

MAKING CONNECTIONS: FACEBOOK AND BEYOND :: FYE 1220 :: FALL 2008

Georgia Southern University | College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences | Communication Arts

Professor:

Barbara B. Nixon, Ph.D. (ABD)

Peer Leader:

Mackenzie Rowland

Office hours: MWF 10:00-10:45 & by appt

Class Time & Location: M W 3:30 to 4:45, Math/Physics PC Lab 3012

From Facebook to text messages to blogs, we are an intimately connected society. In this highly interactive FYE course, you will create your own blog, contribute to a social network, learn how corporations are using the Internet to connect with consumers, and become an expert in at least one type of social media. Additionally, we will discuss how to create and protect your online reputation.

Required Text

None

Course Blog

<http://makingconnectionsfye1220.wordpress.com/>

Catalog Description

Thematic seminar designed to promote information literacy skills and support students' cognitive and affective integration into the University community. Required during the first semester for all students new to the University (except for transfer students with 30 hours or more); students may not withdraw.

Student Learning Outcomes for FYE 1220

Students will be able to . . .

1. Critically evaluate print and electronic information for its currency, relevancy, authority, accuracy and purpose.
2. Apply documentation guidelines for print and electronic information used in assignments.
3. Articulate what constitutes plagiarism and avoid representing the work of others as their own.
4. Examine societal rationales for supporting college education and their own personal motivations for attending college.
5. Locate Georgia Southern resources and services necessary for their academic and personal success.
6. Analyze their use of time in relation to their goals and either: 1) develop a plan to align their use of time more closely with their goals; or, 2) defend their use of time as appropriate for achieving their goals.
7. Describe and explain academic expectations in relation to their course of study.

8. Identify different learning styles, evaluate which learning styles are most effective for their academic success, and develop personal strategies for learning that take into account their preferred learning styles.
9. Examine common college-student choices and relate them to their academic and personal circumstances.

Special Needs

If you have a special need (a physical or learning disability) that requires special assistance, please let your professor know during the first week of class. We will work with the SDRC (Student Disability Resource Center) to meet your needs.

Agreement with Syllabus

By remaining a student in this class, you agree to this contract (syllabus). Please contact me with any questions.

Classroom Decorum

As a member of the University community you are expected to treat faculty, staff and other students with respect. You are expected to be engaged in the class discussions. It is disrespectful for you to sleep, read a newspaper or book, or to work on another course project during scheduled class time. If you do so, we will ask you to leave. During discussions, if you disagree with an issue, you may express your disagreement but you may not attack the person expressing the opinions.

Georgia Southern University Honor Code and Honor Pledge

"I will be academically honest in all of my course work and will not tolerate the academic dishonesty of others."

The Georgia Southern University Honor Code was proposed and jointly adopted by the Student Government Association and the Faculty Senate in 1998 to enhance the University's academic integrity standards.

"On my honor, I will be academically honest in all of my course work and will not tolerate the academic dishonesty of others. I also pledge to engage in ethical behavior on-campus and off-campus, to live an honorable lifestyle, and to create a campus environment that is characterized by individual responsibility, civility, and integrity."

Georgia Southern University Campus Honor Pledge, an expansion of the Honor Code, approved by the Student Government Association in Spring 2006

Understand that we will treat cases of academic dishonesty seriously.

E-mail

E-mail is an official means of communication from the University. You are required to use your Georgia Southern e-mail address when submitting assignments or requesting assistance. It is your responsibility to check your Georgia Southern e-mail address regularly and open e-mails the University sends. It is not an excuse to say you did not receive the e-mail in time because



you do not check your account. Although we will use WebCT extensively, when emailing us, use the Georgia Southern email address, not the email function in WebCT.

Attendance and Participation

The nature of this class makes participation essential. There are no excused absences; an absence is an absence, regardless the reason. You may miss two class meetings without penalty (although any assignment due in class should be turned in early to avoid penalty). For a third, fourth and fifth absence, you will lose ½ letter grade for each absence. **Missing more than five classes will result in failure.** If you become seriously ill or have a family emergency, it is your responsibility to communicate with Barbara or Mackenzie as soon as you are able, preferably before class. We reserve the right to require documentation.

Grades

WebCT Vista Modules	
Your Academic Future	100
Time Management	100
Georgia Southern: Past & Present	100
One of your choice	100
Blog Entries (8 @ 50 pts each)	400
Final Exam	100
Participation	<u>100</u>
	1000 points total

Blog Entries

For each of the eight assignments, you'll create a 250-word (minimum) blog posting after a class discussion, reading assignment or participating in a specific event.

Four of your blog postings will relate to involve attending specific campus events. You'll receive a "proof of attendance" for each; submit these to Mackenzie during the class following the event. Specifically, you'll attend:

- Three FYE Success Series Events: The Sex Signals and Jumpstart Your Personal Finances presentations are required; you may [choose one of the remaining four events](#) to attend.
- One student organization meeting of your choice: This must be organized by an officially-recognized student group, not a University department.

WebCT Vista Modules

The balance of the orientation assessment is comprised of four WebCT Vista Modules that contain a combination of reflection exercises, quizzes and other assignments. Required modules are Your Academic Future, Time Management, and Georgia Southern: Past and Present. The fourth module can be one of your choice.

Tentative Schedule of Class Meetings and Assignments

DATE	TOPICS	ASSIGNMENT(S)
WEEK 1 (Aug. 18, 20)	Welcome to Making Connections Syllabus Scavenger Hunt What is Social Media?	
WEEK 2 (Aug. 25, 27)	WebCT Vista 101 Success Series: Sex Signals (8-26 or 8-27)	Response to BBN blog post
WEEK 3 (Sept. 3)	Facebook 201 Classroom Success Strategies	
WEEK 4 (Sept. 8, 10)	Blogging 101 Twitter 101 Social Bookmarking 101	48 Hours of Twitter
WEEK 5 (Sept. 15, 17)	Academic Advising Success Series: Jumpstart Your Personal Finances (9-15 or 9-16)	Blog post
WEEK 6 (Sept. 22, 24)	Library Skills Cite Sources: Avoid Plagiarism	
WEEK 7 (Sept. 29, Oct. 1)	Time Management Cheap Dates Getting Involved on Campus	Blog post
WEEK 8 (Oct. 6, 8)	Politics & Social Media	
WEEK 9 (Oct. 13, 15)	Learning Styles GSU Botanical Garden Field Trip (10-15)	Blog post
WEEK 10 (Oct. 20, 22)	Podcasts 101 Your Personal Brand	
WEEK 11 (Oct. 27, 29)	Diversity Matters	Blog post
WEEK 12 (Nov. 3, 5)	Digital Photography 101 Flickr 101	
WEEK 13 (Nov. 10, 13)	Resume Writing Job Interviewing LinkedIn 101	
WEEK 14 (Nov. 17, 19)	Ropes Course at CRI	Blog post
WEEK 15 (Nov. 24, 26)	Thanksgiving Holidays	
WEEK 16 (Dec. 1, 3)	Evaluations / Wrap Up	Blog post
FINAL EXAM	Complete your final exam in WebCT Vista before 5:00 PM on Monday, Dec. 8	

NOTE: The above schedule and procedures are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances. When possible, you will be provided at least one class day of advance notice of any changes. It's always smart to check your e-mail before coming to class each day.

