AGRI 180

University Experience
Course Requirements and Outline
Fall 2017

Instructor Information:

Instructor: Alyssa Schager, M.A.
Contact Info: Plumas Hall 321
aschager@csuchico.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday: 11:00AM-2:00 PM
By appointment as needed
*NOTE: The instructor will make all efforts to respond to class correspondence between 8 am and 5 pm, Monday through Friday. Due to outside obligations, instructor may not be able to respond in the evenings or over the weekend.

Course Objectives:

Students will develop an understanding of the university life and what it takes to be successful at California State University, Chico and in life after college.

Course Meeting Time:

Lecture – Section 01: Monday 11:00 AM-11:50 AM; Holt 268
Section 02: Monday 12:00 PM – 12:50 PM; Plumas 205
Section 03: Monday 1:00 PM – 1:50 PM; Plumas 205

Required Material:

Blackboard Learn Access – a good understanding of the learning management system used on our campus is imperative for student success. As a result, this course requires students to utilize Blackboard Learn heavily!

Computer Use:

- All communication for this course will be conducted via Blackboard Learn. This includes email communications and course announcements. It is the student’s responsibility to check Blackboard Learn regularly for any announcements regarding the course.

- There will be weekly information available on Blackboard Learn – it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to complete this component of the course!

- Computer use is required for this class.
Grading:
This course is a 1-unit student success course required for students majoring in Agriculture, Agricultural Business or Animal Science. The grading for this course is Credit/No Credit. You must earn **at least 75% of the possible points to receive credit** for this course!

- **Attendance:** 30% of grade
- **Homework/Assignments:** 50% of grade
- **Quizzes & Final Exam:** 20% of grade

Assignments and Activities:

**ATTENDANCE (30% OF GRADE):**
By enrolling in this course, you are committing to regular attendance! **Three or more unexcused absences will result in a NO CREDIT grade.** If your cell phone goes off in class or you are using it for any reason, you will be dismissed from class for the day and receive an unexcused absence.

**FACEBOOK OFFICE HOURS**
We will be hosting “Facebook” office hours. If you are having trouble finding the time to come to regular office hours, post a question on our Facebook page. The page is a “closed group” and you will need to “ask to join” the group.
- The group name is AGRI 180 – search for it on Facebook.
- This page will be moderated by Ms. Schager and Dr. Clements.

This is not required; this is just an alternative way to ask questions and seek assistance/clarity on course content (and it is faster response time than BB Learn!)

**HOMEWORKS/ASSIGNMENTS (50% OF GRADE):**
You will have several exercises throughout the duration of this course – all assignments will be due on **Sundays by 5pm.** Assignments will be posted on BB Learn and be due via BB Learn – so pay attention to all assignment instructions. No late assignments will be accepted (see Course Policies).

**NOTE:** **Part of college is accepting responsibility for due dates – therefore you may not be receiving reminders of assignments due – so pay attention! No late assignments will be accepted.**

- Academic Advisor Scavenger Hunt (Week 1)
- Attend and sign in at College of Agriculture Ice Cream Social (Week 2)
- Quizzes (online via BB Learn – Weeks 4 & 12)
- **Academic Planning Assignments (Weeks 5-7):** over the course of these three weeks you will have three assignments that will help you build your Chico State Academic Plan and choose classes for Spring 2018 (including alternates).
- **Research/References (Week 8):** you will find five “peer-reviewed” articles using the library resources you have learned about. Students are free to select their topics, must be related to agriculture. Students are required to submit a Literature Cited section using APA format.
- Scholarship Application (Week 9): students are required to complete the essay question component of the College of Agriculture Scholarship Application (it will be easy to submit after this!).
• True Colors (Week 10): students are required to print the quiz, complete the quiz, participate in class, and asked to complete an assignment utilize specific “color” personality traits in potential workplace situations.

• Progress Report (Week 10): students will submit up-to-date progress report of all of their class grades.

• Career Aptitude Test (Week 11): students will take test and submit results and reflection.

• Career Interest Assessment (Week 13): students will explore specific careers of interest to them.

• Resume (Week 15): after all the career planning and showcases, time to put together a working, college resume!

• College of Ag Club Write Up (Week 16): students can attend club meeting anytime during semester, but reflection is due at the end of the semester.

