

SLS 1503: Learning Strategies and Human Development – Fall 2011

INSTRUCTOR:

Ms. Liz Kennedy

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Office Hours: M-R, 9-4 by appointment

Tuesday/Thursday

10:00-10:50 am

IRT 109

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Course description: SLS 1503 is designed to assist students in making the transition into higher education. Topics include time management, test taking skills, learning strategies and styles, diversity, short- and long-term planning, developing analytical and critical thinking skills, relationships, and campus resources. Prerequisite: must be a student with less than 30 credits. (2 elective credits)

Why take SLS 1503?

- SLS 1503 is part of a national movement called the *First-Year Experience* whose goal is to improve the success of all students – from those attending a local community college to those attending Ivy league universities
- Extensive research has demonstrated that students who take a class like SLS 1503 show higher rates of retention (they stay in college until they graduate) and academic performance (they earn higher GPAs)
- This course is not only about academic success but about life-success. The topics addressed and the skills reviewed and learned will transfer to your professional worlds and are likely to endure the test of time.
- This may be the only course you will ever take where you are the topic and not some body of knowledge
- Because those things which we view as “common sense,” “simple,” or “obvious” may be the very things that we most often overlook or ignore

Course objectives:

- to assist you in your transition into the university
- to assist you in developing and/or improving essential academic skills
- to assist you in making a “connection” with the university
- to assist you in becoming oriented to campus resources and facilities
- to assist you in your goal setting and short and long-term planning
- to assist you in developing analytical and critical thinking skills
- to assist you in improving your written and oral communication skills

SLS 1503 students will demonstrate **university level** skills in the following areas:

- ✓ listening and note taking in and out of class
- ✓ reading for comprehension and mastery
- ✓ time management
- ✓ academic goal setting
- ✓ exam preparation and test taking
- ✓ critical thinking

Text: Beginning the Journey

Your College Experience: Strategies for Success – Gardner, Jewler, and Barefoot

Supplies:

Daily Planner

Notebook (preferably ring-bound)/portfolio

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodation due to a disability to properly execute course work must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) – in Boca Raton, SU 133 (561-297-3880); in Davie, MOD 1 (954-236-1222); in Jupiter, SR 117 (561-799-8585); or at the Treasure Coast, CO 128 (772-873-3305) – and follow all OSD procedures.

Code of Academic Integrity:

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the University community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see the Code of Academic Integrity in the University Regulations at http://fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf.

Course requirements:

- Regular attendance. If you have an emergency, call or e-mail me within 24 hours. You will be held responsible for all assignments made during the missed class.
- All students are expected to arrive on-time for class. Tardiness is hurtful and disruptive to you and the others in your class. Points may be deducted for tardiness.
- Complete all reading assignments prior to coming to class.
- Complete all assigned text exercises and activities prior to coming to class.
- Complete and turn-in all out-of-class assignments on time. Late work may be accepted but points will be deducted.
- Makeup tests will not be given without documentation of reason for absence.
- Grades of Incomplete (“I”) are reserved for students who are passing the course but have not completed all the required work because of exceptional circumstances.
- Keep your syllabus and other course materials in your notebook with your text. Bring this notebook with you to each class.
- Turn off all cellular phones, beepers and pagers during class.
- All written out-of-class assignments must be typed, double-spaced. All written assignments should have correct grammar and punctuation and should be checked for spelling errors.
- Actively participate in class exercises and assignments including class discussions, group projects and presentations. Your active participation is valued and it will make this course more interesting and meaningful for all.
- At times, this class will deal with controversial issues. You are asked to express your thoughts and opinions with sensitivity and respect for your classmates.

PROJECTS:

Portfolio:

An **organized** notebook which includes: class notes, assignments, reflection papers, handouts, homework (after it is returned) – i.e. *all* class related materials. Points will be earned by showing the items requested on the last day of class. *Goal: to assist you in improving your organizational skills and/or applying them to your academic life.*

Campus Activity. http://www.fau.edu/freshmanadvising/pdf/Student_Success_Series_Form.pdf You will attend one campus event during the first 6-weeks of school and complete the above form about your experience. *Goal: to assist you in exploring the university outside of the classroom.*

Group Project:

See final page of syllabus. *Goal: to provide you with an opportunity to work with others to achieve a common goal-a critical workplace skill*

Reflection Questions: Your answers should be $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 page minimum in length. 12-point/New Times Roman. However, your points will be based mostly on content and not length. *Goal: to provide you with an opportunity to reflect on and either continue or adjust your habits.*

