**First Year Seminar Syllabus-FORL 21-80. Fall 2014**

Instructor: Roberto Knorr Class #: 86662

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**Course description**

First Year Seminar is a freshman seminar intended to provide students with an introduction to the nature and possible meanings of higher education, and the functions and resources od 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**

1. 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

1. 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
* Academic dishonesty

1. The student will begin to develop information competence and computer literacy
2. 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

1. Acquisition of organized knowledge:

* Reading about, writing on, and discussion of course topics

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of academic content knowledge regarding self-development as a physiological, social and psychological being.
2. Students will critically examine prior or current experiences or behaviors from their own lives in response to real world physiological, social and/or psychological contexts (may be evident in self-assessment, reflection or creative work)
3. Students will apply skills and knowledge regarding development of the self to differing situations, such as real world challenges, and/or to make connections among perspectives.

**Learning Outcomes**

1/ Students will be able to identify their own perspective and make connections/comparisons across perspectives.

2/ Students will be able to plan, monitor, and assess their own learning.

3/ Students will be able to set personal and/or professional goals.

**Text/Materials**

**Book:** First Year Seminar: Perspective and Empowerment

Occasional reading: Every week there will be a reading about a person of relevance.

**Evaluation**

Every activity in the class will have some value in points. The more points you earn, the better your grade will be. You will be evaluated based on:

* Assignments
* Written assignments
* Oral presentation
* Participation
* Attendance

**Attendance.**

Learning can be a very rewarding and fun experience, or it can be a real nightmare…it’s really up to you. This course requires at least 4-6 hours per week to study. You will be require to read, study or work as part of your regular homework. Those students who have fun and do well in class are those who have **patience**, who practice and persevere through it all, but mainly those students **who aren’t afraid to make mistakes and keep** **trying**. Participation in class is extremely important and remember that I expect your daily participation, **NOT YOUR PERFECTION**

**Tentative Schedule.**

The schedule for this class is going to be very diverse. You will have lectures, discussions, presentations in class, tours around the CSUS campus and several different fun activities. Just be committed to the class and have fun. I wish you personally a great semester. Good Luck!!!