

APSU 1000: Liberal Arts in University Life
Fall 2008

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Office Hours: Monday, 2:00 – 5:00
Tuesday, 12:00 – 5:00

COURSE DESCRIPTION (APSU Undergraduate Bulletin)

An interdisciplinary course designed to provide students with the foundations for success at APSU. Emphasis is placed on the meaning, values and goals of a liberal education as students engage in academic and career planning, use the tools for information literacy, develop good academic habits, and engage in campus life. All students who enter APSU with fewer than 12 hours credit earned in a college or university must enroll in APSU 1000 and remain enrolled until a passing grade (C or higher) is earned. No student with 12 or more hours may enroll. (1 credit; no prerequisites)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Through successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the value of the liberal arts in living a well-rounded life and the value of a university education..
- Develop a support group of peers while negotiating the transition to college.
- Become familiar with the history and culture of APSU, including its policies and procedures.
- Improve critical thinking, communication, research, academic success, and decision-making skills.
- Explore interests and set personal goals for careers and academic majors.
- Learn about and participate in campus resources, activities, and organizations that enhance academic and personal development.
- Examine personal and societal issues faced by first-year students.
- Demonstrate student responsibility in academic advising, class attendance, being prepared for class, classroom behavior, and adhering to deadlines.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

APSU Student Handbook and Calendar 2008-2009

APSU Undergraduate Bulletin

Discipline specific materials as designated by course instructors and learning community coordinators..

ATTENDANCE POLICY

You are expected to attend each class meeting and to arrive on time. Some of the most important learning for this course will take place through our classroom discussions and activities; thus, your attendance will count as a graded assignment, just as do your papers and presentations. **For every unexcused absence, your class participation grade will be lowered by two points.** If you must miss class due to an illness, emergency, unavoidable personal problem or because of participation in an assigned university function, contact instructor by e-mail as soon as possible; the instructor may mitigate the effect upon your grade. When deciding whether or not to come to class, consider the following:

- You (or your family) are paying for the class whether you attend or not.
- Class participation DOES affect your grade.
- You are here to learn, and every class is important
- You are an adult.
- Excessive unexcused absences can result in a grade of **FA** (failure due to absences).

PEER MENTOR

Students who have demonstrated university success serve as peer mentors. Our Peer Mentor will assist with class activities and assignments and will serve as a resource and mentor to all students in our class. Activities conducted by peer mentors are weighed equally; peer mentors are due the same respect as instructors.

GRADING POLICY

You must complete the journal entries, the career assessment project, and group presentation to pass this class. Failure to complete one of these major assignments will result in automatic failure of the course. The grade for this course will be determined as follows:

• Journal (3-5 entries)	15% of the total grade	<u>Grading Scale:</u>
• Attendance at 2 campus activities	10%	A = 90-100
• Class Participation/Activities/Quizzes	35%	B = 80-89
• Group Presentation	20%	C = 70-79
• Career Exploration	<u>20%</u>	F = 69 and below
	100%	FA = failure due to absence
		FN = never attended class

GRADED ASSIGNMENTS

Journal: Your journal is one of the major assignments for this course. Use it as a place to record your reactions, impressions, and growth as a college student. You are expected to write 3-5 journal entries during the semester. Each entry should be at 1-2 **typed** pages. While length is a consideration, the ideas expressed as they relate to you as a student at APSU and fullness of detail will be most important. Electronic submissions are required and Spell Check is to be utilized.

The **first entry** should **introduce you as you begin your college career at APSU** and will be completed after completing the first full week of classes. Use it to reflect on who you are at this point in your life, what you hope to do or become in the future, what you expect from college, and your impressions of college so far in your first week at APSU, including your courses, professors, other students, the campus, and your personal or social life.

One entry is a choice of campus events. In your entry, describe the event in some detail and include your impressions or critique of it. You are required to attend two APSU sponsored cultural events. (Please check with your instructor if you have a question regarding whether or not a particular event is acceptable.) Choose from the following:

- Theatre production
- Music concert
- Literary reading
- Art exhibit
- Speaker on a social or cultural issue

The **final entry** should describe you at the end of your first semester at APSU. Reflect on what you have learned or how you have changed during the semester. Discuss the role that APSU 1000 has played in your learning, including what you think was valuable and what you would recommend changing. Be honest. Sum up your experiences as a first-semester freshman.

Career Choice—Research Project: Early in the semester, you will be asked to complete a career exploration assessment; later in the semester, you will research a career that interests you, the academic requirements for the appropriate degree, and the challenges you face in getting the degree. A librarian assigned to your class will provide instruction and assist you with the research. You will take notes as you do your research. You will report your findings in the format of a **research paper**. Detailed requirements will be provided at that time.

