct. 3

Academic Misconduct

KU's policy regarding academic misconduct is in the Student Handbook

<http://www.studenthandbook.ku.edu/>. It is your responsibility as a student to be aware of this and other policies listed in the Timetable <http://www.registrar.ku.edu/timetable/>. Academic honesty is vital to an institution of higher education. Any violation of the policy will be dealt with immediately and severely.

Point Distribution:

Your final grade for the course will be calculated by adding all points earned in the course. We will not be using +/- grading in this course; all grades will be A-F. The grading criteria for the final grade are as follows:

TOTAL POINTS	GRADE	PERCENTAGES
900-1000	A	90%-100%
800-899	B	80%- 89%
700-799	C	70%-79%
600-699	D	60%-69%
0-599	F	00%-59%

Grade Worksheet

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Points Received</u>	<u>Points Possible</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
15 classes x 20 pts each		300		
Pre-assessment		10		
Individual Appointment #1		20		
Goal Setting Portfolio		200		
Individual Appointment #2		20		
StrengthsQuest Project		200		
Take Home Exam		40		
Final Essays		200		
Extra Credit		(up to 100 pts)		
Post-assessment		10		
TOTAL		1000		

Course Schedule for Fall 2011 (subject to change)

All homework assignments are due by the next class time unless otherwise noted

Class	Date	In Class Topics	Homework
Class 1	Aug. 24	Intro to course Syllabus overview Online GPA tool	Pre-assessment Copy/print syllabi from all courses
Class 2	Aug. 31	Time Management Goals Syllabus Quiz	Complete StrengthsFinder online Highlight Signature Theme descriptions Strengths Reflection
Class 3	Sept. 7	Goals & Strengths Project #1 assigned	Work on Project #1 (due Class 6)
Class 4	Sept. 14	Procrastination Obstacles to goals Individual Appt #1 (outside of class time)	Work on Project #1 (be prepared to share progress during Individual Appt #1)
Class 5	Sept. 21	Writing Center, CAPS, AAAC & Math visits Strengths Self-Study activity Picture of Excellence	Project #1 due in Class 6
Class 6	Sept. 28	Study Skills: Memory, Note Taking, Reading, Test Taking	
Class 7	Oct. 5	Exploring your Themes activity Project #2 assigned	Work on Project #2 (due Class 11)
Class 8	Oct. 12	Strengths activities: focus on your individual themes	Work on Project #2
Class 9	Oct. 19	Strengths activities: focus on your theme pairings and the "shadow side" of strengths	Work on Project #2
Class 10	Oct. 26	Strengths activities: pairing your themes with others' themes Individual Appt #2	Project #2 (be prepared to share progress during Individual Appt #2)
Class 11	Nov. 2	Project #2 Presentations begin Faculty visit	Take Home Exam (due Class 13)
Class 12	Nov. 9	Final Essays assigned Presentations continue	Work on Final Essays Finish Take Home Exam Bring resume to Class 13 at University Career Center
Class 13	Nov. 16	At the University Career Center (Burge Union) Strengths and resumes	Work on Final Essays
	Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Break – no class	
Class 14	Nov. 30	Presentations continue Legal Services for Students visit	Work on Final Essays
Class 15	Dec. 7	Final wrap up and Evaluations	Finish Final Essays
	Dec. 14		Final Essays due by 5pm