COURSE DESCRIPTION:
HRS 21 is a first year seminar intended to provide students with an introduction to the nature and meaning of higher education and the functions and resources of Sacramento State 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 to build a community of academic and personal support.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
• Weekly calendar/Planner (required for all students)
• CSUS catalog (available online)
• Not For Profit: Why Democracy Needs the Humanities by Martha Nussbaum, Princeton University Press, 2010
Note: Additional reading will be assigned throughout the semester.
Check BlackBoard often for updates and additions!
Class syllabus and handouts available on Blackboard and HRS department webpage*: www.csus.edu/hum/
*Click on “Course Syllabi Fall 2012” Find the class: “Thoma-HRS 21” Click on the document you want.

COURSE GOALS/LEARNING OUTCOMES for STUDENTS:
I. Expanded understanding of the ideas and values related to education, including:
   • 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. Develop information competence and computer literacy.
IV. Demonstration and understanding of “self” as an integrated biological, psychological, and social being, including:
   • Enhanced 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

*GE Area E - Understanding Personal Development
Learning Goals
1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of academic content knowledge regarding self-development as a physiological, social and/or 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 across 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.

**Respectful** participation* in class discussions is encouraged and will affect your overall grade favorably.* Disrespectful conduct, including, but not limited to, cell phones ringing, chatting, coming in late, leaving early, texting, surfing the internet, walking in and out during lecture, disruptive behavior, rudeness to fellow students, etc..., will affect your participation grade unfavorably. If you have special needs or extreme circumstances requiring you to miss class, come late, etc..., please discuss with me.

**IMPORTANT !** If you are a student who experiences anxiety simply at the thought of speaking up in class, please see me or email me for helpful strategies and tips for reducing stress and improving your learning experience. I consider all students equally important to the classroom dynamic.

**Course grades are based on the following combination of assessments:**

- **20% - Attendance and Participation‡**
  - Good attendance (20 pts), class discussion (15 pts), regular journal writings TBA, and extra-curricular assignments/events TBA (25 pts).

- **15% - Midterm exam - essay and multiple choice**
  - 45 points

- **15% - Paper**
  - 45 points

- **30% - Portfolio (65pts) and Presentation (25 pts)**
  - 90 points

- **20% - Final**
  - essay and multiple choice
  - 60 points

**100%**

→ 300 points

**A**

--- 300-277 points

**A-**

--- 276-268 points

**B+**

--- 267-261 points

**B**

--- 260-246 points

**B-**

--- 245-237 points

**C+**

--- 236-230 points

**C**

--- 229-216 points

**C-**

--- 215-206 points

**D+**

--- 205-199 points

**D**

--- 198-186 points (You should come to see me to discuss how you can improve your learning experience and grade.)

**D-**

--- 185-175 points (You should have come to see me long before it got to this point. See above. But it isn’t too late!)

**!**

--- 174-0 points (Yikes.)

‡ The attendance and participation grade will include points accumulated as follows: good attendance (20 pts), class discussion (15 pts), regular journal writings TBA, and extra-curricular assignments/events TBA (25 pts).

**All tests and writing assignments must be taken at the scheduled times. Students may not leave and return to the classroom during the midterm or the final. Take care of any necessary tasks before or after the class session. For the midterm and for the final you will need Scantron 886-E and a number-two pencil.**
Adjustments and additions may be made to this syllabus at the discretion of the instructor. Students will be given reasonable notice prior to any such changes.

**Course Calendar**

_All reading assignments are to be completed before the class week for which they are listed._ There will be additional reading assignments required throughout the semester and added activities. You will be given adequate notice and time for completion.

✓ **Check this syllabus and BlackBoard often for due dates, changes, additional reading and updates!!!**

