

Wednesday 29th November: Freshman Seminar meeting

Freshmen:

Who are they? What is their background? What is their skill level? ESL?

Objectives:

To improve study habits.

To improve study skills.

To provide a support group and a sense of community (retention!).

Typical Problems:

Lack of understanding of why they have to take the class. Need to have objectives.

Mixed level (English, study skills, motivation) within class

Small group within larger group (e.g. group of students from same school)

Absences: what is the absence policy? What happens when a student has more than the number of absences allowed?

Plagiarism.

Amount of homework

Graded activities

List of activities to choose from that can be graded.

Oral presentation (individual) on topic of freshman seminar

Oral presentation (group) on topic of freshman seminar

Article summaries

Term paper

Class participation

Homework assignments

Mid-term exam

Final exam

Final grading

Suggest **maximum** of 20% for final exam, 15% for final paper, 15% for mid-term exam, 15% for participation, and 10% for other items.

Other skills/activities

Other useful skills/activities, but not necessarily to be graded:

Getting organised

Time management: setting priorities, keeping a diary, anticipating crises, being realistic, understanding pressures. Daily, weekly, semester planning.

Self-evaluation: Ability to analyse own performance, motivation, learning style.

Peer Evaluation: Ability to evaluate others' presentations, work etc. (peer evaluation forms)

Participating in discussions

Debating

Note-taking

Test-taking

Library research activities

Presentation skills

Working in groups

Active reading

Critical thinking

Written assignments e.g. summaries, reviews, reports (discuss possible overlap with writing classes)

Class project

Class outing

Guest lecture