

# SPS120 – College Life

## Fall 2008 Syllabus

### Advisor:

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### Staff Leader:

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### Student Leader:

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**Class time & place:**      Thursdays, 11:00-11:50    Blaney Hall 10

### Course Description:

College Life SPS120 is a First-Year Experience course designed to introduce students to the liberal arts, assist students in developing the skills necessary for the academic experience at Cedar Crest College, develop students' critical thinking abilities, and help students adjust to the academic and social life at Cedar Crest College. The course is taught by a team of dedicated individuals that includes a faculty member, an administrator and an upper-class Orientation Assistant. This 1-credit course meets the first seven weeks on Thursdays from 11-11:50.

### Course objectives:

**SPS 120: College Life is designed to meet the following educational outcomes:**

- Students will demonstrate knowledge of College academic policies.
- Students will demonstrate knowledge of the role of the academic advisor.

**In order to attain these outcomes, SPS 120 has the following course objectives:**

- Understanding College policies is a crucial component of your academic experience. Your advisor, College Life staff leader, and College Life student leader will assist you in discovering the policies and procedures of the College.
- Your advisor serves as a source of information throughout your academic career. In College Life, your advisor will help you understand his or her role in your education.

**SPS 120 meets its educational outcomes through the following forms of assessment:**

- Students will demonstrate knowledge of College policies and procedures through class discussion and adherence to policies.
- Students will demonstrate knowledge of the role of the advisor through appropriate contact with their academic advisor.
- Students will exhibit mastery of the topics through graded assignments.

## **Student Responsibilities and Assignments**

### **Attendance and Class Participation (50 %)**

Attendance at all class sessions is required. The value of this course to you depends on your participation in discussion and all class-related activities.

### **Journal (30 %)**

You will submit a weekly journal (due by noon Tuesday) by e-mail to all three instructors for the course. The journal should not be a detailed account of everything you did, day by day. Instead, use the journal as a chance to keep us updated on how things are going and how we can help you. Some of the things you may want to put in your journal include:

- What was your greatest achievement of the week?
- What classes and activities were the most rewarding for you?
- What classes and activities are you spending the most time on?
- What progress have you made toward your personal goals?
- What strategies and resources have been useful? What didn't help?
- What areas for improvement have you identified?
- How can College Life help you?

### **Assignments (20 %)**

- Activity Fair info
- Plagiarism Tutorial
- Scavenger Hunt
- Time Management exercise
- Academic Plan Assignment
- Any other assignments as announced

We'll discuss the details of these assignments in class.

### **Student Satisfaction Inventory**

This survey is an important part of the College's self-assessment process, and is a chance for you to provide input to the College's planning process. Returning the survey is a requirement of the course.

<h2>Course Schedule</h2>	
Week 1, Aug 28	Introduction to classmates, instructors, and the course Reading a Syllabus Classroom Protocol and talking to a professor Plagiarism Beginning a Journal ( <i>Journal entries due <u>noon Tuesday</u> every week, beginning Sep 3</i> ) <b><i>Activity Fair Assignment Due</i></b>
Week 2, Sep 4	Study skills Time Management: work, recreation, sleep, and everything else, in 168 hours per week Calculating GPA <b><i>Plagiarism Assignment Due, Scavenger Hunt Due</i></b>
Week 3, Sep 11	Health and Wellness/ Stress Relief! Home Sickness Athletics ( <b>Kelly</b> ) Student Satisfaction Inventory distributed <b><i>Time Management Exercise due</i></b>
Week 4, Sep 18	Catalog College and Program Requirements and Policies Liberal Arts Curriculum Scheduling and Major requirements Making an Academic Plan
Week 5, Sep 25	Science Panel Majors and Clubs for Science Majors <b><i>Student Satisfaction Inventory due</i></b>
Week 6, Oct 2	Everything you've always wanted to know but were afraid to ask- C.J. <b><i>Academic Plan Assignment due</i></b>
Week 7, Oct 9	Pizza party