| WEEK 1 – Wed 9/3 | -Introduction: Welcome to The First Year Seminar -- creating a community of learners.  
- Syllabus and class introductions; keeping a journal in college; using your daily planner  
- Understanding and navigating the differences between high school and college.  
  - Make a list comparing/contrasting what you think the differences are and bring to class On Wednesday! |
| WEEK 2 – Mon 9/8  
Wed 9/10 | -Being an educated person in today's society.  
- How can I help myself be a better learner? – The importance of critical thinking (Yes! Socrates!)  
- What exactly is critical thinking? What are the practical, “everyday” applications of critical thinking?  
  - Write one or two paragraphs describing a circumstance you might encounter in the "outside world" (outside of college!) requiring you to use critical thinking. Bring your writing to class and be prepared to share your story.  
  ![READ: Nussbaum Ch. IV (pp.47-78)]( ) |
| WEEK 3  
Mon 9/15  
Wed 9/17! | -The history and purpose of the college and university system.  
- ![READ: Blasphemy : pp.1-41]( )  
  N.B. The pages listed for the Blasphemy reading assignments are a guideline and minimum-if you can and want to read ahead go for it!  
  ✓ **Check for readings and response assignments posted on BlackBoard!**  
  ![Wed 9/17! STC Workshop- meet at the AIRC bldg, rm 3007 at 12pm sharp!] |
| WEEK 4  
Mon 9/22  
Wed 9/24! | -How we learn--making the most of the college experience.  
- Diversity and intercultural competence.  
- Managing the college experience in a culture of alcohol, drugs and sex.  
  ![READ: Blasphemy : pp. 42-100]( )  
  Nussbaum Chs. I, II and III (pp. 1-46)  
  ✓ **Check for readings and response assignments posted on BlackBoard!**  
  ![Monday 9/22! Health Center Presentation]( )  
  ![Wed 9/24! STC E-Portfolio Workshop- meet at the AIRC bldg, rm 3007 at 12pm sharp!]( ) |
| WEEK 5  
Mon 9/29  
Wed 10/1! | -Now more than ever-what is the value of a college education?  
- The importance of personal development.  
  ![READ: Blasphemy : pp. 101-159]( )  
  ✓ **Check for readings and response assignments posted on BlackBoard!**  
  ![Wednesday 10/1- In-class Portfolio Assignment #1-Part 1]( ) |
| WEEK 6  
Mon 10/6  
Wed 10/8! | -Assessing and improving your academic skills.  
- Reading well, writing well, taking notes, preparing a study guide.  
  ![Monday 10/6- In-class Portfolio Assignment #1-Part 2]( )  
  (bring your phones to class-do I really have to say this? Haha.)  
  ![Wednesday 10/8-Study skills presentation by ______________]( )  
  ![READ: Blasphemy : pp.160-228]( )  
  ✓ **Check for readings and response assignments posted on BlackBoard!** |
| WEEK 7  
Mon 10/13  
Wed 10/15  
Thursday 10/16!  
Author Lecture 7pm! | Video  
- Collaborative writing-working together to improve individual skills in writing.  
- Writing workshops.  
  ![READ: Blasphemy : pp.229- 299]( )  
  ![10/16 Internationally acclaimed author Sherman Alexie on campus ! 7pm in Union!]( )  
  ✓ **Check for readings and response assignments posted on BlackBoard!** |
WEEK 8
Mon 10/20!  
Wed 10/22!  
READ: *Blasphemy* : pp.300-350  
*Nussbaum* Ch. V (pp.79-94)  
Mon 10/20! Global Education presentation!  
Wed 10/22 – In-class Portfolio Assignment #2

WEEK 9
Mon 10/27  
Wed 10/29!  
-Preparing for exams and presentations.  
✓ Check for readings and response assignments posted on BlackBoard!  
Wed 10/29 – MIDTERM Exam – Bring Scantron 886-E !

WEEK 10
Mon 11/3!  
Wed 11/5!  
READ: *Blasphemy* : pp.351-415  
*Nussbaum* Ch. VI (pp. 95-120)  
✓ Check for readings and response assignments posted on BlackBoard!  
Monday 11/3 – Portfolio Assignment # 3-Part 1  
Wednesday 11/5 – Portfolio Assignment # 3- Part 2  
(bring your phones to class-do I really have to say this, again? Haha.)

WEEK 11
Mon 11/10!  
Wed 11/12!  
-Education, work and career.  
Wednesday 11/15- G.E. presentation by_____________________!  
READ: *Blasphemy* : pp.416-465  
*Nussbaum* Ch. VII (121-143)  
✓ Check for readings and response assignments posted on BlackBoard!  
Mon 11/10! STC E-Portfolio Workshop- meet at the AIRC bldg, rm 3007 at 12pm sharp!

WEEK 12
Mon 11/17  
Wed 11/19!  
-Academic planning to make the most of your college experience.  
-Major Problems Project this week!  
-After college-now what?  
READ:  
✓ Check for readings and response assignments posted on BlackBoard!

WEEK 13
Mon 11/24  
Wed 11/26!  
-Portfolio Presentations  
✓ Check for readings and response assignments posted on BlackBoard!

WEEK 14
Mon 12/1!  
Wed 12/3!  
- Monday 12/1! Career Center Presentation  
✓ Check for readings and response assignments posted on BlackBoard!  
- Portfolio Presentations

WEEK 15
Mon 12/8  
Wed 12/10!  
-Portfolio Presentations  
- Final wrap-up and preparation for final.

WEEK 16
Wed 12/17!  
-FINAL EXAM 10:15 am-12:15 pm Bring Scantron 886-E!

I hope you learned a lot this semester-stay in touch with your learning community! ...and have a nice holiday break! 😊