



**UC 111
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2013**

Instructor: Dr. DeMarquis Hayes

Office Location: Binnion 219

Office Hours: Tuesday 2:00 – 4:00 or by appointment

Office Phone: 903-886-5418

Email Address: demarquis.hayes@tamuc.edu

Class: Tuesday & Thursday 1:00 – 1:50; Ed South 133

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library
Room 132**

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbooks: Moore, W. The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates. (2010. Spiegel & Grau Trade Paperbacks. ISBN: 978-0-385-52820-7.

Course Description:

UC 111 prepares students for optimal success at the university and beyond by motivating them to develop skills, knowledge and behaviors that will create confident, self-sufficient learners.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate critical thinking by asking and answering higher level questions and solving increasingly complex problems.
2. Students will improve their listening, speaking, writing, and reading skills.
3. Students will demonstrate habits of the mind that produce academic improvement across the semester. This will include organization, time management, note-taking, and study skills.
4. Students will acquire the knowledge and apply the necessary skills to successfully navigate university life.
5. Students will take ownership of their learning experiences and develop greater awareness of self and others.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Instructional Methods: Class consists of various styles of presentation and interaction. In UC 111, students will be active participants regardless of the mode of instruction. Students should come to class ready to participate, both in terms of preparation as assigned and with a positive attitude toward class and colleagues.

Assignments:

Attendance: Roll will be taken each class day and students are expected to attend all scheduled class periods. Each section of this course is scheduled for 16 weeks of twice weekly meetings of 50 minutes each. Students should make arrangements to be in class on time and to stay until the class is dismissed. Attendance is part of your grade for UC 111. **(100 points)**

For students with excused absences, which include participation in a University-sponsored event, illness accompanied by a doctor's note, death in the student's immediate family, a verifiable court appearance or any other similar circumstance in the view of the instructor, written documentation must be turned in to the instructor immediately upon return to class.

Each absence in this course will result in a point reduction on your final attendance grade according to the chart below.

Absences	0	1, 2	3, 4	5, 6	7, 8	9,10	11,12	13,14	15,16	17,18	19,20
Grade	100	94	88	82	76	70	64	58	52	46	40

Absences	21,22	23,24	25, 26	27, 28	29, 30
Grade	34	28	22	16	10

Participation: Students must attend all class sessions and participate to the extent possible in each class activity. The activities in this course are designed to help you improve your communication skills and increase your knowledge set in order to make you a more effective and successful college student. **(100 points)**

Journal: Students must complete at least 5 journal activities, each worth 20 points. Details of required journal activities and their due dates are listed in the weekly plan for the course attached to this syllabus. **(100 points)**

Event papers: Three (3) one page event papers, each worth 20 point, documenting attendance/participation in three different types of university events (athletic, academic, cultural, etc.). Students must complete all 3 events before the Thanksgiving break. Students also must provide a brief write up of the 3 events they attended and also have some type of documentation that you attended the event (ticket stub, program, signature of attendance). Again this is due before the Thanksgiving break. **(60 points)**

University success skills: Document three (3) visits to University support centers (library, writing center, math lab, Academic Success Center, Counseling Center, Student Health Services, Student Government, One Stop Shop). Students must complete all 3 visits before the Thanksgiving break. Students must provide a brief write up of the 3 places they visited and get some type of documentation that you visited. Good documentation would be to ask a couple of questions about what types of services these places provide students and have the person you speak with sign it, if available attach the person's business card. Again this is due before the Thanksgiving break. **(60 points)**

Exams: Students will have a mid-term and final exam, each worth 100 points, in this course over the materials presented. Your final exam will actually be your Journal Final Essay, not a test. **(200 points)**

Grading

Students' course grade will be calculated according to the following scale: Total points 620

A =	620 - 558 Points
B =	557 - 496 Points
C =	495 - 434 Points
D =	433 - 372 Points
F =	371 Points or less

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

UC 111 is a web-enhanced course. Delivery problems can result if technological requirements are not taken into consideration.

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course. [List those technologies needed for your course.]

