# Counseling 47: *Learning Strategies*

### Course Syllabus

### Reedley College – Spring 2014

**INSTRUCTOR**: Tasha Cummings, M.A. **SCHEDULE NO**: 52322

**MAILBOX**: 559-638-0337 (Counseling Dept.) **DAY/TIME**: TTH 3:15-5:05 PM

**EMAIL**: tasha.cummings@reedleycollege.edu **COURSE** **TERM:** 03/18-05/22 **AVAILABILITY**: By appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**  Establishing effective study habits and positive attitudes that will lead to successful achievement of academic goals. The course includes: understanding the psychology of learning, identifying learning styles, obstacles to achievement, goal setting, time management, concentration, active listening, note taking, using a textbook, memory techniques, test taking, vocabulary building, and budgeting resources. Basic Skills Advisories: Eligibility for English 125 and 126. (A, CSU)

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| **COURSE OUTCOMES:** |
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| 1. Apply inductive and deductive reasoning skills in note taking, outlining and annotating the text, and test taking. 2. Use memory techniques, decision-making skills, and visualization. 3. Utilize critical thinking in research, in transferring skills for cross curricular uses, in problem solving, and in applying theory to practice. 4. Utilize discipline related vocabulary to enhance comprehension and inference in reading, as well as coherence and exactness in writing test essays and evaluations. 5. Apply long-term planning, goal setting, and organizing strategies to their school assignments and examinations. 6. Understand their own learning styles and use learning strategies associated with their strongest learning style. 7. Be able to manage and minimize stress for better academic performance. 8. Use appropriate classroom behavior. |
| **COURSE OBJECTIVES:** |
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| 1. Identify factors that affect how one learns. Also identify their own dominant learning styles, personal learning problems and study skill deficiencies. 2. Articulate educational goals and formulate learning objectives. 3. Develop time management strategies using: calendars, daily planners, and record keeping techniques. 4. Demonstrate effective classroom behaviors: punctuality, attendance, instructor-student relations, and participation. 5. Utilize concentration and memory techniques for improved academic performance. 6. Implement study systems such as (SQ3R) and annotation methods to improve textbook reading skills and information/concept retention. 7. Access library resources for classroom assignments, research, and projects. 8. Employ note taking techniques (Cornell, Cambridge Systems) and use active listening techniques in relation to class lectures. 9. Prepare for tests by understanding traditional forms: multiple choice, true and false, sentence completion, and essay writing. 10. Evaluate strengths and weaknesses of academic performance by keeping an assessment journal. 11. Utilize problem solving approaches and reading strategies to deal with cross-curricular disciplines. 12. Navigate around campus for accessing resources. 13. Use student resources available on campus. 14. Identify and address obstacles to student success. 15. Implement organization methods. 16. Minimize stress. |

**REQUIRED TEXT:** College Study Skills: Becoming a Strategic Learner, By Dianna L. Van Blerkom, 7th edition

**SUPPLIES:** 2-Pocket portfolio folder & (2) 889-E Scantrons

**ATTENDANCE:** Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Excessive absences, **3 or more**, may result in the student being **dropped** from this class. Ultimately, it is the student’s responsibility to officially drop a class in which he/she no longer wishes to be enrolled.

**CHEATING & PLAGIARISM: “…**cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities erode the integrity of the college; each student is expected to exert an entirely honest effort in all academic endeavors. Academic dishonesty in any form is a very serious offense and will incur serious consequences” (Reedley College Catalog, 2004-2006).

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Reedley College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. Disabled Student Programs & Services **(DSP&S)** provides the campus with academic support services and specialized assistance to students with disabilities. Individuals with physical, perceptual, or learning disabilities as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact DSP&S for information regarding accommodations. Please notify your instructor so that reasonable efforts can be made to accommodate you.

**COMMUNICATION:** Students will have access to the course on the first day of the semester. Log on to **Blackboard** with the **seven digit student ID** for both the username and password. All forms/*handouts* and lecture notes can be downloaded from here. Students may also direct any questions/requests via their student email account. Directions for activating the “free” student email will be noted on the entry page for this course on Blackboard. Computers and printers are available in the **Computer Lab** located in the Library.

**GRADING:** Student success in this course will depend on the interest, willingness and enthusiasm that students bring to class. Students are expected to be an active participant in group activities and class discussions. Grades will be based on completion of the following:

Portfolio PART I 50 pts. A=100-90% 200-179 pts.

Portfolio PART II 50 pts. B=89-80% 178- 159pts.

Midterm 50 pts. C=79-70% 158-139 pts.

Final 50 pts. D=69-60% 138-119 pts.

TOTAL 200 pts. F=59-0% 118 & below

**PORTFOLIO:** Students **must complete five activities** from chapters 1 through 7 for part I of the portfolio. Students **must complete five activities** from chapters 8 through 13 for part II of the portfolio. Activities are worth 10 points each. The chapter activities are described in the **Portfolio Part I & II Options** *handout*. Forms needed to complete described activities can be found in the **required text** as specified in the handout. Forms can also be printed from the companion site, **wadsworth.com,** or **Blackboard**. More details will be given for completing each activity during class. Upon the conclusion of each chapter, the corresponding activities/options will be due at the beginning of the next scheduled class meeting. Due dates will be announced in class and on Blackboard each week. Late assignments will not be accepted. Part I & II cutoff dates are noted on the **Class Calendar** *handout.*

**EXAMS:** There will be a total of two exams: The midterm will cover chapters 1-7 and the final will cover chapters 8-13. Please refer to the **Class Calendar** *handout*for exam dates. Each exam will consist of 25 questions worth 2 points each. Study guides will be provided. Please refer to the **Midterm & Final Exam Study** **Guides** for test preparation.