



Academic Success SPST.A230
Spring 2022
SAMPLE SYLLABUS
Room to be announced

Instructor: Mary Waguespack, Assistant Director for Writing Support, OWLS/SSC

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Office Hours: virtual, by appointment, using Zoom and/or Google Meet.

Note: This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. For the most updated version of this syllabus, see the syllabus posted in Canvas.

COURSE OVERVIEW:

In this course, we will review topics related to academic success and challenges that might impede your path to graduation. Together we will address the question of “what makes a student succeed in college?” You will learn strategies that may help improve your GPA and enrich your educational experience at Loyola. The readings and course materials for this course will come primarily from the fields of psychology and education. This course will draw from our Jesuit identity through reflection, respect, and appreciation.

COURSE GOAL:

Students will think critically about academic and personal success.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Define and implement learning strategies to improve academic performance.
- Recognize connection between academic and financial college plans.
- Explain the obstacles that prohibited a stronger GPA in the past.
- Create a plan to improve your GPA if needed.
- Calculate grades needed to maintain academic good standing and financial aid eligibility.
- Define future academic, personal, and professional goals.

COURSE FORMAT:

This course is a 16-week course that meets in person every Tuesday from 2:00 – 2:50 p.m. Readings and assignments must be completed according to a weekly schedule provided in modules on Canvas.

COURSE TOPICS:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Self-assessment and goal setting ● Priorities and time management ● Adaptive Mindset ● Identity and Expectations ● Technology and attention ● Stress and Anxiety | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Study and Reading strategies ● Campus Resources ● Communication and engagement ● Career exploration ● College finances ● Commitment to graduation |
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GRADING:

This is a “Pass/Fail” 1-credit course. In order to pass the course, students must fulfil requirements for engagement and participation and complete all course assignments with a grade of 60% or above.

- Attendance and Participation in weekly class meetings— 30 % of grade
- Discussion boards – 45% of grade (weekly posts)
- Campus resource paper—10%
- Course reflection paper—10%
- Helping Future Students (consent form) 5%

POLICIES & EXPECTATIONS:

1. **Late assignments:** Please follow the schedule outlined in the Course Calendar and weekly modules in Canvas. *Late assignments may be accepted after the due date but with a late penalty.*
2. **Discussion boards:** We value the voice of every student in the course. Our diversity as a class—in race, gender, sex, religion, language, ability, veteran status, place of origin—is an asset to our learning experience. The discussion board assignments will provide you with the opportunity to speak and be heard, explore your own understanding, reflect on your own experience, and encounter each other. Absolutely no sexist, racist, homophobic, or other hateful comments will be permitted in this class. *Please make every effort to complete your discussion board assignments on time, as your posts and replies often form the basis of our in-class discussions.*
3. **Email communication:** Check your loyno email address and the announcements on Canvas regularly. Important course information and updates will be communicated this way. I will respond to all email as promptly as possible, but please allow 24 business hours for a response. Please keep this in mind when planning your schedule or submitting questions about course assignments. Many questions can be answered by consulting the syllabus or Canvas.
4. **Attendance and Participation:**
 - a. Attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to attend all classes in their entirety and to arrive on time. If circumstances prevent you from attending class, please communicate this to the instructor as soon as possible. **Any student who misses 3 or more class meetings risks failing the course for poor attendance (per Loyola policy).**
 - b. **If you miss class because you are experiencing COVID symptoms or have been exposed to COVID,** email me about the situation and follow university guidelines for reporting symptoms, exposure, and positive test results using Loyola's Public Health Portal accessible through SSO. Student Affairs should inform me of the reason for your absence, and I will work with you on a plan for keeping up with our work.
 - c. **If I am unable to come to campus** for in-person class due to COVID illness or quarantine, we will conduct class via Zoom. (See Technology Requirements above.)
 - d. For each class meeting you will receive a **participation grade** that cannot be made up if you miss class. Good participation includes coming to class prepared, with any homework reading completed, taking part in class discussions and activities, and giving your full attention to the instructor and your classmates. Late arrivals and absences from class will negatively affect your Participation grade in the class.
5. **Classroom etiquette:**
 - a. Be courteous to your peers and professor, and respectful of their contributions to the class discussion and activities.

- b. Silence your phone and put your devices aside unless you are using your laptop to access Canvas or other course-related material. Devices includes phone, air pods, headphones, and anything else that may distract you, me, or your classmates.
- c. Abide by Loyola's current COVID policy, which currently mandates wearing a properly fitted mask at all times in the classroom, and not eating or drinking in class.
- d. Due to COVID safety measures, only enrolled students of other authorized visitors may attend the class. Please do not invite friends and family to class.

ASSIGNMENT DETAILS: Check Canvas for more details and due dates.

Weekly class meetings – 35 % of grade

Grade based on attendance and engagement in class discussion.

Discussion boards and discussion board engagement – 40 % of grade

Each week students are required to participate in discussion board topics based on the week's course materials. For each discussion board, you will be required to create an initial post and respond to at least one of your classmate's posts. Your initial post should be at least 250 words and your response post should be at least 50 words. All discussion board posts should be thoughtful, responsive, appropriate, and respectful.

Reflection Paper 1: Connect with a Campus Resource – 10% of grade.

Loyola provides many resources designed to help students succeed. Even while away from campus, most services are available to you virtually. For this assignment, you will make use of one campus resource and report and reflect on the experience. To see a list of the options, see the assignment in Canvas. Options include career development, tutoring, success coaching, student life, and pastoral counseling. If there is a different Loyola resource not listed that you would like to use for this assignment, please email me to seek prior approval. Following the appointment, complete the reflection paper (400-500 words) as outlined in the Canvas assignment.

Reflection Paper 2: Course reflection – 10% of grade

During the final week of this course, you are required to complete a reflection paper (400-500 words) about your experience in this course. Your paper should be thoughtful and well-written.

Helping Future Students – 5% of grade

This course will be part of research that informs the ways we support students at Loyola. Therefore, you will be asked to review consent to participate in this study. If you consent, your institutional records, discussion posts, and journals may be included in future research studies. Your identity as a student will be kept confidential. If portions of your posts appear in research reports, your identifying characteristics will be changed.

Participation is completely voluntary and may be withdrawn any time. Your consent will not be known to your instructor until the conclusion of the course, after grades are submitted. Consent forms will be held in the Provost's office. Please see the next page for a copy of this consent form.

Accessible Education

If you have a disability and wish to receive accommodations, please contact the [Office of Accessible Education](#) at 504-865-2990. The Office of Accessible Education is located in the Student Success Center, 229 Monroe Library.

Click on Syllabus Part 2 on LORA for additional information and policies.