HRS 21: First Year Seminar: "Becoming an Educated Person"

Fall 2009
Class Hours: MW 3:00 – 4:15 PM ~ MND 2024
Instructor: R Diane Anderson
Peer Mentor: Mona Petal
Office: MND 2030
Open Office Hours: MW 1:30 – 2:30 PM and by appointment
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Class Syllabus & Handouts available on Department webpage: www.csus.edu/hum/
   Click on to “Course Syllabi Fall 2009”
   Find the class: “HRS 21 Freshman Seminar”
   Click on the document you want. Read and/or Print.

♦ UNRESOLVED ISSUES ARISING FROM THE FURLOUGH PROCESS MAY AFFECT
   THE COURSE CALENDAR. I WILL UPDATE YOU AS SOON AS I HAVE NEW
   INFORMATION. ♦

REQUIRED TEXTS
• Textbook: First Year Seminar: Perspective and Empowerment ISBN # 1424071925
• Hunger of Memory: The Education of Richard Rodriguez ISBN-10: 0553382519
• Weekly calendar/Planner (required for all students)
• CSUS catalog

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
HRS21 is a First Year seminar intended to provide students with an introduction to the
nature and possible meanings of higher education, and the functions and resources of
the University. This course is designed to help students develop and exercise
fundamental academic success strategies and to improve their basic learning skills. The
seminar will also provide students with the opportunity to interact with fellow students
and the seminar leader and to build a community of academic and personal support.

COURSE GOALS/LEARNING OUTCOMES:
I. The student will have an enlarged understanding of the ideas and
   values related to education, which will include:
   • The philosophy and history of higher education and the CSUS mission
   • The relationship of education to personal development
   • The significance of the teaching and learning process
II. Demonstration of active learning and improvement of intellectual skills:
   • Academic skills (speaking, writing, note-taking, study skills, time
     management)
   • Evidence that student is taking responsibility for his/her own education
     and development
III. The student will begin to develop information competence and computer literacy
IV. Demonstrate and understanding of "self" as an integrated biological, psychological,
    and social being:
Students will gain an understanding and appreciation of the multicultural nature of society and this University

V. Acquisition of organized knowledge:
   - Reading about, writing on, and discussion of course topics

LA. POLICY: Many discussions have included both the positive values and the negative distractions of using laptop computers in the classroom. The debate continues and still there is no consensus. Therefore each instructor must make his or her own policy. I will decide about the use of laptops in my classroom on a case-by-case basis and only with my personal approval. You must see me about using your laptop in class and make your case for permission to do so.

CELL PHONES IN THE CLASSROOM: Cell phone communication and/or cell phone activity of any kind does not belong and will not be tolerated in the classroom. Practice common courtesy. Turn your phone off before you enter the classroom.

E-MAIL ETIQUETTE: When corresponding with your instructor by e-mail, remember that your messages are not truncated and abbreviated text messages. Your emails call for the use of business informal language. That is, capital letters when called for, correct punctuation and your signature. SIGN YOUR NAME. I will not reply to e-mail messages that do not meet these standards.

ATTENDANCE AND TARDY POLICY: Students are expected to attend all sessions of the class, prepared to discuss the reading assignment for the day. It is necessary, both for your own education and as a courtesy to the other members of the class, to attend class regularly and punctually. An attendance sheet will be distributed for your signature at each class meeting. It is your responsibility to sign this sheet. Numerous absences and/or chronic tardiness will adversely affect your participation grade. When applicable, I will implement the Department Attendance Policy.

EVALUATION:

- Preparation and Participation ______ 35 points  
  A = 100-93%  C = 76-73%
- Midterm _________ 40 points  
  A- = 92-90%  C- = 72-70%
- 3 Short Papers(10 pts ea) 30 pts  
  B+ = 89-87%  D+ = 69-67%
- Formal Essay ______ 50 points  
  B = 86-83%  D = 66-63%
- Oral Presentation ___ 45 points  
  B- = 82-80%  D- = 62-60%
- Occasional in-class/homework assignments ______ 25 points  
  C+ = 79-77%  F = 59% ↓
- Final Exam _________ 50 points  

Total Possible 275 points
Details of the policy in regard to plagiarism are explained in the separate Writing Guide handout. The way in which plagiarism affects your grade in this class is as follows. If I determine through my own investigation that a student has committed an act of plagiarism, the student will receive an F on the assignment, the possibility of an F in class and a referral to Student Affairs for possible university disciplinary action.

**SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS**

♦ UNRESOLVED ISSUES ARISING FROM THE FURLOUGH PROCESS MAY AFFECT THE COURSE CALENDAR. I WILL UPDATE YOU AS SOON AS I HAVE NEW INFORMATION. ♦

ADDITIONAL GUEST SPEAKERS WILL BE ADDED TO THE SYLLABUS AS THE DATES THEY ARE ABLE TO VISIT ARE CONFIRMED

**Week 1**

**GETTING STARTED**

*Mon/Aug 31*  
Introduction to First Year Seminar

*Wed/Sept 2*  
KEEPING A JOURNAL  
DAILY PLANNER  
Readings: “The Difference Between High School and College,” first year seminar FYS, p.63  
"Why I don’t Let Students Cut My Class,” FYS, p.76  
Begin ListServ Subscription Process ~  
The class name is: HRS21S1-L

**Week 2**

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN EDUCATED PERSON?**

*Mon/Sept 7*  
Labor Day Holiday  
No Class

*Wed/Sept 9*  
Readings: “Understanding Who Is Smart,” FYS p.3  
“What Does It Mean to Be an Educated Person?”  
FYS p. 85  
“Decoding Your Professors,” p.47  
“Student Expectations Seen as Causing Grade Disputes,” FYSp.10

**Week 3**

**HISTORY AND PURPOSES OF COLLEGE**

*Mon/Sept 14*  
LIBRARY INSTRUCTION  
MEET AT THE LIBRARY  
Readings: It’s More than Just Trees!” . . ., FYS p. 54

*Wed/Sept 16*  
Readings: “American Education, a Brief History” FYS p.47  
“Purpose,” FYS p.102  
“What Does Society Need . . .” (Pierce) FYS p.105  
“Ideas as Property,” FYS p. 7
Week 4

**HOW DO WE LEARN?**

**Mon/Sept 21**
Readings: “Freshmen Can Be Taught to Think Creatively,” FYS p.13
“Active Learning,” FYS p 37
Submit Your Daily Planner

**Wed/Sept 23**
No formal class meeting
Meet with Peer Mentor Mona Patel for Peak Adventure Rope Activity

Week 5

**THE VALUE OF A COLLEGE EDUCATION?**

**Mon/Sept 28**
Readings: “Have a Degree and Being Educated,” p.121
“The Baccalaureate Degree . . .,” FYS p. 126
“The New Debate . . .,” FYS p. 131
“Two Essential Goals,” FYS p. 166

**Wed/Sept 30**
**PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT: COLLEGE, CAREER AND COMMUNITY**
“Standing Up for Yourself . . .” FYS p. 20
“Strengthening Your Personal System of Values,” FYS p. 143
“Loneliness,” FYS, p.17

Week 6

**MEASURING AND IMPROVING YOUR ACADEMIC SKILLS**

**Mon/Oct 5**
Reading, Taking Notes
Lecture and in-class exercises

**Wed/Oct 7**
Study Skills
*Make your decision about attending a campus event.*
Begin to research upcoming campus events. Your Oral Presentation will consist of reporting to the class on the event you attended.
Any cultural, campus sponsored event that you choose to attend beginning today-- until the day Oral Presentation begin, will be the topic of your Presentation.
****Additional information will be provided in class.****

Week 7

**DIVERSITY AND INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE**

**Mon/Oct 12**
Readings: “Fitting In,” FYS p. 161
“Diversity Leads to Discovery,” FYS p. 169
“The Face of Racism,” FYS p. 193
***Begin reading The Hunger***

**Wed/Oct 14**
Readings: “Getting to Know about You and Me,” FYS p. 221
“White Privilege . . .” FYS p. 185
“What Could I Know About Racism,” FYS p. 224
Cont. reading The Hunger
Week 8
Mon/Oct 19  MIDTERM EXAM
Bring the book The Hunger of Memory: The Education of Richard Rodriguez

Wed/Oct 21  Readings: “How Does It Feel to be the Problem?” FYS p. 204
“Are There Class Cultures?” FYS p. 209
“Growing Up With Two Moms,” FYS p.218
“Best Buy Faces Allegations . . .,” FYS p. 229
Cont. reading The Hunger

Week 7
Mon/Oct 26  WHAT IS YOUR ACADEMIC PLAN?
Readings: “Major Decisions,” FYS p. 233
“College Major Doesn’t Mean . . . FYS p.272
Electives,” FYS p.244
It’s Okay to be Undeclared,” FYS p. 250
Cont. Reading The Hunger

Wed/Oct 28  Video Presentation
Cont. reading The Hunger

Week 10
Mon/Nov 2  EDUCATION, WORK AND CAREER
“Juan and Sasha . . .,” FYS, p. 272
FYS p.277
Finish The Hunger

“Postgraduate Paralysis.” FYS p. 318

Week 11
MORE LOOKING AHEAD, “After College”
“What Students Need to Know . . . 21st Century,” FYS p. 311

Mon/Nov 9  Readings: “Job Search . . .,” FYS p.282
“Outlook sand Insights . . .” FYS p. 321

Wed/Nov 11  ORAL PRESENTATIONS BEGIN TODAY

Week 12
Mon/Nov 16  Oral Presentations cont.
Wed/Nov 18  FORMAL ESSAY DUE TODAY AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS
              Oral Presentations cont.

Week 13
Mon/Nov 23  Outside class assignment
***See a movie that portrays college life.
              List of suggested titles available via ListServ

Wed/Nov 25  Movie assignment cont.
              "Journal" your reaction and opinion of College-life as it depicted
              in the movie you saw.

Week 14
Mon/Nov 30  Oral Presentations

Wed/Dec 2   Oral Presentations

Week 15
Mon/Dec 7   Oral Presentations

Wed/Dec 9   Conclusions

Final Exam
Date: Wednesday, December 16
Time: 3:00-5:00 PM
Place: MND 2024