QUizzes/Final Exam (20% Of Grade):
There are two quizzes and a comprehensive final exam at the end of the semester. All will be available on BB Learn and may be multiple choice, true/false, short answer or fill-in –the-blank. Instructors reserve the right to give “pop” quizzes at their discretion!

Course Policies:

• RESPECT: Students in this class are encouraged to speak up and participate during class meetings. Because the class will represent a diversity of individual beliefs, backgrounds, and experiences, every member of this class must show respect for every other member of this class. (Reference: http://www.csuchico.edu/diversity/)

• Treat all communications with the instructor as a professional business exchange that includes salutations and signatures. Emails that are not professionally composed (i.e., use textspeak) or ask questions that can be answered from reading the syllabus will not be returned and answered.

• Realize you are preparing for your future. Your attitude and effort will carry you further than your academic abilities. Know that all 3 of these combined (attitude, effort, ability) will define the individual you will become. Your professors are only here to guide you; it’s up to you to learn the course material.

• Read and follow directions. You have a syllabus which has due dates, use it. Periodically, during lecture, other assignments can be assigned at the instructor’s discretion.

• Attend class. The instructor has little patience for absenteeism.

• NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED!

• No make-up exams/quizzes will be allowed, EXCEPT FOR ABSENCES THAT HAVE BEEN CLEARED BY THE INSTRUCTOR PRIOR TO THE ABSENCE!

• For school-related activities, a letter from the supporting faculty/instructor is required prior to the absence.

• Remember – you earn grades, professors merely assign them!

• Instructors have the right to teach, and students have the right to learn! Anything that hinders these rights will not be tolerated.

• Cell phones, iPods, iPhone, Droid, BlackJack, Treo, BlackBerry, Kindle, MP3 players, Walkmans (for the few of us who still have them), and all other electronic devices and earpieces (with the exception of calculators and educationally-approved assistance devices)
must be turned off and put away during class. **Respect your fellow students and turn your phone off!**

- **Students who receive a phone call or use a cell phone (e.g., emailing, browsing, talking or texting) will be dismissed from class or lab for the remainder of the day with no make-up work allowed. If this is during an exam, the student will be immediately dismissed and will earn a 0 grade on the exam.**

- The class follows the standards set in the **Code of Students Rights and Responsibilities (Executive Memorandum, EM 96-38)** and students are subject to disciplinary action for violation of that code.

- It is **YOUR** responsibility to obtain any information announced in class.

- You will have a one-week period following the return of any exams, quizzes, or assignments to resolve any questions regarding the grading. After that time period, all grades are final.

- You should retain all graded items until a final course grade is assigned.

- If there is evidence that you have been involved in any form of academic dishonesty, you will receive an “F” grade for the course, be locked from BB Learn, and a report will be provided to the **Student Judicial Affairs** for further action.

**Accessibility**

Americans with Disabilities Act: If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with the instructor as soon as possible or come in to office hours! Please also contact Accessibility Resource Center (ARC) as they are the designated department responsible for approving and coordinating reasonable accommodations and services for students with disabilities. ARC will help you to understand your rights and responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act and provide you further assistance with requesting and arranging accommodations.

**Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to be familiar with the University’s Academic Integrity Policy. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at California State University, Chico, and the University’s Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. The policy on academic integrity and other resources related to student conduct can be found at **Student Judicial Affairs**.

**Philosophical Statement – Academic Rigor**

Academic rigor consists of dedication on the part of students and faculty to the pursuit of academic excellence, including discipline of mind and disciplined behavior, intellectual honesty, decorum and civility. It is exemplified by the attainment of the highest standards as defined by and in each discipline. It also includes transmitting, sustaining, evaluating, and enhancing the continuity of recognized intellectual achievements in each discipline. A passion for learning and high expectations should pervade the atmosphere of the University. The quality of education and the degrees and certificates offered by the University will only have value insofar as the administration, faculty, and students view themselves as custodians of the University’s reputation.

**Expectations of Faculty**

- Demonstrate high expectations of the course through a demanding syllabus, well-prepared classes, staying current through research and professional activities.

- Offer conscientious advising and predictable availability.

- Fully involve students in the learning experience by providing prompt, frequent feedback and developing rigorous testing methods.
• Develop approaches and strategies geared to diverse talents and ways of learning, while maintaining high standards of accountability.
• Seek to eliminate opportunities to engage in academic dishonesty.
• Actively contribute to their disciplines.

**Expectations of Students**

• Set high personal standards, develop a strong sense of purpose, come to class well-prepared, and complete assignments on time.
• Make the most of faculty advising and mentoring.
• Treat fellow students and the classroom environment with complete respect; give each class full attention and participation; do not miss class, arrive late, or leave early.
• Accept responsibility for learning and grades earned.
• Approach each class in a professional manner.
• Recognize that a full-course load is equivalent to full time work and spend no less time on it.
• Demonstrate complete honesty and integrity.

**Required Technology Expectations**

In this course, whether you attend live in-person, online synchronously, or online asynchronously, you will be expected to demonstrate technical competency in several areas. These are 21st Century Skills. You often have to learn something new, on-the-fly. So, it is best that you learn these skills sooner than later.

If at any time you are experiencing technical difficulties, you should contact the professor or ITSS. **NOTE:** Your professor is **NOT** responsible for solving any technical problems that you experience, but they may be able to help.

During this course you may be expected to:

• Use the text editor in Blackboard (or elsewhere; e.g., discussion board, blog, short-answer essay question)
• Attach, open, or create pdf documents
• Use email professionally (i.e., use proper tone, respond promptly, etc.)
• Watch an online video using a variety of video players (e.g., Quickime, YouTube. etc.)
• Create and post your own web video
• Use your mobile phone to send text messages and/ or send a text vote
• Take an online, traditional assessment (i.e., quiz, test)
• Submit assignments via Blackboard
• Take a screen shot
• Embed an image in a text document
• Edit an image using software such as Paint
• Use chat applications-- both text and video
• Use Meriam Library's ReSearch Station to find primary and secondary sources electronically
• Use database software (e.g., Microsoft Excel, SPSS)
• Use Google Apps (i.e., Google Maps, Drive, Google Docs, Spreadsheets, Slides)

**HINT:** If you are experiencing issues with software used (e.g., video players, Adobe, Java), you are encouraged to update the software, try another Internet browser (e.g., Firefox, Google Chrome, Internet Explore, Safari), and/or restart your computer.
## Schedule (any changes will be clearly communicated):

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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| 1 – August 21/23   | **Topic:** Introduction/Course Expectations  
Assignment: Academic Advisor Scavenger Hunt (Sunday 5 PM) |
| 2 – August 28/30   | **Topic:** Guide to Being Safe in Chico & Health Center Resources  
Assignment: Attend Ice Cream Social & Check In (Tuesday, September 5 @5:30 pm) |
| 3 – September 4/6  | **Topic:** No Lecture  
Assignment: None 😊 |
| 4 – September 11/13| **Topic:** Professional Communications/Life Skills  
Assignment: Written “Ticket” Out the Door (due at end of class)  
ONLINE QUIZ |
| 5 – September 18/20| **Topic:** Academic Planning Part 1 (GE)  
Assignment: GE Assignment (Sunday 5 PM) |
| 6 – September 25/27| **Topic:** Academic Planning Part 2 (Major)  
Assignment: Major Assignment (Sunday 5 PM) |
| 7 – October 2/4    | **Topic:** Academic Planning Part 3 (Work Day)  
Assignment: Final 2/4 year Plan Due (Sunday 5 PM) |
| 8 – October 9/11   | **Topic:** Library Resources/Academic Integrity  
Assignment: Research/Reference Assignment (Sunday 5 PM) |
| 9 – October 16/18  | **Topic:** Scholarships/Financial Aid/Financial Planning  
Assignment: COA Scholarship Applications (Sunday 5 PM) |
| 10 – October 23/25 | **Topic:** Self-Exploration Assessment and Activity  
Assignment: Participation/Written Summary AND Progress Report (Sunday 5 PM) |
| 11 – October 30/November 1 | **Topic:** Faculty Showcase/Possible Careers within Majors  
Assignment: Career Aptitude Test |
| 12 – November 6/8  | **Topic:** Alumni Showcase – What Are Employers Looking For?  
Assignment: ONLINE QUIZ |
| 13 – November 13/15| **Topic:** Career Planning/Overview  
Assignment: Career Assessment |
| 14 – November 20/22| Thanksgiving Break 😊 |
| 15 – November 27/29| **Topic:** Career Center  
Assignment: Resume (Sunday 5 PM) |
| 16 – December 4/6  | **Topic:** Professional Social Networking/Wrap Up  
Assignment: College of Ag Club Write Up (Sunday 5 PM) |
| 17 – Finals  
(December 11-15) | ONLINE FINAL |
**Netiquette:**

Regular “attendance” and class participation are required. They are essential in creating a positive classroom culture—even online. All students are expected to engage in online discussions, participate in group activities, and complete assignments on time. For an absence to be considered excused a student must appropriately document the absence. Acceptable documentation includes (but is not limited to) a signed doctor’s note, a funeral/memorial pamphlet, or pre-arranged University sponsored event (e.g., sporting meet, music tour). Any course work and announcements missed by an absence is the responsibility of the student. Any course work missed by an absence will not be accepted unless accompanied by acceptable documentation of absence.

