

COLLEGE LIFE 101 (SPS 120 2 2)

Fall 2009 (1 Credit)

Miller 33

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Course Description:

College Life 101 is a First-Year Experience-based 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 and engage in 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 class meets once a week for the first seven weeks of the fall semester.

Course Objectives:

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

Objective 1: To help students make a smooth transition to college life.

The college experience is multifaceted and each student adapts differently. Shared experiences with your advisor, College Life staff leader, and College Life student leader will assist you in making this transition.

Outcome: Students will self report their adjustment to the demands of college life and issues will be addressed as warranted.

Measure: Students will self-report through journaling and will discuss transition issues with faculty/staff/student leaders in and out of class.

Objective 2: To introduce students to the expectations of college study.

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.

Outcome: Students will articulate the tenets of good scholarship

Measure: Students will articulate their understanding via journaling and/or class discussion. Students will also demonstrate knowledge of College policies and procedures through class discussion and adherence to policies.

Objective 3: To connect students to campus life

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.

Outcome: Students will be knowledgeable about the role of their advisor, campus resources and activities

Measure: Students will demonstrate their understanding by accessing resources, participating in activities, and self-reporting and will demonstrate involvement in campus life at Cedar Crest College through participation in various experiences in and around campus.

Class Policies:

- If you have a disability that you would like to have documented in compliance with the ADA, please see the Disabilities Coordinator in Academic Services x4462.
- I fully support the Cedar Crest College Honor Code and the Classroom Protocol code as stated in the Customs Book. To that end, I have copied the section on Academic Honesty and Classroom Protocol that appears on the syllabus for each class I teach:

Academic Honesty and Classroom Protocol: All Cedar Crest College students are expected to be familiar with and fully supportive of the college's policy regarding the Honor Code and academic integrity. For any instances of dishonesty (e.g., cheating on tests, copying other students' work, plagiarism, etc.), appropriate penalties will be applied. See the Student Guide for more information regarding the enforcement of these policies.

- **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is the act of presenting the ideas, words or other intellectual property of another as one's own. The use of other people's work must be properly acknowledged and referenced in all written material. The use of material without acknowledgement is an offense.
- **Cheating:** Bear in mind that allowing another to copy one's work is an academic offense just as is copying from someone. Furthermore, submitting the same paper for two courses without arrangement is also an academic offense.
- **Important:** It is each student's responsibility to not only abide by, but also uphold the Honor Code. As such, any instances of dishonesty should be brought to my attention immediately.

In addition, appropriate classroom behavior is defined and guided by complete protection for the rights of all students and faculty to a courteous, respectful classroom environment. That environment is free from distractions such as late arrivals, early departures, inappropriate conversations, cell phone use and any other behaviors that might disrupt instruction and/or compromise other students' access to their Cedar Crest College education. Behavior that is deemed disruptive or disrespectful will result in penalties at the discretion of the instructor. To that end, here are a couple of things to keep in mind:

- You may eat in class, so long as you do so with courtesy to the class in terms of manners and noise level.
- **Turn your cell phones to vibrate/silent immediately upon entering the classroom.** If you are expecting an URGENT call, notify me ahead of time, situate yourself near the exit, and quietly exit the room before answering.
- Try to get a good night sleep before coming to class. Falling asleep in class is very distracting and disrespectful; if you are asleep, technically, you are absent and will be treated as such.

Semester Schedule: Below is a timeline for the semester. There are seven meetings, during our regular class time, that are mandatory and all students must attend. In addition to the mandatory group meetings, all students must attend at least TWO events meeting the criteria provided above. If our schedule permits, and if you give us advanced notice, one or more of your instructors would be more than happy to accompany you (myself, Shannon, or Jesenia). The idea is to let you see the variety of events and activities that occur on this campus.

Week 1: Thursday 8/27: Welcome to College Life ____
Week 2: Thursday 9/3: Academic Issues and Expectations of College Students
Time Management Using GroupWise (Meet at CUR 104 Lab)
Week 3: Thursday 9/10: Class Time to Be Used for Scavenger Hunt
Week 3: Thursday 9/17: Connecting to Campus Life
Week 4: Thursday 9/24: Transition: Adjusting to College Life
Week 5: Thursday 10/1: Life Off-Campus (Walking tour of Rose Garden)
Week 6: Thursday 10/8: Preparing for Spring Registration (Meet at CUR 104 Lab)
Week 7: Thursday 10/15: College Life Wrap-Up Party (Location and Time TBA)

Optional Events: The events that will count towards your grade in this class vary, and you have a great deal of flexibility in attending in or participating in events based on your own personal interests. You may choose to 1) attend sporting events (field hockey, soccer, volleyball and tennis are all Fall sports), 2) go on College-sponsored "Road Trips" (e.g., Mall and Movie, Hershey Park, Hawk Mountain Hiking, Celtic Classic), 3) participate in a fitness classes (Aerobics, Hatha Yoga, Circuit and Sculpt classes are all offered on a weekly basis, times TBA), and/or 4) attend/participate in Academic, Cultural or Leadership Programs (e.g., Faded, Voices of Africa, Art Gallery Presentations). These are just some of the events that occur on the Cedar Crest College campus. You should look at the Calendar of Events on the Cedar Crest College Homepage as soon as possible (and periodically thereafter) to see a complete and updated list of events happening on campus during the first two months of the academic year. If there are other events that you feel should be added to the list, by all means let us know, but do so in advance.

Note: You are, of course, encouraged to attend as many of the optional events as you would like!! Many of the events that you may attend/participate in also count towards the Cedar Crest Challenge, which means that you will be eligible for various prizes.

Grading Scale: Your grade in this class is 100% based on attendance and participation and will be determined using the following criteria:

- A If you attend all seven (7) mandatory meetings and at least two (2) of the optional events listed below, you will earn the grade of A.
- B If you attend all seven (7) mandatory meetings and only one (1) of the optional events listed below, you will earn the grade of B.
- C If you miss one (1) of the mandatory meetings, OR do not attend any of the optional events below, you will earn the grade of C.
- F You will earn the grade of F:
If you miss more than one (1) mandatory meeting, OR
If you miss only one (1) mandatory meeting AND do not attend any of the optional events listed below.