Sample Syllabus
RSP 101 Introduction to the Culture of Collegiate Life
Fall, 2009

Course Description: This course in Creighton’s Ratio Studiorum Program introduces freshmen students to life at Creighton University. It examines key elements of collegiate life including the meaning and value of a liberal arts education; the University’s Jesuit, Catholic history and key Ignatian values; and the vocational aspirations and challenges common to all freshmen. Students are introduced to the CCAS Ratio Studiorum, that is, “plan of study,” including the College’s six learning objectives and degree requirements (particularly, the Core Curriculum). Students learn about the culture of scholarship and academic integrity. During the fall semester, a book that addresses aspects of self-exploration as well as five essays written specifically for Creighton freshmen are assigned and will be discussed in class. The class will be taught and graded by a Faculty Preceptor with the support of his/her Decurion (a specially invited junior or senior).

Course Objectives:
1. Students will engage in self-exploration and self-discovery, including awareness of and appreciation for their differences in ethnicity, gender and socio-economic status.
2. Students will explore the University’s Jesuit, Catholic history and understand key Ignatian values integral to the liberal arts education of the College.
3. Students will be able to articulate the College’s six learning objectives
4. Students will understand the CCAS Ratio Studiorum, i.e. the plan of study required of the degree programs offered in the Creighton College of Arts and Science (Core, major, minor). Students will also apply knowledge of this plan through use of the Banner Student Self-Service system.
5. Students will achieve a balanced participation in the University’s co-curriculum of programs available outside the classroom and will be able to demonstrate awareness of specific issues concerning 1) alcohol abuse and 2) relationships or mental health. (A third co-curricular program and its specific learning objectives will be decided by the Faculty Preceptor.)
6. Students will examine integrity in both their academic and residential life and will understand the University and College policies and procedures on academic honesty and University disciplinary policies.
7. Students will learn about special opportunities for learning (e.g. study abroad, faculty-led summer programs abroad, service-learning, Encuentro Dominicano, service break trips, transient study.)
Course Requirements and Grading:

0-10 pts. Attendance (one unexcused absence permitted)

0-10 pts. Advising Sessions: Two mandatory individual advising meetings with advisor
#1: 0-5 pts.
#2 With Two-Year Plan: 0-5 pts.

0-20 pts.* Co-Curricular Participation: (0-5 points each)
   Major/Minor Exploration Fair
   Obstacle to Learning Presentation: Alcohol Abuse
   Obstacle to Learning: Relationships or Mental Health
   Preceptor’s Choice: ________________ to be
   discussed in class.
   (Note: None of these replaces a class session.)

   *Students for whom any of these mandatory co-curricular events creates a conflict with
   another course or lab will be given an alternative means to complete the assignment by the
   instructor.

0-50 pts. Course Assignments
   Writing, quizzes, and discussion relevant to selected book and other assigned
   reading (actual assignments and distribution of points at the discretion of the
   Faculty Preceptor)

0-10 pts. Discernment Activity (e.g. personal reflection paper, journal entries)

0-100 pts. TOTAL

Grading
   A (90-100); B+ (87-89); B (86-80); C+ (77-79); C (76-70); D (69-60); F (below 60).

Course Policies:

1. Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. Students are allowed one unexcused absence.
   Subsequent unexcused absences from class sessions drop the attendance grade by up to 5
   points each, as determined by the Faculty Preceptor. Failure to appear for individual advising
   meetings drops the advising sessions grade by up to 5 participation points each, unless prior
   arrangements with the Faculty Preceptor have been made.

2. Academic Honesty: All violations of the University Policy on academic honesty will receive
   a grade of 0 for the assignment. (Multiple violations are reviewed by the Dean.) The
   University Policy and College procedures for dealing with violations can be found in the
   Undergraduate Bulletin.

3. Class Cancellation: Students will be notified by the Faculty Preceptor through BlueLine.

4. Make-Up: If extenuating circumstances prevent a student from completing an assignment or
   from attending an event, the student may make it up, at the discretion of the Faculty Preceptor.
**Required Texts:**
1. *Learning in the Academy: An Introduction to the Culture of Scholarship* (on-line)
2. Selected book
3. Five RSP on-line essays

**Course Schedule**

**Sa, Aug. 22**
- Welcome Week meeting
- Introduction of Faculty Preceptor, Decurion, and class members
- Introduction to RSP 101—objectives, policies, grading, schedule, first assignment

**Week One**
- Discussion of first impressions, pleasant and not-so-pleasant
- Reading/discussion: Dr. Wayne Young, Jr., *On Becoming a Creightonian* (BlueLine)

**Week Two**
- Understanding Ratio Studiorum—six learning goals of CCAS
- Reading/discussion: *An Introduction to the Culture of Scholarship* (on-line)
- Scheduling appointments with advisor

**W, Sept. 2 or Th, Sept. 10**
- Required attendance at co-curricular presentation on Alcohol Awareness

**Week Three**
- First reading/discussion on selected book
- Class discussion on co-curricular presentation
- Individual advising appointments
- Recommended attendance at Involvement Fair (Sept. 9)

**W, Sept. 16 or Th, Sept. 17**
- Required attendance at co-curricular presentation on Mental Health

**Week Four**
- Obstacles to Learning (Decurion)
- Class discussion on co-curricular presentation

**Week Five**
- Second reading/discussion on selected book

**Week Six**
- Jesuit History, Values, and Traditions
- Reading/discussion: Larry Gillick, SJ, *From the Mountain to the Hilltop* (BlueLine)

**Week Seven**
- Third reading/discussion on selected book
- Planning Preceptor-selected co-curricular activity

**Week Eight**
- Reinert Alumni Library resources
- DUE: Second paper on book, 2-3 pp

**Week Nine**
- NO CLASS—Fall Break
Tu, Oct. 27  | Required attendance (including Faculty Preceptors) at evening Diversity program
Week Ten   | NO CLASS—make-up for Diversity program
Week Eleven| The Core—liberal arts education  
           | Reading/discussion:  Dr. Theodore E. Burk, *Liberal Education at Creighton University* (BlueLine)  
           | Designing a Two-Year Plan  
           | Scheduling appointments with advisor  
           | Required attendance at Major/Minor Exploration Fair (Nov. 4)
Week Twelve| Learning Opportunities (Decurion)  
            | Reading/discussion: Dr. Eileen Wirth *Becoming a Whole Person: CU Co-Curriculars* (BlueLine)  
            | Individual advising appointments (with completed Two-Year Plan)
Week Thirteen| Discernment/Self-Awareness  
              | Reading/discussion: Dr. Roger Bergman, *Know Yourself* (BlueLine)
Week Fourteen| Career Development (Decurion)  
               | DUE: Discernment paper/journal
Week Fifteen| Preceptor/Decurion option