"Success in Natural Sciences"

NSED 98 - Spring 2009

Description:

NSED 98 is an introduction to the culture of universities, university level science and the School of Natural Sciences at UC Merced. In this course, you will learn concepts, college success skills, and information that will assist you with your courses and career choices.

Instructor Contact Information:

Arliss Dudley-Cash Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00-2:50pm AOB 182
dudleycash@gmail.com

Meeting Time:

Lecture

Friday 10:00-10:50 am or Friday 11:00-11:50 am in COB 288

Section

Tuesday 10:00-11:50am or Tuesday 3:00-4:50pm in S&E 115

Format

The Lecture hour of this course will consist of assigned readings from scholarly and popular journals, presentations by guest speakers, a research paper, several short assignments, and lectures. The discussion section is where more individualized learning will take place. The discussion section will reinforce of the skills learned in class. The format will be interactive and will involve your questions, opinions, and participation.

	Topics Covered	**Work Due Dates (Please turn in at the end of lecture)**
1/23	**Time Management**	Nothing Due
1/30	**Office Hour Essentials**	**1 Professor Questionnaire Calendar Check** **Pages 3, 15-18 in Reader Article Review #1**
2/6	**Study Strategies**	**1 Professor and 1 TA Questionnaire** **Page 19 in Reader** **Resume Rough Draft (10 pt.)**
2/13	**Exams**	**1 Professor Questionnaire Page 21 in Reader** **Article Review #2**
2/20	**Highlights from "Getting Things Done" – Mike Colvin**	
2/27	**"Success: A Journey Not a Destination" – Masa Watanabe**	**Due 03/02/2009 in Discussion** **1 Professor Questionnaire Calendar Check** **Pages 22 and 26 in Reader Resume Final Draft (15 pt.)**
3/6	**"What Was that Lecture About?!" – Benoit Dayrat**	
3/13	**Research Techniques**	**1 Professor Questionnaire Page 20 in Reader** **Article Review #3** **Research Paper Topic and Outline (5 pt.)**
3/20	**Paper Writing**	**1 Professor Questionnaire Page 24 in Reader** **Personal Statement Rough Draft (10 pt.)**
3/27	**HOLIDAY**	
4/3	**Note Taking Strategies**	**1 Professor Questionnaire Calendar Check** **Research Paper Abstract (10 pt.)**

4/10	**How to Choose your class and Campus Services**	**1 Professor Questionnaire Page 23 in Reader** **Personal Statement Final Draft (15 pt.)** **Article Review #4**
4/17	**Science Text Book Uncovered**	**Research Paper Rough Draft due in class and EMAILED TO ARLISS (15 pt.) Calendar Check**
4/24	**Appearance and Attitude Matters**	**1 Professor Questionnaire Page 25 in Reader** **Article Review #5**
5/1	**Ethics and Professionalism**	**1 Professor Questionnaire** **Research Paper Bibliography (5 pt.)** **Copies of Exams and Scores Sheet Calendar Check** **Bring Research Papers to Class/Section (10 pt.)**
5/8	**Preparation for Graduate or Medical School**	**1 Professor Questionnaire** **Final Draft of Paper (30 pt.)**

Specific Objectives:

1. Learn what is needed and expected to succeed in your undergraduate education.
2. Obtain information that will help you develop skills to improve your performance in math and science.
3. Provide an overview of the School of Natural Sciences and the university to help you acclimate to college life.
4. Introduce you to the diversity of life and physical sciences.
5. Present information to help you decide on your long-term goal.

Grading:

This is a two unit pass/no pass course. Grading will be based on your completion of assigned exercises listed below:

1. Completing all Calendar Checks (10 points total)
2. Completed assignments from Course Reader (Including Professor and TA Questionnaires) (100 points total)
3. Research Paper Assignments (75 points total)
4. Resume and Personal Statement exercise (50 points total)
5. 5 Scientific Article Reviews (50 points total)
6. A copy of all Exams or Scores from all classes signed be the professor (15 points total)

To receive a "Pass", you must satisfy all evaluation criteria below:

1. Completion of all exercises listed above with a total point of 210 or higher.
2. Have no more than 2 unexcused absences overall, this includes your weekly two-hour discussion sections group meetings.
3. All work must be typed, 12 point font, have your name, the assignment title and be turned in during the designated lecture time. Nothing can be submitted through email unless discussed with the instructor.
4. In case of illness or other extenuating circumstances, please contact the professor by email ASAP and bring documentation.
5. To make up late assignments or unexcused absences, you can attend 2 academic or skills workshops, or 2 tutoring sessions for each late day on an assignment or unexcused absence. Please notify your instructor and pick-up a form to fill out.

