In the Name of God

Study Skills (BA Program, Fall 2023)

Venue: Room 125, Faculty of Persian Literature and Foreign Languages, Semnan University (Iran)

Meeting time: Mondays (5-7 pm)

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Description

This course aims to help you develop and improve your study and learning skills at university by encouraging you to think more deeply about your own approaches and learn techniques that can help you generate new and effective ways of learning. You will read about different themes and aspects of effective study skills and be guided to practice a range of useful study-supportive habits. From *Week 10* onwards, you will be guided as a freshman to think seriously about the English literature. In this vein, you will learn about forms and genres as well as different movements and periods in the English literature. Finally, you will be provided with some preliminary information about theories and research in literature.

Course requirements

1. Careful reading of the assigned materials and doing the exercises BEFORE each session
2. Active participation in *both* class and workshop sessions
3. Punctuality: Students who are absent in more than THREE sessions (or, in rare cases, 4 sessions) will be automatically dropped from the course.

Grading policy

Active participation in class and workshop sessions: 10 %

Oral presentations: 20 %

Final examination: 70 %

References

Moore, S., Neville, C., & Murphy, M. (2010). *The ultimate study skills handbook*. McGraw-Hill Education.

Rainsford, D. (2014). *Studying literature in English: An introduction*. Routledge.

Weekly schedule

Week 1: Orientation to the BA program in English language and literature + Introduction to the course

Week 2: Getting into it: Becoming an active, creative learner (Chapter 1, Moore et al., 2010)

Week 3: Talking to the experts: Useful orientations for interacting with expert professors, tutors and lecturers (Chapter 2, Moore et al., 2010)

A two-hour visit to the Central Library of Semnan University

Week 4: Style matters: Techniques to suit your own learning style (Chapter 3, Moore et al., 2010)

Week 5: Taking it in and working it out: Ideas for reading, listening, making notes and critically thinking about information (Chapter 4, Moore et al., 2010)

A two-hour workshop on how to use

Oxford Collocations Dictionary, Oxford Thesaurus dictionary, and Longman Advanced Dictionary

Week 6: Getting it on paper: Learning the skills for confident academic writing (Chapter 6, Moore et al., 2010) and Learning the rules: Punctuation, spelling, accurate referencing and avoiding plagiarism (Chapter 7, Moore et al., 2010)

Week 7: The time of your life: Managing time and living life as a student (Chapter 8, Moore et al., 2010)

Week 8: Learning with others: Working and learning in groups (Chapter 9, Moore et al., 2010) and Presenting in front of a crowd: Learning to present your work in public (Chapter 10, Moore et al., 2010)

Week 9: Keeping it together: Managing stress, staying in control and being ready for exams (Chapter 11, Moore et al., 2010) and Facing the future and making decisions: Planning for and focusing on the rest of your life (Chapter 13, Moore et al., 2010)

Week 10: Part I of Rainsford (2014) [Beginnings]: Good Morrow (Chapter 1), What is literature and who does it belong to? (Chapter 2), and Canons (Chapter 3)

Weeks 11-12: Part II of Rainsford (2014) [Form and genre]: Poetry (Chapter 4), The thing which is not (Chapter 5), Prose fiction (Chapter 6), and Plays and films (Chapter 7)

Weeks 13-14: Part III of Rainsford (2014) [Periods and movements]: Medieval and early modern (Chapter 8), From Colonial America and Restoration England to 1900 (Chapter 9), From 1900 to the present (Chapter 10)

Week 15: Part IV of Rainsford (2014) [Positions, identities, and ideas]: The place of literature (Chapter 10) and Literary theory (Chapter 12)

Week 16: Primary and secondary sources (Chapter 13) and Reading, research, and writing (Chapter 14)