RSP 105
Master Course Syllabus

Making the Transition: An Introduction to the Culture of Collegiate Life at Creighton

Faculty Preceptor will create a section syllabus to distribute in class to students

Required Texts:
1. Learning in the Academy: An Introduction to the Culture of Scholarship
2. Book
3. Handouts

Course Description: This course in Creighton’s Ratio Studiorum Program introduces transfer 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 transfer students. Students are introduced to the CCAS “Ratio Studiorum” or plan of study, including the College’s six learning objectives and the degree requirements (major and Core). Students learn about the culture of scholarship and academic integrity. Specific issues which are unique to transfer students are also addressed. During the fall semester a book that addresses aspects of self-exploration and self-discovery is assigned and will be discussed in class. The class will be taught by a Faculty Preceptor and supported by a Decurion (usually a former transfer student invited by the Faculty Preceptor).

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 class.
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 also achieve a balanced participation in the University’s co-curriculum of programs available outside the classroom.
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-lead summer programs abroad, service-learning, Encuentro Dominicano, service break trips, transient study, etc.)
Course Requirements:

- Attendance: 10 points (2 absences permitted)
- Participation: 30 points
  - Two mandatory individual advising meetings with advisor (5 points each)
  - attendance at the Major/Minor Fair (5 points)
  - attendance at the Involvement Fair (5 points)
  - attendance at _________________, to be discussed in class (does not replace a class session) (10 points)
- 3-5 page Written Assignment on Book: 20 points
- Academic Plan: 20 points
- Discernment Activity (e.g. personal reflection paper, journal entries:) 20 points

Grade: This course will be graded as follows: 100 points total
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 two unexcused absences. Subsequent unexcused absences from class sessions drop the attendance grade by 5 attendance points each. Failure to appear for individual advising meetings drop the participation grade by 5 participation points each, unless prior arrangements with the Faculty Preceptor have been made. Excessive absences (3 or more unexcused absences) earn the grade of AF.

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 is located under Course Materials in the BlackBoard site for this course

3. Class Cancellation: Students will be notified by the Faculty Preceptor through BlackBoard (BlackBoard email or announcements).

4. Make-Up: If extenuating circumstances prevent a student from completing an assignment or from attending an event, the student may make it up according to the Faculty Preceptor’s discretion.

Course Outline

This course meets on a weekly basis and includes mandatory topics as well as elective material chosen by your Faculty Preceptor.

During Weeks 2-4, students will meet individually with the Faculty Preceptor to discuss progress in current courses and any potential learning obstacles. At this time, the preceptor may refer students to support services including Counseling, Student Support Services, Director of Retention, etc. Students will again meet with their Faculty Preceptor around Week 8 to discuss spring schedules and receive their registration PIN. Students will register for spring semester shortly after fall break.

Students will continue to meet with the Faculty Preceptor during the spring semester. At least two individual meetings are required; students who have not applied or been accepted to a major will choose a Pre-Major Adviser in the Ratio Studiorum 200 Program during spring registration.
Throughout this year, the Faculty Preceptor and advisee will work together to keep current the Student Profile Folder, including all pertinent information about the student. At the end of the academic year, he or she will return this folder to the College of Arts and Sciences so that it can be forwarded to the Pre-Major advisor or to the Major Advisor.

**Topics**

(A learning strategy will be taught or reviewed by the Decurion at each class session)

- **Welcome Week (Saturday, August 19):** Introductions and Survey; Review course schedule as needed with individual students (Faculty Preceptor led and Decurion supported)
- **Discussion Session 1** (Faculty Preceptor led and Decurion supported)
- **Academic and Student Integrity** (including *Learning in the Academy* and the University Policy and College Procedures on Academic Honesty and the University disciplinary policies) (Faculty Preceptor and Decurion co-led)
- **Obstacles to Learning** (Decurion led and Faculty Preceptor supported)
- **Discussion Session 2 and Reinert Alumni Library Resources** (Faculty Preceptor led and Decurion supported)
- **Elective Content** (Faculty Preceptor or Decurion)
- **Understanding the CCAS Ratio Studiorum:** College six learning goals, meaning and value of liberal arts education, CORE (Faculty Preceptor)
- **Design a one, Two or three Year Plan** depending on the students' goals/needs (Faculty Preceptor)
- **Discussion Session 3** (Faculty Preceptor led and Decurion supported)
- **Jesuit History, Values and Traditions** Reading assignment and/or video on Jesuit history and Ignatian values; (Faculty Preceptor)
- **Discernment/Self-Awareness:** Try to schedule after Major/Minor Fair (Faculty Preceptor)
- **Learning Opportunities** (Study Abroad, Ecutento Dominicano, Cortina, etc.)
- **Multicultural and Diversity Awareness** (models from Diversity Dinner) (Faculty Preceptor and Decurion co-led)
- **Career Development** (Decurion led and Faculty Preceptor supported)
- **Elective Content** (Faculty Preceptor or Decurion)

Discussion sessions are meant for required book. During one of these sessions, please acquaint your advisees with the use of library resources; Reinert Alumni Library offers several resources.