

GEL 101(06) CRN 41295: The Student, The University, The Community
A Civic Engagement Course for The San Marcos Experience
 Fall 2006

Course Theme: Building Healthy People; Building Healthy Communities

Instructor: Dr. Joanne Pedersen

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Class Meeting Time: MWF 11:00 to 11:50 in Markstein Hall 211

MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED TO PURCHASE (Available at the University Store)

- 1) Hosseini, K. (2003). *The kite runner*. New York: Riverhead Books.
- 2) Feldman, R. S. (2007). *POWER learning* (3rd ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill
- 3) Light, R. (2001). *Making the most of college: Students speak their minds*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- 4) Weinstein, C. E., & Palmer, D.R. (2002). *LASSI (Learning and study strategies inventory) Self Scoring Form 2nd Ed.* (We will fill this out in class: **Do NOT do ahead of time. Bring to class on Wed. 8-30**)
- 5) GEL 101 Career Development & Choice course pack

Electronic Reserve: Throughout the semester, various readings will be placed on Electronic Reserve: Instructions on how to access Electronic Reserve will be presented in class. Access to Electronic Reserve is free. Our class password is: gelsme

WELCOME TO GEL 101!

Welcome to GEL 101, a college success course for first-year students. You are about to embark on a 15-week journey that will introduce you to academic life at the college level and all that Cal State San Marcos has to offer! Your GEL instructor, along with library faculty and career advisors, will challenge you with a set of activities and assignments designed to strengthen your motivation to be in college, your skills for learning and the development of your personal and academic/career plan. You will take a fresh look at your time management skills, study skills, learning styles, teamwork skills, test-taking strategies and personal wellness. Library faculty will introduce you to college level research skills and the technology available on our campus to access, evaluate and communicate information and ideas. Career advisors will help you clarify your long-term career goals, and you will learn the elements of effective resume writing and how to research careers. This course will also provide you with opportunities and resources for becoming an active member of the community outside the classroom. **This course meets the lower-division general education requirement for Area E.**

Catalog description for GEL 101-

Designed to equip students with the basic skills, concepts, and knowledge necessary to become a lifelong learner. Examination of current theory and research regarding the information age, health and wellness, career development, and psychological assessment. Practical application of the theory and research. Includes information literacy and technological skills, group and teamwork, and learning styles. *Prerequisite: Freshman standing or consent of instructor.*

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of GEL 101 you will be able to:

Academic Success Skills

- ❖ Design and implement an effective time management plan that meets your personal schedule and the demands of your coursework.
- ❖ Assess your personal learning style, study skills and test taking strategies and develop a plan to improve in these areas.

Information Literacy & College Level Research

- ❖ Formulate a research topic and write a relevant thesis
- ❖ Use a variety of print and electronic resources to locate and retrieve information related to thesis
- ❖ Critique scholarly vs. popular press literature
- ❖ Write a college level research report (in APA style) and produce a related oral presentation

Academic & Career Planning

- ❖ Research different academic majors (or confirm your choice of major)
- ❖ Develop a personal academic plan that includes university requirements, general education courses and courses for a major
- ❖ Research various career options
- ❖ Understand the career development process and explore key factors (skills, interests, values, personality and abilities) affecting career/major choice
- ❖ Write a detailed and effective professional resume
- ❖ Identify and make contact with an academic advisor, a career advisor and a faculty advisor

Wellness

- ❖ Assess personal wellness along a number of dimensions including physical, psychological, social and fiscal
- ❖ Acquire and analyze information on wellness from Student Health Services and other campus resources

Institutional Awareness & Resource Utilization

- ❖ List the campus resources available to students
- ❖ Identify common student needs and the appropriate campus resources to address those needs
- ❖ Identify the variety of ways students can become active participants in the campus community outside the classroom

Moral & Ethical Decision Making

- ❖ Locate and analyze the Cal State San Marcos policies on Academic Honesty, Drug-Free Campus & Smoking, Nondiscrimination, Sexual Assault, and Student Discipline
- ❖ Clarify your own values while understanding the values and ethical practices of our university community