- Internet access/connection – high speed recommended (not dial-up)
- Headset/Microphone (if required for synchronous sessions in an online course)
- Word Processor (i.e. MS Word or Word Perfect)

*Additionally, the following hardware and software are necessary to use eCollege:
Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0, or 8.0).*

Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems.

It is strongly recommended that you perform a "Browser Test" prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login in to eCollege, click on the 'myCourses' tab, and then select the "Browser Test" link under Support Services.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

This course will be facilitated using eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to:

<https://leo.tamuc.edu/login.aspx>.

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Students will be expected to interact with the instructor(s) in class or via electronic means in an appropriate manner. All instructor contact information is listed on this syllabus and should be used.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Supplemental Instructions: In the course of your work in this class, you will be given additional written instructions that govern the look, content and scope of your projects. These supplemental instructions have the same force as the syllabus for grading purposes.

University Specific Procedures:

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

All students are expected to exercise self-discipline and respect for the rights of others at all times. Behavioral disruptions that interfere with the business of the classroom or with an individual's ability to learn may be referred to the Dean of Students.

Please be sure that cell phones and other electronic devices are off or silent. If you expect to have to get up, please select an inconspicuous position to minimize disruptions. Courtesy to others is important. That means respecting the opinions of others, and in general, doing your part to make this a positive learning environment for all students. Food and beverages, while acceptable, should be consumed as quietly as possible, and you must clean up after yourself.

Syllabus (subject to change)

Week	Date	Key Content/Strategies	Assignments/Assessments
1	8/27 8/29	Community Building Navigating University Life	
2	9/3 9/5	Note-taking Study skills	
3	9/10 9/12	Organization Time management	Journal #1
4	9/17 9/19	Summarization	
5	9/24 9/26	Re-evaluating academic goals Learning styles	Journal #2
6	10/1 10/3	Test-taking skills Revisit study skills Revisit note-taking skills	
7	10/8 10/10	Debrief	Journal #3 Midterm Exam
8	10/15 10/17	Research tools Library Visit	
9	10/22 10/24	Career Development	Journal #4
10	10/29 10/31	Critical reading skills Inquiry Writing skills	
11	11/5 11/7	Learning self-advocacy Establishing Work ethic	Journal #5
12	11/12 11/14	Money management	
13	11/19 11/21	Wellness	
14	11/26	Final project	Final Journal Essay

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Writing Assignments

Journal entries must be type-written and a minimum of 2 pages in length. Journal entries must be submitted to the instructor on the assigned due date as instructed. **LATE assignments will NOT be graded!**

Journals

1. Chapter 1 & 2—Due week of 9/9-9/13

What role did your family, finances and/or mentor play in your decision to attend college to help you achieve your educational goals?

2. Chapter 3—Due week of 9/23-9/27

Discuss the relationship between education & poverty – is higher education a choice or opportunity for everyone?

3. Chapter 4—Due week of 10/7-10/11

Every choice takes you closer to OR further away from your goal. Have you ever made a decision that you believe could have altered your life path?

4. Chapters 5 & 6—Due week of 10/21-10/25

Discuss opportunities you have been given that have positively affected your life.

5. Chapters 7 & 8—Due week of 11/4-11/8

Discuss the role of a mentor/role model in your life.

Final Essay Topic—Due week of 11/25-11/29

Describe your support system and resources along with choices you have made or opportunities you have taken throughout your life that resulted in you being a freshman at Texas A&M – Commerce this semester. Write about opportunities that you were given or maybe passed up and how that affected you either positively and negatively. Discuss decisions and choices you are making currently to ensure that you will have a successful first semester as a college freshman. List and describe your reasons for attending college, which should include your goals and aspirations for the future.

Journal Entry Grading Rubric

Name: _____

_____ Elaboration of the prompt (Did you address and stay on topic) (10 pts)

_____ Grammar, spelling and punctuation (5 pts)

_____ Formatting (typed, double-spaced & two pages) (5 pts)

_____ Total Points (20 points possible)

Additional Comments: