

General Studies 105: University Learning Skills

Study Skills Link to ENGL 108

SAAS Staff: Pam Robenolt (proben@u...)
Lisa Bruce (lrbruce@u...)
Rick Mulcahy (rsm@u...)

Class Times: M-TH 1:30-3:00
No class on Friday
Location: Rose Auditorium in the Conibear Shellhouse
Other locations TBA

Tutors: Annie Dwyer
Scott Griggs
Kiana Parker

Tanvi Patel
Suzanne Schmitz
Simon Trujillo

Course Overview

General Studies 105 is an introduction to university culture and is linked to ENGL 108. The skills we will focus on are necessary for academic success, including note-taking, writing, active learning, and time management. It will allow you to build your study and academic skills through modeling, practice and feedback as well creating and working in learning communities. The goal of the class can be summed up with a quote from the Stephen King reading, it is to help you "construct your own toolbox and then build up enough muscle so you can carry it with you."

Grading

This course is credit/no credit for 1 credit, which means that you will get a C or NC on your transcript. If this course is a condition of admissions, **you must get CREDIT to be considered successful**. We expect you to work hard and to achieve the highest grade possible as a way of preparing yourself for the academic year to come.

25%	Participation
30%	Daily main point homework sheets (worth 10 points daily)
10%	Pop quizzes (some may allow for use of notes/books)
15%	Midterm – July 28
20%	Final - August 6
Extra Credit	You will receive 5 pts for winning the gold star & up to 3 pts on homework

You must be in class to participate. Even missing 1 class can lead to a NO CREDIT grade. If you have a legitimate reason to miss class notify Pam in advance. Be in class and ready to learn by 1:30pm. There are many ways to participate including taking notes, being engaged, asking questions, and making comments. Cell phones should be off and your backpack during class time. Research shows that cell phones have the same impact as lowering your IQ!

Midterm and Final exams will be on readings and lecture notes from ENGL 108 & this course. They will be a mix of multiple choice, short answer and essay. Pop quizzes will also cover material from both courses and may be open book/open notes.

*In this class you will complete a main point sheet (Monday-Thursday) that is due the following day **AT 1:30PM**. It is worth 10 points. It is very important to turn homework in on time; therefore, it will be marked down 5 points the first day late (late means after class has started) and 2 points each day after that. You will receive a 0 for incomplete papers – term, definition and connection sections must all be completed.*

Homework Grading Breakdown:

You can earn 0-5 points on defining and connecting your term – up to 10 points. You will lose point if you don't use complete sentences, if your hand writing is illegible, if you don't choose a main term, if you define it incompletely or wrong, or if your connections don't make sense. Grading is subjective and can vary depending on which instructor is grading it. If you think you deserve more points talk to the grader and state your case. If you present a good argument you may be awarded additional points. You can also redo homework for a higher grade to earn up to half of the missed points. The goal is for you to practice identifying what is important and learn the material. If you miss more than 3 assignments will not receive credit for this course.

Environment and Respect

Although this class will hopefully become a site of collaboration and group effort, we must all keep in mind that the class is composed of individuals with various opinions and ideas. Therefore, we certainly do not expect you to agree with us or with each other all of the time. We do, however, require you to respect both staff and one another. This means addressing each other properly and respectfully responding to in-class activities. If you are going to disagree or debate a point, please remember to do so politely, calmly, and reasonably. Remember that it is difficult to know the beliefs, moods, or feelings of your peers. Please be generous and sensitive to everyone involved.

Students with Disabilities

If you have (or think you have) a learning disability that requires accommodations, please contact Pam Robenolt (proben@u.) so we can begin to make proper arrangements. Even if you are not sure that your disability will influence your performance in this class, it may be good for me to know in advance so we can troubleshoot challenges that may arise.

Course Materials

- ☆ English 108 Course Reader
- ☆ Graff, Gerald and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say / I Say*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2006.
- ☆ Access to a college-level dictionary (not a pocket dictionary). One favorite dictionary happens to be online and available to all UW students – **The Oxford English Dictionary** can be accessed at the UW webpage: <http://www.lib.washington.edu/research/dic.html>
- ☆ Your portfolio binder
- ☆ Daily Reflection Sheet

Course Concerns

If you are experiencing a problem with the course, please see me, Lisa or Rick as soon as possible – we are very open to feedback and responsive to student concerns. If you feel that you need additional support outside of class time arrangements can be made for tutoring sessions.

If you do not wish to speak to Pam or Rick regarding concerns, you can contact Kim Durand, Associate Athletic Director of Student Development at durand@u.washington.edu.