

**Kingsborough Community College  
The City University of New York**

**Syllabus - Spring 2019**

**SD 12: Strategies for College Success- 1 credit, 1 hour**

**Course Coordinators: Marisa Joseph and Ted Timmins**

**Course Lecturer: Gabriela Dekki**

**Catalog Description:** This course is designed to help high school students recognize the typical problems encountered in college and the strategies to overcome difficulties. The Student Development 12 class is a performance-based approach, which emphasizes not only understanding, but also how to make appropriate changes in academic behavior.

**College Now Description:** This course helps students learn how to assess their personal academic strengths and weaknesses, and to examine internal and external barriers to academic success, as well as general life difficulties.

**SD 12 Core Competencies:**

- Self-Assessment
- Decision Making
- Communication Skills
- Goal Setting
- Cultural Competence
- Independence
- College Resources
- Learning Styles
- Study Skills
- Time Management
- Research Skills
- Utilization of Technology

**Course Objective:**

This course enables students having academic difficulties to explore and develop the cognitive, emotional and behavioral skills necessary to achieve college success. Students will be provided with tools to understand potential academic problems, study-skill deficits, time management techniques, awareness of varied learning styles, relating critical thinking to student development, and establishing career goals. Instructors will also enable students to develop meaningful and realistic educational and career goals.

**Topical Course Outline:** The above core competencies and objectives will be achieved by addressing the following content areas: Overview of the course, self-assessment, decision-making and goal setting, planning for the future, and other important skills for college success. These topics, described below under course outline, are seen as essential to the SD 12 curriculum and thus coverage of these areas is required. In addition to the required topics, optional topics to be considered, as time permits, based on needs and interest of the particular group of students, may include:

### **Session I: Introduction to SD 12**

- Icebreaker exercise to enhance student comfort level.
- Class Discussion - Typical problems encountered in college.

### **Session II: External Barriers to College Success**

- Environmental reasons: Financial pressures, employment, child-care.
- Introduction of idea/thought that people vary in their attitudes, beliefs, cognitions, and emotions regarding the same set of external circumstances.

### **Session III: Internal Barriers to College Success**

- Lack of motivation vs. Acquiring motivation.
- Lack of confidence vs. Becoming a confident student.
- Focusing on negative thoughts vs. learning to let thoughts go.

### **Session IV: College Readiness**

- Assessment of academic background (HS diploma vs. GED).
- First generation student vs. other family members in college.
- Pressure to succeed in college vs. societal pressure to obtain employment.
- Assertive students vs. Passive students.

### **Session V: Additional College Survival Skills**

- Learning styles and styles of teaching.
- Managing test anxiety.
- Acceptance of personal responsibility for success in college.
- Utilizing college resources (e.g., tutoring, library, counseling).
- Personal transition from high school to college.
- College Life/Roommates/Friends.
- Becoming a confident student.

### **Session VI: Evaluation and Final Examination**

- Integration of the course concepts, discussion of current plans for college, and reactions to course.
- Final exam.
- College Now exit survey.

**Methods of Teaching:** These sessions will be conducted in small groups led by a counselor utilizing exercises, assignments, experiential activities, role-playing and discussion. When appropriate, the instructor will utilize lecture mode.

**Method of Evaluation:** Students will be evaluated in terms of class work, written work, and a final examination. Attendance is crucial.

**Textbook:** Fraser, L. Making Your Mark. LDF Publishing, 9th Ed., 2009 (Canada) ISBN: 978-097352298-3-8

**Resource Materials:** Instructors' resource manual is the *SD 10 College Now Teaching Guide* prepared by Dr. Estelle Miller, Department of Student Development, 2000. This manual provides suggested teaching materials and sample assignments.

**Required Reading:** (available in KCC library)

### 1. Effective Study and Test-Taking Techniques (select 1 or more)

Gerow, Joshua R. and R. Douglas Lying. How to Succeed in College; a Student Guidebook. New York: Scribner, 1985, LB2395.G45.

Johnson, Marcia K. How to Succeed in College. Los Altos, Ca.: W. Kaufman, 1982, LB3605.J54.

Norman, Maxwell H., and Enid S. Kass Norman. How to Read and Study for Success in College. New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1981, LB2395.N59.

Pauk, Walter. How to Study in College. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1983, LB2395.P3.

Semones, James K. Effective Study Skills: A Step-By-Step System for Achieving Student Success. Fort Worth, Tx: Harcourt & Brace Jovanovich, 1991, LB1049.546

### 2. College Guides

Lovejoy's College Guide, Edited by Straughn II & Straughn NY: MacMillan, 1995, Ref. LA226-L6

Cass & Birnbaum's Guide to American Colleges. NY: Harper Perennial, 1994, Ref. L901.C819

The College Handbook. NY: CEEB, 1990, Ref. LB2351.A1C6.

## **Websites**

1. <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cool>
2. <http://www.collegeknowledge.com>
3. <http://www.chow.com>
4. <http://www.uri.edu/ribog/col-prep.htm>
5. <http://www.consortium.org>
6. <http://www.collegeboard.org>
7. <http://www.collegeview.com>
8. <http://www.collegelink.com>
9. <http://www.collegenet.com>B-Financial Aid
10. <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/fsa/index.html>
11. <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>
12. <http://studentservices.com/fastweb>
13. <http://www.finaid.org>
14. <http://salliemae.com>
15. <http://www.monster.com>
16. <http://cweb.com>
17. <http://www.xap.com>
18. <http://www.cpnet.com>
19. <http://www.nces.ed.gov>
20. <http://www.wiredscholar.com>