

**HUM 191: First-Year Transition**  
**Fall 2016**  
**Section 03: Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m.-12:20 p.m., SE 221**  
**Section 06: Tuesdays, 4:00-4:50 p.m., SE 226**

**Professor:** Dr. Kim Lacey (please, call me Kim!)

**In-person office hours:** Tu/Th 8:30-9:30 am; 2:30-3:30 pm  
and by appointment

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**Course Description:** This course introduces students to the university culture and helps them develop the skills to be successful. HUM 191 is a course intended to help in the development of student success skills, such as reading, writing and speaking. It is also intended to help students gain intellectual self-confidence and to provide assistance in making the transition to the University. To accomplish this task, students are expected to spend two hours a week studying and preparing for the class, in addition to attending every scheduled class. This is a hands-on class where instruction will include engaged lecture, discussion groups, critical thinking, reflection, reading, and a few writing assignments.

**Course Texts:**

A Mind for Numbers: How to Excel at Math and Science (Even if You Flunked Algebra) by Barbara Oakley (ISBN: 978-0-399-16524-5)

I do not mind if you use e-books or used copies—however you prefer to access the material is fine by me.

There will also be some readings posted on Canvas. If you like to print these out make sure you budget some of your print balance for our course.

*How can I get the most out of the reading assignments for this and other classes I am taking?*

- Do not wait until the night before an assignment is due to read.
- Spread your readings out over the week so that you read one to two chapters/articles/sections a day.
- As you read, continually compare the readings to your own experiences or those you have observed of others.
- Take reading notes and bring them to class with you.
- Try to summarize the readings into one or two sentences.
- Write down any questions you have, so you can ask your instructor about them.
- Talk to someone else about the readings. Think about what you have read and learned!

**Assignments:**

All assignment descriptions are located on Canvas (“Assignments” tab) and will be discussed in class.

Assignments 1-12: 60% (5% each)

Assignment 13: 25%

Attendance and Participation: 15%

*How can I do well on my assignments?*

- Turn in high quality work.
- If you need help please see me, or go to the Center for Academic Achievement or the Writing Center.

- Organize your thoughts before you begin writing. Think about what is being asked. Be sure to take assignments seriously.
- Grading will be based on content, organization, grammar, style and balance, as well as critical thinking.

### **Learning Outcomes<sup>1</sup>**

By the end of the semester, you should feel confident in the following areas:

#### *Transition*

- Demonstrating self-reliance and self-direction.
- Defining the purpose of your university studies. This is a bit different than identifying your major.
- Identifying a change between high school and college in the academic, social and interpersonal realms.

#### *Navigating the System*

- Understanding how to navigate academic and non-academic resources.
- Understanding academic roles and relationships.

#### *Goal Setting*

- Demonstrating an awareness of goal setting processes by establishing a goal for the academic year.
- You will be able to: a) articulate a vision of your self-management behaviors and skills post freshman year; b) establish goals; c) plan objectives; d) implement action plans; and e) communicate the above to others.
- Assessing your progress toward your stated goal and develop appropriate steps in order to achieve it.

#### *Decision Making*

- Identifying and analyze the values that give meaning to your lives and the role those values play in establishing their behavior patterns.
- Recognizing ethical dilemmas and demonstrate the capacity to analyze and resolve them effectively.
- Comprehending effective problem-solving strategies and resources and apply them to routine and unique situations.

#### *The Educated Person*

- Discussing how the concepts of knowledge and inquiry contribute to your becoming educated.
- Demonstrating an awareness of your interconnectedness with the community (including basic ethical considerations) through a written, oral, or visual presentation or project.
- Articulating your vision of your future self through reflection on your academic and co-curricular experiences at SVSU.

**Course Policies:** The decision to take this course is yours, but once you make that decision, you have responsibilities to everyone else in this community of learners. It is your responsibility to abide by the following course policies in order contribute to our classroom's productivity.

**Attendance:** Attendance will be taken during each class meeting. Since this is a once a week class, you are allowed one excused absence. On your second absence, your grade will be reduced by one half of a grade. For example, if you had an A, on your second absence it would become an A-. On your third absence, your grade will be lowered by a full grade. For example, if you had an A-, on your third absence

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from UMass Dartmouth

it would become a B-. On your fourth absence, you will be asked to drop the class. It is in your best interest to attend class regularly. Use your excused absence wisely. Once it is gone, it is gone.

Attendance means much more than simply showing up to class. Attendance in HUM 191 means being present in class through active participation, sharing insightful ideas, completing homework (including assigned readings) and willingness to ask questions. Please find a classmate and exchange e-mail addresses. In case you miss class, it is your responsibility to contact a classmate to find out what you missed. My office hours will not be used as a “make-up” class period.