Class Participation/Activities/Quizzes: APSU 1000 is designed as an **interactive seminar** rather than a lecture course. This means that all of us—students and instructor alike—are equally responsible for contributing to the discussions and the success of the class. Come to class prepared for discussion by reading your assignments ahead of time and giving some thought to the topic, perhaps even writing about it in your journal as a way of focusing your ideas. During discussion, listen carefully to those who are talking and treat your classmates with respect. Remember that we are a *community* of learners in our classroom. Along with participating in discussion, there will sometimes be activities assigned in class, so always bring materials needed for that day. Quizzes might be given over the reading assignments, so be prepared. Your class participation, activities, and quizzes count as a grade for the course.

Group Presentation: Early in the semester, you will be assigned to a group (approx. 3-5 classmates); your group will prepare and deliver a presentation related to a *selected reading* that each member of the class will read. Your group will discuss the reading outside of class and prepare a 10-minute presentation on a topic related to the reading. Topics must be approved in advance. To enliven your report, use a visual aid such as a photograph, poster, PowerPoint, brief film clip, or acted-out scene. **All** group members must play an active and vocal role in the presentation and you will evaluate your participation and the participation of the other members of your group. Your grade for this assignment will be the average of your individual grade (based on what you contribute to the class presentation) and the grade assigned to the overall group presentation. You will be given a rubric which will be the guide for grading the presentation and each member of the group will evaluate the contributions of the other members as well as his or her own contribution.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES

Deadlines: The deadlines for submitting your journals and papers will be listed in D2L and on a class calendar. The date for your presentation will be announced in class. Late assignments will be accepted if there are **documented** extenuating circumstances. Your grade for the assignment may be lowered if it is submitted late. **You must turn in the assignment even if it is too late to receive a passing grade because failure to complete a major assignment results in automatic failure of the course.**

Academic Dishonesty: (p. 172, Student Code of Conduct, *Academic and Classroom Misconduct*) - Cheating is a serious breach of academic conduct; punishment for offenses range from a grade of "F" on the assignment to expulsion from the university.

Plagiarism Policy: Plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas as if they are your own. Plagiarism or other forms of cheating will not be tolerated—and will result in a grade of zero for an assignment or failure of the course, at the discretion of the instructor. We will discuss plagiarism in more detail as "Academic Honesty." You may also discuss it with the librarian who is assigned to our class. Learning to quote, paraphrase, and document sources of information correctly is the best way to avoid plagiarism.

Discipline Policy: Students are expected to conduct themselves appropriately at all times. **Academic and classroom misconduct will not be tolerated.** Students must read the "Code of Student Conduct" in the *Student Handbook* for an understanding of what will be expected of them within the academic setting. Standard classroom etiquette also requires that you be on time (tardiness is rude to your classmates and professor), **turn off your cell phone** before class; **do not eat, drink, or chew gum** during class.

Disability Policy: Any student who has a disability that may affect his or her academic performance is encouraged to make an appointment with me or contact the Coordinator of Disability Services to discuss this matter. (931-221-6230 voice; 931-221-7288 tty; 931-221-7102 fax)

Withdrawal Policy: Please confer with your APSU 1000 instructor, your academic adviser, or the Dean of Enrollment Management and Academic Support Services before withdrawing from the university. **Students may not withdraw from APSU 1000 unless they are withdrawing from the university.** The policy of Austin Peay State University will be followed regarding withdrawal from this class. Freshmen who withdraw from the university on line are required to complete a Freshman Withdrawal Survey before the withdrawal is complete.

E-Mail Use: To maintain compliance with the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), all electronic communication will be conducted through your password protected university e-mail account (APMail). No personal e-mail addresses will be used. For your own protection it is strongly advised that you do not share your password with anyone.

Minors on Campus: Accordingly to APSU policy #3:032, non-enrolled minors (defined as those under the age of 18) are not allowed in classrooms. While we recognize that extenuating circumstances occur and make it difficult for some students to attend without bringing children with them on occasion, we must enforce University policy and thus will deny any request for a child to enter a classroom. You should also be aware that minors are not allowed in academic labs, computer labs, science labs or the library. Further, children cannot be left in halls outside classrooms. Please be aware that the policy on unattended minors is for the purpose of ensuring that our classrooms are conducive to learning and for the safety and protection of minors. For additional information on minors on campus contact the Office of Student Affairs in the Morgan University Center (221-7341).

The schedule and procedures are subject to change by verbal and/or written announcement.