Questions or Concerns:

Please contact me at dudleycash@gmail.com.

Article Review Assignment

Worth 10 points each a total of 50 points

Using the UC Merced Library, find a journal article from a peer reviewed scientific journal. This does not include information from websites, magazines, newspapers or any other non-peer reviewed resources. This journal article topic could be on a topic of interest to you or it could be part of a research paper. Read and analyze the article. Summarize and answer the following questions. Provide a copy of the journal article along with your typed assignment. The assignment needs to be in 12 point font, Times New Roman, 1" margins, with a title, double spaced, and your name, class name, date, and section date.

Questions to be answered:

Why did you choose this Article?

What did you learn from this Article that you didn't know before?

What further research do you think could be conducted in this area of science?

What you will be graded on:

- Format : 12 point font. Times New Roman, 1" margins, with a title, double spaced, and your name, class name, date, and section date.
- 300 Word Summarization
- Three Questions answered
- Copy of the Article turned in with Typed assignment
- The Article is from a peered reviewed journal

Calendar Check Assignment

Worth 2 points each a total of 10 points

What you will be graded on:

- You must have a copy of all the syllabi for all your classes (science and non-science).
- All of your assignments from all your classes, meaning all of the individual due dates.
- All of your exam dates, including your finals.
- All of your quiz dates.
- Any homework.
- All your extra curricular activities (including work).

Personal Statement Assignment

Rough Draft worth 10 points Final Draft worth 15 points a total of 25 points

This assignment has two parts:

You are writing the personal statement to be appropriate as part of an application to graduate school, medical school or other applications. You want to be reflecting yourself in a positive but not overly confident manner. The personal statement should be no longer than 500 words.

Write a short paragraph that describes who will be reading your personal statement and the purpose of it. This is a document written directly to the reader where you explain your goals and challenges with the assignment.

Defining who you are writing for and the purpose for writing your personal statement is very important. Think in terms of a personal statement for graduate school, for application for a scholarship, for application to medical school or other instances.

What you are graded on:

- The Personal Statement must be 500 words.
- There must be a title.
- It must have a short paragraph describing who you are writing your personal statement for and the purpose of it.
- It must be clear and concise.
- There must be one coherent thought process throughout the whole paper.
- This must be Typed, 1” margins, double spaced, 12 pint font, times new roman font, with your name, date, and section date.

Reader Assignments

Worth 4 points each a total of 100 points

(This includes all questionnaires and worksheets)

What you will be graded on:

- All questions must be fully answered, proof read, and spell checked.
- For TA and Professor Questionnaires you must list the name and contact information for the TA or Professor interviewed. Your professor/TA must sign and date the questionnaire. If the questionnaire is not signed by a professor you will get 0 points for the assignment.
- You must list the Title of the Worksheet or Questionnaire and the page number in the reader.
- Each Question must be present followed by the answer.
- The assignment should be typed, 12 point font, Times New Roman, 1" Margins, Single Spaced, Your name, Date, and Section listed.

ALL QUESTIONNAIRES REQUIRE A PROFESSOR/TA'S SIGNATURE

Research Paper Assignment

Topic and Outline worth 5 points, Abstract worth 10 points, Rough Draft worth 15 points, Bibliography 5 points, Bring Research Papers to Class/Section worth 10 points, and Final Draft of Paper worth 30 points. Worth a total of 75 points.

You can choose any scientific or other topic that would pertain to this class. You will find 5 peer reviewed journal articles and 3 other sources to analyze and summarize in your paper. The paper assignment with consist on many stages including: Topic and Outline, Abstract, Rough Draft, Bibliography, and Final Draft.

Topic and Outline:

- The topic that your research paper will cover.
- An outline with one introduction paragraph, 5 body paragraphs and one conclusion paragraph. You must have at least sentences under each paragraph heading.
- This must be Typed, 12 point font, 1" margins, with your name, Date, and section date.