Points may be earned in the following ways-

My points:

1. By demonstrating what you have learned:

Quiz: (based on class notes)	30 points (6%)	_____
Exam 1	65 points (13%)	_____
Exam 2	65 points (13%)	_____
“Pop” Quizzes 5@5 points (Based on textbook assignments)	25 points (5%)	_____

2. By attending class and working with classmates:

Attendance/Participation:	40 points (8%)	_____
<i>Every absence from class will reduce this total by a minimum of 5 points.</i>		
Group Project:	25 points (5%)	_____

3. By demonstrating that you can take the small steps to your big success-15 points (3%) each

Critical Thinking 1	_____
Critical Thinking 2	_____
Homework 1: Academic Goal	_____
Homework 2: Fall “Work” Schedule	_____
Homework 3: Cornell Notes – identify one course and use for two weeks	_____
Homework 4: Study Tool (Chapter 8 or partner course)	_____
Homework 5: Annotated Text (Chapter 9 or partner course)	_____
Homework 6: Key word diagram	_____
Homework 7: Decision making	_____

4. By demonstrating that you can reflect on yourself and your behavior

Reflection Questions	50 points (10%)	_____
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5. By demonstrating that you can be organized

Portfolio-presented to your instructor at the end of the semester	15 points (3%)	_____
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6. By demonstrating that you have a plan for your future

Daily Planner	15 points (3%)	_____
Keep a record of upcoming events from 9/6/11.		
Will be shown to instructor at the end of the semester.		
The following should be on your planner:		
-tests/quizzes in all classes	-work hours	
-projects in all classes	-appointments	
-papers in all classes		
My Two-year Plan	15 points (3%)	_____

7. By participating in activities outside of the classroom:

Attend an Event on Campus	15 points (3%)	_____
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Grading Scale:

A	465-500	C	365-384
A-	450-464	C-	350-364
B+	435-449	D+	335-349
B	415-434	D	315-334
B-	400-414	D-	300-314
C+	385-399	F	Below 300

- August 23: Introduction
- August 25: Preface to Students p. xv-xvi
They (Faculty) Expect That??? (Front of text)
Chapter 1
Critical Thinking #1 due
- August 30: Getting What You Need to Be Successful
If you have a laptop or smart phone, bring it to class today.
- September 1: Goal setting
Bring Daily Planner and syllabi from all classes
Critical Thinking #2 due
- September 6: Chapter 2
Bring Daily Planner
Goal due
- September 8: Chapter 2 continued
Reflection Question #1 due: *Why are you here (i.e. in college)?*
- September 13: Chapter 6
Fall “work” schedule due
- September 15: Chapter 6 continued
Reflection Question #2 due: *How are you adjusting to your new environment? What successes have you had? What challenges have you faced? Are there things that you aren’t going to do again?*
- September 20: Go directly to SS 222: Today & Beyond
- September 22: Chapter 5
- September 27: Chapter 4
Complete inventory – page 66-67
- September 29: Quiz (Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 6)
Cornell Notes Due
- October 4: Guest speaker
Chapter 13
- October 6: CDC Presentation-Nations Multi-purpose Room
Campus Activity Report due (see page 2)
Reflection Question #3: *How is your weekly schedule working? Are you following it? Do you need to make some adjustments?*
- October 11: Chapter 7
- October 13: Go directly to SS 222: Today & Beyond

- October 18: Chapter 8
Mind map due
- October 20: Chapter 9
Annotated text due
- October 25: Chapter 9 continued
Reflection Question #4: *Review your progress toward your academic goal. What steps have you taken? What haven't you done that you said you would? Do you need to add steps to help you reach your goal?*
- October 27: Exam 1
Key Word Diagram due
- November 1: Chapter 12
Bring a copy of your major curriculum:
http://www.fau.edu/freshmanadvising/present_curriculum_sheets.php
- November 3: No reading assignment
- November 8: No reading assignment
Decision making exercise due
- November 10: Chapter 14
Reflection Question #5: *What do you value and how do you show that you value it?*
- November 15: Chapter 16
My 2-year plan due
- November 17: Group Projects
- November 22: Work on final essay
- November 24: Thanksgiving Day
- November 29: Present Portfolio and daily planner
Final Essay due
- December 1: Final Exam (7:45 am)

**Please be aware that deviations from this schedule may be made.*