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Your grade will be based on the following items-

1) Light Discussions & Reflection Papers (25 points each x 2)	50
2) Feldman Quizzes (10 points each x 10)	100
3) LASSI Reflection Paper & POWER Portfolio	100
4) General Election website scavenger hunt	50
5) Research Project (i.e. Critical Review & Election Debate)	100
6) Library Module Points (see separate Library syllabus)	150
7) Career Module Points (see separate Career syllabus)	100
8) Kite Runner Journal Assignment/Final Presentation	100

TOTAL POINTS 750

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION IN SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Attendance will be taken each class day. 15 points will be deducted each day you are absent or late. Excessive absence will significantly lower your grade. We will also be tracking your participation in the service activities.

Point Scale for Determining Final Grade:

750 – 675	..	90%	A range
674 – 600	-	80%	B range
599 – 525	-	70%	C range
524 – 450	=	60%	D range
449 & below = F			

A NOTE ON CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Being civically engaged means different things to different people. However, all civic engagement involves some understanding of, and participation in, one's community. Civic engagement can be as simple as regularly recycling your used plastic bottles, or as complex and time consuming as putting a proposition on a ballot for an upcoming election. Civic engagement ranges from exercising the right to vote, to volunteering at local nonprofit organizations. This course will challenge you to think about what civic engagement means to you! What talents, expertise, and passion do you have that can be used to improve the community in some way? Small or large, all efforts add up! In the spirit of civic engagement, The San Marcos Experience Learning Community offers the following Fall 06 schedule of events. These events complement the GEL course and are designed to get you involved! You will learn more about yourself, contribute to supporting the local community, and have opportunities for networking.

- 1) Oct. 8th- "Because We Care Walk/Run & Caregiver Resource Fair"
- 2) Oct. 14th- "VISTANS ROC Day"
- 3) Nov. 3rd- "Election Debate Day"
- 4) Friday Brown/Bag/Roundtable Lunches (During University hour after GEL class)
- 5) Dawson Home Cooking & Monday Night Dinners (in UVA)

COMMUNICATION WITH THE INSTRUCTOR

Please, do not hesitate to contact me with any of your course or academic related questions/concerns. I am always available via e-mail (pedersen@csusm.edu) or voice mail (750-4186). You can also set up an appointment to see me in my office. My general course policy does not allow for make up exams or acceptance of late work. However, if you have a serious illness or other serious issue, it is your responsibility to contact me as soon as possible.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY STATEMENT

Students will be expected to adhere to standards of academic honesty and integrity, as outlined in the Student Academic Honesty Policy (see pages 77-79 in the 2006-8 Catalog). All written work and oral presentation assignments must be original work. All ideas/material that are borrowed from other sources must have appropriate references to the original sources. Any quoted material should give credit to the source and be punctuated with quotation marks.

Students are responsible for honest completion of their work including examinations. There will be no tolerance for infractions. If you believe there has been an infraction by someone in the class, please bring it to the instructor's attention. The instructor reserves the right to discipline any student for academic dishonesty, in accordance with the general rules and regulations of the university. Disciplinary action may include the lowering of grades and/or the assignment of a failing grade for an exam, assignment, or the class as a whole.

Incidents of Academic Dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students. Sanctions at the University level may include suspension or expulsion from the University

ADDITIONAL CAMPUS POLICIES

Cal State San Marcos also has policies on Drug-Free Campus & Smoking, Nondiscrimination, Sexual Assault & Harassment, and Student Conduct/Discipline. Information on these policies can be found in the 2006-8 Catalog. Please review this information and be prepared to discuss these policies in class.

ADA STATEMENT

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations must be approved for services by providing appropriate and recent documentation to the Office of Disabled Student Services (DSS). This office is located in Craven Hall 5205, and can be contacted by phone at (760) 750-4905, or TTY (760) 750-4909. Students authorized by DSS to receive reasonable accommodations should meet with me during my office hours in order to ensure confidentiality.