

ENGAGING THE SOCIAL SCIENCES SSC 101

COURSE SYLLABUS SPRING 2008

Course Information:

Meeting Place: 229 Kethley Hall

CRN: 16265

Meeting Times: Wednesdays, 2:00–4:00 pm (Mar. 5–Apr. 30)

Instructor Information:

Instructor: Dr. Alan Barton

Telephone: (662) 846-4097

Office: 214 Kethley Hall

E-mail: abarton@deltastate.edu

Webpage: http://ntweb.deltastate.edu/vp_academic/abarton/

Office Hours:

The instructor holds regular office hours at the following times:

Monday 2:00–6:00 pm

Tuesday 2:00–6:00 pm

Wednesday 10:00–11:00 am; 1:00–2:00 pm

If you cannot make one of these times, contact the professor to set up an appointment.

Course Webpage:

Additional materials and updated course information can be found on the course webpage:

http://ntweb.deltastate.edu/vp_academic/abarton/SSC101SP08/SSC101Syllabus.htm

Course Overview:

This course is to be taken by all students during their first semester with a major in the Social Sciences (Sociology, Geography, Political Science, Social Science Education, Applied Development Studies, Social Sciences, Criminal Justice).

The purpose of the course is to introduce the various degree programs in the Social Sciences, to complete assessment activities in the Division of Social Sciences, and to better prepare you for academic life at DSU.

Course Materials:

You will need two items for this course. First is a **large blue book**, 8.5 x 11", which we will use for in-class writing assignments. The second item is a **2" or 3" binder** that you can use for your portfolio. You can purchase these items at the university bookstore, at a retail stationery store, or at various on-line sources.

Course Objectives:

- (1) Understand the various degree programs in the Division of Social Sciences.
- (2) Complete all assessment requirements for the Division of Social Sciences.
- (3) Begin a portfolio to collect and highlight the work you complete at DSU.
- (4) Learn about campus resources available to assist you during your time at DSU.
- (5) Develop a plan for completing your degree and strategies for successfully achieving your goals.
- (6) Build a more engaged student body in the Division of Social Sciences and at DSU.
- (7) Meet other students in the Division of Social Sciences.

Responsibilities and Grading:

Your primary responsibility in this course is to come to class each week, participate and complete all of the assigned work. We will do some in-class informal writing, and you will work outside of class on a portfolio of your work. You will also visit your advisor at least twice during the semester to complete assignments.

Each assignment is worth a specified number of points. There are a total of **100 points** available over the course of the semester. If you finish the semester with at least **90 points**, you will get an **A** in the course. If you finish with between **80 and 89 points**, you will get a **B**. For **70 to 79 points**, you will get a **C**, and for **60 to 69 points**, you will get a **D**. If you finish with less than **60 points**, you will get an **F** in the course and will have to repeat it the following semester.

YOU are responsible for your progress in this course, and in all of your courses at DSU. If you miss a class session, you should check with another student to see what you missed. "I didn't know" is **NEVER** a valid excuse. If you don't know something, it is your job to find out.

You are expected to **comply with all academic standards and ethics** as defined in the DSU Bulletin and Handbook. You are expected to do your **own work** in all of your courses. Plagiarism, fraud and other forms of cheating is **NOT** tolerated at DSU, and the minimum sanction for cheating in this course is a zero on the assignment. DSU's Vice President for Academic Affairs monitors all cases of cheating on campus, and repeat violations will result in severe sanctions, including expulsion.

For more information on academic honesty, see the DSU Library's "**Plagiarism Prevention: A Guide for Students**," available on the library website.

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16.9% of Mississippians have a college degree; For the U.S., the figure is 24.4% (Source: U.S. Census, 2000). When you finish your degree, you will join an elite group. What is your strategy for finishing your degree?

"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked" (Luke 12:48). Will you be ready to live up to the responsibilities of a college graduate?

