

## Course Syllabus NSC 103 Strategies for Success Fall 2008

*"Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed  
is more important than any one thing." --Abraham Lincoln*

**Credits/Grades:** This is a 1 credit, graded course.

**Course Instructor:** Ms. Karen Reynolds

Asst. Director of Undergraduate Student Affairs, College of Natural Science

<b>Class Times/Place:</b> Wednesdays 1:50 – 2:40 p.m. Natural Science Bldg., Room 204
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<b>Instructor's Office:</b> Natural Science Bldg., Room 111
<b>Office Hours:</b> Wednesdays 2:45 – 4:00 p.m. or by appointment
<b>Phone:</b> Phone: 353-9833 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:reyno238@msu.edu">reyno238@msu.edu</a>

**Textbook:** On Course, Fifth Edition, by Skip Downing. Available in campus and off-campus textbook stores.

**ANGEL Course Management System:** This course uses ANGEL extensively for course information, assignments, quizzes, discussions, and other items. The ANGEL web site can be found at <https://angel.msu.edu>.

### **Course Purpose**

This course is designed to help you create greater success in college and in life. In the coming weeks, you will learn many proven strategies for creating greater academic, professional, and personal success. We will use guided journal writings, in class and outside of class activities, guest speakers, and other means to build your skills in these strategies and to identify your dreams, goals, and talents.

A unique aspect of this course is the use of Peer Mentors. The Peer Mentors are Juniors and Seniors who will be available to you outside of class to provide advice, a listening ear, support and encouragement, and referrals to resources. The Peer Mentors will also take an active role in facilitating in class activities.

You may never again have an opportunity quite like this one to discover how to create a personally fulfilling life. So make the most of this extraordinary opportunity. You'll be given the tools you need to succeed in life – it's up to you to put them to use. If you do, you can make dramatic positive changes in your life!

# CLASSROOM GUIDELINES

To create the very best environment for supporting your success and the success of your classmates, this course has some important guidelines.

## **Participation:**

Learning is an active process that takes place most effectively through engaging your mind. In class we will be doing a variety of activities designed to engage you as fully as possible in the learning process. It will be your responsibility to take an active role in learning and to document what you learned and how you participated. At the end of some classes, you will be asked to complete a "Participation Paper" form that will be provided to you. It will be graded and returned the next class. The grades from Participation Papers will be a part of your overall class grade.

## **Late Assignments:**

Assignment due dates are provided on this syllabus and on the ANGEL course site. **All assignments are expected to be turned in by no later than the start of class (1:50 p.m.) on the due date.**

Recognizing that unexpected events happen sometimes that prevent students from turning in an assignment on time, each student will be provided with **one** "No Questions Asked" (NQA) coupon that may be turned in to the instructor for any assignment during the semester, except the final project. The NQA coupon will allow that assignment to be turned in **up to 3 days late** with no penalty. **Once the NQA coupon has been used, assignments turned in late without an approved excuse (see below) will be given no grade.**

## **Approved Excuses:**

Time extensions or make ups of any assignments that are missed **due to illness or other unavoidable events** and for which the NQA coupon will not be used are at the discretion of the instructor. Requests for extensions or make up assignments must be made **in writing, through email, to the instructor within 24 hours after the missed assignment due date.** Appropriate documentation may be required.

## **Student Responsibilities:**

Because most of the learning in class takes place in group activities and discussions, **it is essential for everyone in class to create and maintain a respectful, positive environment.** At no time is it acceptable for a student or the instructor to be mimicked, embarrassed, intimidated, or mistreated in any way in the classroom, as well as in any communication (phone, email, etc.).

It is considered rude to both the instructor and to other class members to come to class late, leave class early, or engage in any of the following activities in class: reading newspapers or other non-class materials, eating, using a cell phone (including text messaging), listening to an MP3 or iPod, using a computer, chatting with a fellow student during a class lecture, or sleeping. These behaviors will be noted by the instructor and addressed individually out of class.

## COURSE OUTLINE

CLASS #	DATE	TOPIC
1	August 27	Introductions
2	September 3	Chapter 1 – Getting on Course with Your Success
3	September 10	Chapter 1 (Continued)
4	September 17	Chapter 2 – Accepting Personal Responsibility
5	September 24	Chapter 3 – Discovering Self-Motivation Goal Setting Activity
6	October 1	Chapter 4 – Mastering Self-Management Time Management Activity
7	October 8	Chapter 5 - Employing Interdependence
8	October 15	Presenter: The Learning Resources Center
9	October 22	Chapter 6 – Gaining Self-Awareness
10	October 29	Presenter: Dealing with Stress
11	November 5	Chapter 7 – Adopting Lifelong Learning
12	November 12	Chapter 8 – Developing Emotional Intelligence
13	November 19	Presenter: Choosing a Major/Career
	November 26	<b>No class – Holiday</b>
14	December 3	<b>Final Class</b>

## CLASS ASSIGNMENTS/DUE DATES

**Note that instructions for all class assignments are on the class website on ANGEL**

DUE DATE	ASSIGNMENTS DUE TODAY	POINTS
August 27	How to Use ANGEL Biography	
September 3	Read syllabus Read Peer Mentor handout Take syllabus and Peer Mentor handout quiz Read Peer Mentor biographies	15
September 10	Choose Peer Mentor Read Chapter 1 and take quiz Online Self Assessment/Journal entry 1 (pg. 12) Begin Embracing Change activity 1 (Due Sept. 17)	15 30
September 17	Read Chapter 2 and take quiz Journal entry 5 (pg. 37) Embracing Change activity 1 Begin Embracing Change activity 2 (Due Sept. 24)	15 15 10
September 24	Read Chapter 3 and take quiz Journal entry 7 (pg. 60) Embracing Change activity 2	15 15 10

<b>DUE DATE</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS DUE TODAY</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
October 1	Read Chapter 4 and take quiz Journal entry 14 (pg. 112) Time management journal	15 15 10
October 8	Read Chapter 5 and take quiz Journal entry 16 (pg. 130) Begin 32 Day Commitment (Due Nov. 19)	15 15
October 15	Peer Mentor Interaction Paper	20
October 22	Essay – Learning Resources Center Presentation Read Chapter 6 and take quiz Journal entry 21 (pg. 160)	30 15 15
October 29	Peer Mentor Interaction Paper	20
November 5	Essay – Dealing with Stress Presentation Read Chapter 7 and take quiz Journal entry 24 (pg. 192)	30 15 15
November 12	Read Chapter 8 and take quiz Journal entry 28 (pg. 224)	15 15
November 19	Essay - 32 Day Commitment Peer Mentor Interaction Paper	30 20
December 3	Read Chapter 9 Journal entry 31 (pg. 252) Final Project	15 85
In class as assigned	Participation Papers (5 points each, 10 classes)	50
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>		<b>600</b>

## GRADING SCALE

*“Some people dream of success... while others wake up and work hard at it.”*  
--Author Unknown

**540 - 600 points = 4.0**  
**510 - 539 = 3.5**  
**480 - 509 = 3.0**  
**450 - 479 = 2.5**  
**420 - 449 = 2.0**  
**390 - 419 = 1.5**  
**360 - 389 = 1.0**  
**< 360 = 0.0**