

IDS 0015 Section 530
Interdisciplinary Studies:
Success in the University Environment

Brescia University College
FW 2018-19
Thursdays 2:30-4:30pm
BR-304

Instructor Information:

Dr. Carolyn Weber
E-mail: cweber43@uwo.ca

Course Description:

The Prelim Community Program is a learning community comprised of a cohort of students experiencing academic and social learning in a collaborative way. These shared experiences will contribute to increased grades, greater connection and engagement. This course is designed to provide students who are registered in the Brescia University College Preliminary Year with opportunities to learn new abilities and upgrade skills needed to achieve success in the university environment. The course consists of 2.0 lecture hours per week. Successful completion of Interdisciplinary Studies 0015 is required to pass Preliminary Year at Brescia. Over the course of the year you will participate in activities designed to enhance your academic, developmental and social experience at Brescia, including:

Academic:

- How to do research and participate in an academic conversation
- What constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it and why
- Library orientation
- Test taking
- Essay Writing
- Academic choices after Prelim
- How to work in diverse groups

Developmental:

- Discovering your strengths
- Intercultural communication
- Time Management
- What's in your future? From there to here and beyond
- Healthy eating
- Stress management

Social:

- International student programs
- Social gatherings and events
- Having fun together

Course Expectations:

The Preliminary Year students will attend one class per week. Classes are designed to be interactive; therefore, attendance and engagement are integral to the success of the program. Peer interaction is key in this program. Circumstances may arise which make it impossible for you to attend. For this reason, students will be excused for up to two classes per term without requiring documentation to support the absence. For absences exceeding two per term, the instructor will require notification from the student's Academic Advisor that the absence was valid and supported with appropriate documentation. Under University regulations, your instructor can determine at which point absenteeism has become excessive and approach the Dean who may prevent you from receiving a pass in the course.

There are no assignments for this course. However, students will journal and reflect on their Prelim experiences. Approximately two (2) journal entries per month as assigned are required. Topics and due dates for these journals will be established in the course schedule and communicated in class. To successfully complete the Program the students must meet the attendance and journal requirements.

Course Materials (Required Texts):

Required text available from the Book Store:

Becoming a Master Student, by Ellis, Toft & Dawson. Sixth Canadian Edition 2016, Nelson Education Ltd.

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices:

The use of cell phones and other electronic devices is prohibited during class time without the permission of the instructor. Please put all devices away so as to avoid temptation.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the year, the student will have:

- Increased effectiveness in preparing for next year. (Whether that is remaining at Brescia, transferring to Main, Kings or Huron or another institution).
- Developed skills to succeed in university life & beyond – academically, socially and developmentally
- Gained some understanding of goal setting and monitoring of goals
- Gained some understanding of inter-cultural communication.
- Achieved an appreciation of peer engagement in the classroom.
- Developed friendships
- Become aware of the many and varied resources at BUC, UWO and in London
- Developed relationships with faculty and staff
- Greater satisfaction with university life

SCHEDULE

Please note that this schedule is subject to change due to guest speaker availability and coordination with preliminary community events (such as tours, class visits, games, athletics, films, social gatherings or other educational experiences). Chapter references are to our class textbook *Becoming A Master Student*. Journal entries are due at the beginning of the designated class. Journals will be provided in our first week of class.

TERM 1

September 6:

Introduction and welcome

Journals: Discovery, purpose and intent

Opening Letter

Assignment of Journal Entries

September 13:

Chapter 1

The Discovery Wheel

September 20:

Chapter 1 cont'd

Learning Style Inventory

Learning profiles

September 27:

Motivation and Critical Thinking

Campus Resources

October 4:

JOURNALS DUE

Mindfulness techniques

October 11: READING WEEK - NO CLASS

October 18:

Chapter 2

Time management, Procrastination, Planning

October 25:

Chapter 3
Memory skills
Campus Resources

November 1:

JOURNALS DUE

Mindfulness techniques

November 8:

Chapter 4
Reading, Information Literacy, ESL
Campus Resources

November 15:

Chapters 5 and 6
Note taking, Review, Studying
Tests

November 22:

Community Event

November 29:

Chapter 7
Critical Thinking, Asking Questions, Problem Solving

December 6:

JOURNALS DUE

Midterm Reports
End of Term Celebration

TERM 2

January 10:

Chapter 8
Communicating: Listening, Emotional Intelligence, Managing Conflict
Social Networks

January 17:

Effective Speaking and Writing
Academic Integrity

January 24:

Chapter 9
Diversity

January 31:

JOURNALS DUE
Community Event

February 7:

Chapter 10
Money: Budget, Management, Resources

February 14:

Chapter 11
Physical and Mental Health

February 21: READING WEEK – NO CLASS

February 28:

JOURNALS DUE
Mindfulness techniques

March 7:

Chapter 12
Next steps: Career paths and employability
Mock Job Interviews

March 14:

Meeting with former prelims

March 21:

JOURNALS DUE
Community Event

March 28:

Revisiting Your Discovery Wheels
Closing Letters

April 4:

Last day of class
Celebration!

2018-19 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS**1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES**

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation.

Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated.

Students must submit their documentation along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. In cases where there might be an extended absence or serious issue, students should submit their documentation promptly and consult their Academic Advisor for advice during their recovery period. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office/Academic Advisor in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements for classes/labs/tutorials, arranging Special Exams or Incompletes, re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawals without academic penalty.

Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are **not** grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded from:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf . The student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student “was seen for a medical reason” or “was ill” is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation.

The full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness can be viewed at:

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal challenge that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds are not normally considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> or the list of official sessional dates in the Academic Calendar, see the Sessional Dates tab at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/index.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate and warranted.

It is important to note that the Academic Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory (http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_68).

4. SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at: http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20 .

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Academic Dean's Office, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal is to be sent to the School Chair. If the response of the Chair is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, she may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA), if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal. For information on academic appeals you can consult your Academic Advisor or see the Student Academic Appeals – Undergraduate in the Academic Calendar

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14.

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices.

6. PREREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from the Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisite(s).

7. SUPPORT

Support Services

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/>. The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>.

Mental Health and Wellness

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about mental health and wellness at Brescia at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Health and Wellness at Western, http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html, for information about how to obtain help for yourself or others.

Sexual Violence

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes

that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/sexual-violence/>.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.