## **Learning Opportunities:**

You must complete all of the following activities:

### **(1) Attendance (25 points)**

- You must attend all class sessions
- Please sign the attendance sheet at each class meeting; this is the official record of attendance, and you may not receive credit for attending if you do not sign the sheet
- For each class session that you miss, 4 points will be deducted from your attendance score
- You will not pass this course if you do not come to class
- You can be excused from one class period for illness or an official university activity that conflicts with the class, if you bring a note from a doctor or administrator verifying the reason for your absence
- If you cannot be in class for any other reason, please notify the instructor in advance, and you will receive half credit; For excused absences, you will receive half credit for additional absences after the first; The best way to notify the instructor is through e-mail

### **(2) In Class Discussion (15 points)**

- You should participate actively in class discussions
- Disruptive and disrespectful behavior is not tolerated
- Make sure all cell phones and pagers are turned off during class

### **(3) Informal Writing and Portfolio Essays (15 points)**

- We will use the blue books for informal in-class writing assignments; the instructor will collect and read your blue books twice during the semester
- You will prepare essays on the in-class writing during the semester; these essays will go in your portfolio
- The assignment for each essay is available on the Course Outline section of the on-line syllabus

### **(4) Working with Your Advisor I (10 points)**

- Print out a copy of the advisor worksheet, found on the on-line syllabus
- On March 26, you will be given a sheet with various questions
- You then must schedule a meeting with your advisor, and discuss the questions on the sheet with him or her
- Type up your findings, along with your reflections on the meeting
- Turn this in on April 9

### **(5) Working with Your Advisor II (10 points)**

- Prepare a Course and Graduation Plan and a Portfolio Plan, as specified in the assignment found on the on-line syllabus
- Between April 16 and April 30, schedule a meeting with your advisor, and discuss your plans with her or him
- Submit your Portfolio Plan and your Course and Graduation Plan, with your advisor's approval form, on April 30

**(6) Course and Graduation Plan (15 points)**

- Prior to your second visit with your advisor, prepare a draft Course and Graduation Plan, specifying the courses you intend to take each semester and your plan for graduating from DSU
- Review your Course and Graduation Plan with your advisor at the second meeting
- Have your advisor sign the Advisor Approval Form attesting he/she has reviewed and approves of your Course and Graduation Plan
- See the assignment sheet for more information
- Submit your Course and Graduation Plan on April 30

**(7) Portfolio Plan (10 points)**

- During your time as a student in the Division of Social Sciences, you will be responsible for completing a portfolio of your work
- The portfolio is required for graduation, and you will not graduate unless you turn in a complete portfolio
- Prior to your second visit with your advisor, begin your portfolio, and complete a plan for your portfolio
- Be sure to include the essays you prepare for this course in your portfolio
- Review your portfolio and portfolio plan with your advisor at the second meeting
- You will submit your Portfolio and Portfolio Plan on April 30

**(8) Critical Engagement (±10 points)**

- You can earn or lose up to 10 points on your final grade, based on factors such as the motivation, interest, and improvement you demonstrate in the course

**Note:** ALL work that you submit, except in-class work, should be presented in a professional manner; that is, it should be typed, submitted on time, and if there are multiple pages, they should be attached with a staple or paper clip.

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An international study of 13-year-olds ... found that Koreans ranked first in mathematics and Americans last. When asked if they thought they were "good at mathematics," only 23 percent of the Korean youngsters said "yes" -- compared to 68 percent of American 13-year-olds. The American educational dogma that students should "feel good about themselves" was a success in its own terms -- though not in any other terms.

--Thomas Sowell (quoted in J.M. Henslin, 2004)

Course Outline:

Day/Date	Topic	Speaker/Activity/Assignment
Week 1: Course Introduction		
Wed. Mar. 5	Welcome to the Division of Social Sciences	Dr. Albert Nylander Chair of the Division of Social Sciences
	Engaging the Social Sciences Course Goals and Activities Keys to Learning in College	Discussion
	Assessment-Based Education	Reading on Assessment in Education: What is a Generally Educated Person (<i>Peer Review</i> , Fall 2004)
Wed. Mar. 12	SPRING BREAK	
Week 2: Goals in College; The Professional Portfolio		
Wed. Mar. 19	Creating a Professional Portfolio	Discussion Handout: Portfolio Components
	Setting and Achieving College and Career Goals	In-Class Essay: What are your goals in college? Discussion Assignment: Prepare a Statement of Purpose (Due Mar. 26)
	Engaging the Social Sciences Social Sciences Degree Program	Dr. Garry Jennings
Week 3: Your Advisor		
Wed. Mar. 26	Engaging the Social Sciences Criminal Justice Degree Program	Ms. Page Logan
	Setting College Goals	Submit: Statement of Purpose
	Working with Your Advisor I	Assignment: Interview Your Advisor (Due Apr. 9) Handout: Advisor Worksheet
	Background	In-Class Essay: Who are you? Discussion Assignment: Prepare a Biographical Essay (Due Apr. 2)