“Netiquette” means “Internet Etiquette” and is required for success in this course and beyond. To ensure appropriate netiquette in this online course several ground rules must be established.

- First, in this online course it is possible to be “absent” and “tardy” as described in the previous paragraph. This course requires participation and interaction. If you do not participate in group discussions, activities, and papers, you are affecting the whole class, your group, and yourself. So, if you are “absent” or “tardy” from a discussion, etc., it is unfair to your classmates for their grades to be affected negatively. As a result, you individually will be held accountable for such an absence or tardy.

- Second, it is important to understand that online discussions are asynchronous—meaning that rarely do discussions occur in a ‘chat’ format and people are depending on you to post responses in a timely manner. This means two things: be prompt and be patient. Try to answer all questions and respond to all posting as soon as it is feasible. However, also be patient in that not all students in the class can immediately respond to your postings and emails.

- Third, it is also important to understand that it is difficult to convey tone with online communication including emails and discussion postings. Please take time to review and edit anything you post or send in this course to make sure that it conveys the content you want to convey in the manner you wish to convey it. Be careful with the use of emoticons. I encourage their use to convey meaning, but such symbols can also be interpreted the wrong way. For example, a “winking” emoticon ; ) can convey different meanings to different people (i.e., happiness, cuteness, or sarcasm).

- Fourth, because it is difficult to understand the tone of another student’s posting, do not assume that you always understand what another person posted—especially if it could be construed in a negative way. When in doubt please ask for clarification.

- Fifth, to promote a positive learning environment, personal attacks (i.e., flames/flaming, bashing, hate speech, etc.) against any person or groups of people will NOT be tolerated and may result in suspension from the class or from the University. Legal action could be taken against hate speech. Everyone in this course is a unique person and must be respected as such. Personal attacks tend to occur when communication is incognito. For this reason, students are required to post an appropriate face picture (see Intro Module for details). If you do disagree with something that someone posts, it is best to state your argument as disagreeing with the point of view and state the point of view, do not attack the person who stated the point of view (e.g., write “I disagree with the idea that [state idea]....” instead of saying “I disagree with [name of person]).

- Sixth, many of the projects in this class require cooperative learning, group collaboration, and group work. It may be difficult to come to consensus on how to complete a project. For this reason we will employ democratic principles for such projects. There are handouts and
guidelines specific to these assignments. This profession requires collaboration. If collaboration is not your “cup of tea,” I suggest that you consider professions other than education.

- Seventh, as with all Blackboard courses, I can view all your online work including how much time you spend on a project or view a lesson. This is not meant to be intimidating from a “Big Brother” perspective, but rather an open and honest declaration that I can monitor your progress. Also, I can use the data to corroborate any claim that you as a student are or are not participating in course work online.

Practice professional conduct. Promptness, personal dress, general demeanor, and your ability to interact positively with colleagues, instructors, school personnel, as well as with your pupils and their families will be valued throughout this program. Also as a teacher, it is expected that you can communicate clearly and accurately. As you adopt this emerging professional role, keep in mind that you are also becoming an ambassador to our profession.

In all credential course work, it is expected that for every one hour of contact time, you will complete approximately one to two hours of work outside of class. Please plan accordingly. If you find yourself falling behind, see me immediately for assistance.

“How to Succeed in College 101”

By Carrie Whitcher Monlux and Friends
Modified by Celina Phillips

Sometimes students fall into that false sense of security that the relationship between themselves and their university instructors/professors falls into the same line as those with their close friends. Remember, your professors are not your friends (not yet), they are your instructors, coaches, and people who will (or not) write letters of recommendation for you in the future based on your class performance, professionalism, attitude, and attendance.

