

COURSE SYLLABUS
WISE University Seminar
Monday 3:00-3:50 Olmeca 111

Instructor: Professor William Welsh

Office Hours: Tues 10:00-11:30, Wed 2:00-3:30 in Physics P-235

Phone Number and E-Mail: (619) 594-2288 / wfw@sciences.sdsu.edu

Course Purpose: University Seminar is a course designed to assist in the development of effective academic strategies and the adjustment to the many challenges of college life. The course creates opportunities for students to understand themselves and others and to facilitate academic and social success in a supportive and inclusive learning environment.

Course Mission and Objectives: Why does SDSU offer University Seminar?

- To help students become responsible for their own education.
- To develop a sense of community among new students at SDSU who can become academic partners as well as friends.
- To encourage individual growth by increasing awareness of human diversity, cultures, values and beliefs.
- To enhance academic skills and adopt new study strategies that facilitate success in college level courses.
- To connect students with the many resources and services offered at SDSU.
- To provide students with an instructor who can talk with them about the challenges associated with attending a large university.
- To help students cope with personal and social issues such as time management, stress, and good health.

Required Text and Materials:

1. *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin
2. *StrengthsFinder 2.0* by Tom Rath (This is available at www.amazon.com for about \$12.00) **You must purchase this new, because you will need the code in the book to take the online survey.**
3. SDSU Mortar Board Planner/Calendar
4. A reliable e-mail account

Student Responsibilities:

1. **Turn in all homework at the beginning of class.**
Late written exercises will only be accepted one week after they were due and will only receive partial credit. No homework will be accepted through e-mail.
2. **Complete all written exercises in full.**
Exercises will be graded on completeness, accuracy, relevance and use of proper college-level English.
3. **Notify the instructor before the class meets** if you will be arriving late, leaving early, or missing class entirely. Before returning to class, obtain any missed information, assignments and handouts from another student or the instructor.

Attendance: Attendance is taken each day at the beginning of class. Arriving on time, listening, and participation are required. *Excessive unexcused absences (2 or more) will result in not receiving credit for the course and possible dismissal from the Residential Learning Community.*

Grading: This course is a Credit/No Credit course. To get credit, you must complete assignments and attend class. If you have extenuating circumstances, please talk with me and I will do my best to work with you. *There will be no incomplete grades assigned.*

Grading Scale:

60% Class participation and assignments

20% Attendance

10% Passport activity

10% Wellness seminar

Class Participation: Come prepared to participate in discussions. This requires that you have done the homework (reading assignments in particular). Please give all activities a personal sense of purpose and discover different ways you can make various strategies work for you – this course is for you, so make the most of it!

Learning Outcomes:

How will this University Seminar foster your growth?

1. Personal Values:

- Refine personal skills such as goal setting, knowing your values/ethics, and communication style through assessments and personal reflection.
- Identify healthy lifestyle options that suit their needs as demonstrated through interactive activities and personal reflection.
- Encourage individual growth through awareness of human diversity by participating in the Tunnel of Oppression and reflection.
- Participate in activities that foster cognitive growth and independence.

2. Transition to SDSU:

- Encourage student success through the recognition of campus resources and how they can be utilized effectively.
- Understanding of student code of conduct that supports a safe on-campus environment.

3. Academic/Major Related:

- Practice academic strategies that attribute to success in college level courses.
- Students will get an understanding of the Major Academic Plan and its role in the career decision process.

Academic Integrity: (by Dr. Bey-Ling Sha)

University policy prohibits any student to plagiarize the work of another person and to submit that work as his or her own. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, copying thoughts from any written material, Internet material, and verbal quotes from an individual or group that are not given credit within one's work. Each student must submit his or her own original ideas, unless the instructor asks otherwise.

Students who are uncertain as to what constitutes academic dishonesty should consult the University's Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (www.sa.sdsu.edu/srr) or check with the instructor. Specific definitions for terms pertaining to academic dishonesty, as well as procedures for handling such cases, are defined in the SDSU Senate Policy file:

http://its.sdsu.edu/turnitin/pdf/Plagiarism_AcadSen.pdf

You are responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by this policy.

Course Structure: Much of the class time is devoted to discussion and small group interaction. Rather than just listening to a lecture, students will discuss their understanding of the information. Each person is their own best teacher, and can be an effective teacher to others in the group.

Participation & Respect: Each student should be actively involved in each session of the class. As our discussions may include personal experiences and values, we will hold each other to a very high level of mutual respect and humaneness. The virtues of patience, listening and forgiveness will be asked of each of you. Side chatter, disruptive behavior, or other activities that degrade the learning process are not acceptable.

Students with Disabilities: Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss your specific needs. Please contact the office of Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473 in Calpulli Center, Suite 3101 (third floor), to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

If you need special consideration of any kind to participate fully in this class, let me know at the beginning of the semester.

General Expectations of Class Members

1. Do not be late (being late or leaving early may count as an absence).
2. Turn assignments in on time (due at the start of class).
3. Assignments must be typed; use double spaced Times New Roman 12 pt font as the default. Staple together documents that are 2 pages or longer.
4. Homework will be graded on: effort, neatness, content, accuracy, and proper college-level English.
5. Be Prepared for class discussions – do the reading and other assignments.
6. Check the class website frequently, as it contains important information.
7. The syllabus & weekly schedule are not set in stone, so changes can occur.
8. Please talk to me if you have any difficulties with this course.
9. This course can be very helpful to your success at SDSU. Participate and have fun!!!