Abstract:

- An abstract should tell the reader what is going to be in your research paper. The first sentence should reflect your introduction paragraph and next sentences your body paragraphs.
- The last paragraph should be your thesis statement.
- The thesis statement is an argument about whether you agree or disagree with research you are presenting.
- This must be 500 words
- It must be Typed, 12 point font, 1" margins, double spaced, with a title, your name, date, and section date.

Rough Draft:

- Must be 3 full pages
- Must consist of an introduction paragraph, body paragraphs, and a conclusion.
- Your paper must be proof read and spell checked. (Try reading your paper out loud.
- It must be Typed, 12 point font, 1" margins, double spaced, with a title, your name, date, and section date.

Bibliography:

- You must have a total of 8 sources (5 from a peered reviewed journal and 3 from other sources)
- They must be in MLA format
- It must be Typed, 12 point font, 1" margins, double spaced, with a title, your name, date, and section date.
- A copy of all articles and sources must be included.

Final Draft:

- You must have your corrected Topic and Outline page, Abstract and Bibliography included.
- Your returned rough draft must also be turned in.
- Your paper should be at least 5 full pages long.
- Your must have used the changes given to you from your returned rough draft.
- It must be Typed, 12 point font, 1" margins, double spaced, with a title, your name, date, and section date.

Resume Assignment

Rough Draft worth 10 points Final Draft worth 15 points a total of 25 points

Start by deciding if you want to write a resume that is for a specific job or a generic resume. Then Follow the Following steps to create a Coherent resume.

- **The Header**
  a. Should contain full name, Address, Phone Number and Email Address. All of your contact information should be up to date, so that you can be easily contacted. Your phone number could be a cell phone number.
  b. Your email address and/or website should be professional and conservative. You could create an email address that is only where you get email from employers. Also note that employers may look you up on my space or face book.

- **Objective or Qualifications Summary**
  a. An objective is a statement of what you want to achieve in applying to the company. This is not a requirement if you want to have a generic resume. You can follow this by a summary of your qualification for the specific job position.
  b. If you are qualified for the job, summarize why you are the best candidate for the job. Offer actual experience not fluff. If you aren't fully qualified for the job, then use this space to tell why you should get the job - your desire, work ethic or other intangibles.

- **Work Experience**
  a. Start with your most recent work experience and then move backwards in time.
  b. Include all short-term jobs and volunteer work.
  c. Try not to have long gaps in work history. I you have large gaps include work experience you gained doing other activities during this period of time.
  d. If you have had short-term jobs, make sure that you explain why.

- **Education**
  a. If you are a Junior or less then start with High School. If you are a Senior or more Start with College.
  b. This can include Junior College experience or Vocational School.
  c. This information should include: When you started, when you graduated or stopped, the schools name and contact information, your majors and/or minors, specific classes taken that are relevant to the job, your GPA, and A contact person.

- **Skills**
  a. This is where you list the skills that you have that qualify you for the job. You can look at the skills requirements for the job and lists the ones that apply to you. You can also look up skills that would also be helpful for the position. If you know someone who already works at the company you can ask them what they are looking for.

- **Organizations and Awards**
  a. If you are a Junior or less, start with High School. If you are a senior or higher, start with College. Name any clubs, organizations, or academic groups you were a member of. List any office you may have held. This the start date and ending date of your membership. This should be done in reverse chronological order.
  b. List all your awards you received, the date you received them, and do this is reverse chronological order.

What you will be graded on:

- Neat and aesthetically pleasing.
- All categories are filled out in detail
- Has been proof read and spell checked (Try reading it out loud)
- It must be Typed, 12 point font, Times New Roman, 1" Margins, Single Spaced, and formatted well.

Exam Score Sheet

Worth 15 points total complete one for each class

Students Name: _____

Students ID #: _____

Exam Score: _____

Exam Grade: _____

Course Name: _____

Professor Name: _____

Professor Email: _____

Professor Signature:_____

Workshop or Tutoring Attendance

Worth 5 points for every 2 workshops or tutoring sessions

Name of Student: _____

Students ID#: _____

Name of the Workshop: _____

What Subject was covered in Tutoring: _____

Name of Tutor or person running the Workshop: _____

Contact Information of that person: _____

Date of Workshop or Tutoring occurred: _____

Where the Workshop or Tutoring occurred: _____

Signature or Tutor/Workshop leader: _____