Day/Date	Topic	Speaker/Activity/Assignment
Week 4: Strategies for Studying in College		
Wed. Apr. 2	Engaging the Social Sciences Social Science Education Degree Program	Dr. Amy Owen
	Background	Submit: Biographical Essay
	Learning Style	In-Class Essay: How do you learn? Discussion Assignment: Prepare an Essay on Your Learning Style (Due Apr. 16) Submit: Blue Book
	What Do I Want to Know? How to Study in College; Active Learning Strategies	Discussion
Week 5: Campus Resources		
Wed. Apr. 9	Engaging the Social Sciences Political Science Degree Program	Dr. Leslie Fadiga-Stewart
	Working with Your Advisor I	Submit: Responses and Reflections and Advisor Worksheet Discussion
	The Value of a College Education	In Class Essay: What does college mean to you? Assignment: Statement of Values (Due Apr. 23)
	Learning Opportunities on Campus	Ms. Susan Hines, Technology Learning Center Ms. Paula King, Counseling and Testing Center Dr. Susan Allen Ford, Writing Center Mrs. Diane Blansett, Academic Support Lab Mr. Michael Mounce, Roberts- LaForge Library Reference Dept.

Day/Date	Topic	Speaker/Activity/Assignment
Week 6: Assessing Social Science Knowledge		
Wed. Apr. 16	Engaging the Social Sciences Sociology Degree Program Applied Development Studies Degree Program	Dr. Debarashmi Mitra Dr. John Green
	Learning Style	Submit: Learning Style Essay
	Evaluating Learning	Pre-Test on the Social Sciences
	Working with Your Advisor II	In-Class Essay: What do you want to learn in college? Discussion Assignment: Meet with Your Advisor and Develop a Plan for Courses & Graduation and a Portfolio Plan (Due Dec. 5)
Week 7: Ethics in College		
Wed. Apr. 23	Engaging the Social Sciences Geography Degree Program	Dr. Mark Bonta
	The Value of a College Education	Submit: Statement of Values
	Academic Honesty and Ethics	In-Class Essay: Under what conditions would you cheat in a DSU course? Discussion
Week 8: Student Engagement		
Wed. Apr. 30	Becoming an Engaged Student	In-Class Essay: What is an engaged student? Submit: Blue Book
	Working with Your Advisor II Maintaining Your Student Portfolio	Review Professional Portfolio with Division of Social Sciences Faculty Submit: Portfolio Plan; Plan for Courses & Graduation
	Course Evaluation	

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Learning is least useful when it is private and hidden; it most powerful when it becomes public and communal. Learning flourishes when we take what we think we know and offer it as community property among fellow learners so that it can be tested, examined, challenged, and improved before we internalize it.

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~Lee Shulman
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## Additional Resources:

### Roberts-LaForge Library

Reference Desk: (662) 846-4431

### Writing Center

Bailey Hall 211  
(662) 846-4088

### Office of Career Services

H.L. Nowell Union 300  
(662) 846-4646

### Academic Support Lab

H. L. Nowell Union 311  
(662) 846-4654

### Counseling & Testing Center

O.W. Reily Student Health Center  
(662) 846-4690

### Office of Information Technology

Bailey Hall 114  
OIT Help Desk: (662) 846-4444

### Technology Learning Center

Ewing Hall 130  
(662) 846-4444

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PREPARATION and PERSEVERANCE are the KEYS to SUCCESS

Be prepared; don't give up