An email, phone message, or other means of communication to a university staff or faculty member should be treated as an official message that should be taken seriously. Spelling, grammar, punctuation, and style are all observed by the reader and poorly written or spoken messages are not acceptable. Act professional and proud when working with other professionals if you want to be taken seriously.

Your actions in class and lab also leave a lasting impression. Are you constantly late to class with no good reason? Do you always seem to have an excuse for everything? Do you procrastinate and then run out of time for your homework? Do you wish you could perform better on tests and major assignments?

Here are a few items myself and my colleagues have noticed over the past several years of teaching at the college level.

1. Unless the instructor tells you to call her/him by a first name, use a professional salutation or greeting:

   Dear Dr. Snottinoz, (or Professor Snottinoz, if you don’t know if he/she has earned a PhD). Please check to see if you spelled the instructor’s name correctly. If you take the time to capitalize your name, do the same to the instructor’s name. Use of Ms. or Mr. is appropriate if the instructor doesn’t have a PhD.

2. Tell the instructor who you are (full name) and your section number in every communication (email subject heading, phone message, note on office door/faculty mailbox, etc.). We can’t tell who you are from an AOL or hotmail email account name or your initials.
3. Speaking of non-CSUC email accounts, does your email account sound professional? wildcathottie21@domaindotcom or bigstrongboy23@domaindotnet probably won’t be taken very seriously by most instructors and eventually, human resource professionals.

4. Do not use text messaging abbreviations in your communications and use of “get back to me ASAP” is considered rude. We try our best to read emails but aren’t sitting at the computer 24/7 waiting for your messages.

5. Spell check and proofread your email. You are a student at a state university and your actions, attitude, and performance will decide whether you receive letters of recommendation from your professors. Not the best writer? Get help from the University Writing Center!

6. Only compose an email after you have thoroughly read the syllabus and know the class rules and due dates. Don’t try to negotiate the due dates; in my class, they are set in stone. Have you tried posting your question with the online discussion tool? Usually one of your classmates can help you before the instructor can get back to you.

7. Remember the syllabus is a contract between you and the instructor. This is what she/he will provide to you during the semester and what she/he expects from you and your performance in return. If you can’t or aren’t willing to abide by the class policies and assignments, you should seriously consider finding another class.

8. Don’t send instructors jokes, funnies, or chain emails. Most of the time these are sent directly to our junk email file but if not, they end up there anyway. I won’t answer an email unless I know who it’s from and if that person is a student or colleague.

9. Some instructors don’t return emails over the weekend. Keep this in mind prior to an upcoming exam or large assignment. Many have families and lives outside of teaching, respect that.

10. Keep your feet on the floor and off the furniture. Respect the facilities at the farm. Don’t sit on fences or gates as that wears them down faster. If you must go over a gate, go on the hinged side.

11. Make it a point to come to class on time and don’t leave early.

12. Turn your technology off (unless the instructor tells you otherwise). Bring your class materials and a regular calculator to all class meetings. Be prepared so you don’t have to borrow from a classmate.

13. Do the assigned reading and homework as soon as you have free time. Expect 5-6 hours of study time for each class each week. Don’t procrastinate!

14. Clean up after yourself, put things back where they came from, and report broken tools and materials to your instructor immediately. They will put it aside so no one uses it and will either get it fixed or replaced.

15. Share tools and materials with classmates.

16. Say “please” and “thank you” to everyone who helps you. What goes around comes around and no one likes a slacker. Don’t be afraid to ask for help and be ready to give it in return.

17. Don’t even consider cheating in any class. Most instructors have been teaching a while and know most of the tricks from hidden notes on ball caps and pens to writing on body parts to electronic cheating. Don’t risk an F grade or removal from the university because you didn’t study!

18. Take 10-15 minutes after each lecture and lab to go through the notes. Did you miss anything? Are you unsure of a concept? Can’t read your notes? Write down any stories or examples that you know belong in
your notebook. This simple weekly study technique has helped thousands of students increase their grades without last minute cramming, late-night study sessions, and random memorization.

19. Go to the instructor’s office hours to clarify notes or parts of the lecture you did not understand. That’s what the instructor is there for and they want you to succeed. Maybe you just need to hear a concept in another way or need to know how it relates to your major or real life. That’s their job, just ask!

20. Remember that advice is free; you don’t have to take it. Be smart and safe, remember the Golden Rule and do your best. Hindsight is always 20-20, so keep your head up now before it’s too late to change your performance.