When a student arrives late to class, it distracts me and your classmates. Occasional lateness is understandable (we’re human, after all), but making it a habit is rude and unacceptable. Please arrive to class on time. If you know you will arrive more than 10 minutes after class begins, it is best not come to class that day.

**E-mail:** Check your e-mail daily. It’s the university’s official mode of communication, and there is no excuse why you shouldn’t check it often. You need to have internet access for this course. Our campus is wireless and many other locations off campus also have free Wi-Fi, so be sure to take advantage. If you are having difficulty connecting, make sure you call my office (989-964-2016). Not having access is not an excuse. When you contact me, please allow 24-48 hours for a reply.

**Grade Postings:** All grades will be posted on Canvas. I will not give grading info via social media.

**Technology Policy:** I encourage you to use whatever note taking system you prefer. If, however, you choose to use a personal computing device, you are asked that it be used for class work and not for homework for your other classes. Phones must be turned to silent during class time. If you are expecting an important phone call during class, please sit near the door so you can leave the room without disrupting others. I understand the need to feel connected, so cell phones are not banned in our class. However, you are required to be an active member of our learning community. Do not text or use social media during our class period. Be aware that I will call on people at random if the discussion is dead. If you are not prepared to participate because you are distracted, this may affect your final professionalism grade. There will be times when I ask that our class be a “screen free” zone.

**Late Work: Late work is unacceptable.** Please ensure that your work is submitted on time. The deadlines are clearly marked on all assignments and on the syllabus. If you know a due date conflicts with something outside of class, plan ahead and submit your assignment early. For all major papers, I will send a confirmation e-mail by 8 am the next morning informing you that I received your paper. If you do not receive a confirmation e-mail, I did not receive your paper.

**Disability and Non-Discrimination Clause:** Students with disabilities which may restrict their full participation in course activities are encouraged to meet with the instructor or contact the SVSU Office of Disability Services, Wickes 260, Phone: 989-964-4168. SVSU does not discriminate based on race, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, physical impairment, disability, or veteran status in the provision of education, employment, and other services.

**Academic Integrity Policy:** According to the *SVSU Student Handbook*, “Academic integrity is undermined whenever one is dishonest in the pursuit of knowledge. Dishonesty takes many forms, including cheating, plagiarism, and other activities for undermining the educational process. Forms of plagiarism include directly transcribing (copying) without quotation and attribution, summarizing without

attribution, paraphrasing or patchwork paraphrasing without attribution, patching electronic materials (including pictures, graphs, and/or charts) without attribution. In ENGL 080 deliberate plagiarism or cheating in any form will result in the grade of zero (0) for the entire assignment and will be reported to the Academic Conduct Board for further sanctions.

**Writing Center Information:** One of the many advantages of this University is the Writing Center. You are strongly encouraged to meet with a tutor to discuss your writing. Sessions at the Writing Center are available on a first come, first serve basis. Please stop by the Writing Center anytime you need additional help.

Writing Center Hours: M-R 9am-7pm; F 10am-2pm

Location: Zahnow 308 (3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the library)

Phone: 989-964-6061

Website: [www.svsu.edu/writingcenter](http://www.svsu.edu/writingcenter)

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### Course Calendar

All assignment descriptions are posted on Canvas and will be discussed in class.

Review = We'll discuss the completed assignment. Be sure to have access to your assignment (either in print or electronically).

Prepare for = We'll talk about how to get ready for the assignment

Any reading listed must be completed before class. Where noted, we will be discussing that assigned reading in class.

This calendar is subject to change. If that happens, you will be notified in-class and via e-mail.

Date	Readings, in-class activities, etc.	Assignment due
Tu, 8/30	Introductions Course Overview Prepare for Assignment #1: College Impressions Prepare for Assignment #2: Summary/Response	<i>All assignments listed in this column are due on Canvas no later than 11:59 p.m.</i> Assignment #1: College Impressions
Tu, 9/6	<i>No Class (Labor Day)</i>	
Tu, 9/13	Review Assignment #1: College Impressions Prepare for Assignment #3: Reading to Read	Assignment #2: Summary/Response
Tu, 9/20	A Mind for Numbers (AMFN): Ch. 8 (Tools, Tips, and Tricks) Prepare for Assignment #4: Data Collection and Analysis	Assignment #3: Reading to Read

Tu, 9/27	Prepare for Assignment #5: Navigating Campus Online	Assignment #4: Data Collection and Analysis
Tu, 10/4	Prepare for Assignment #6: Developing a Personal Code of Ethics	Assignment #5: Navigating Campus Online
Tu, 10/11	AMFN: Ch. 3 (Learning is Creating) Prepare for Assignment #7: Understanding Failure	Assignment #6: Developing a Personal Code of Ethics
Tu, 10/18	AMFN: Ch. 5 (Preventing Procrastination) Review Assignment #8: Developing a Personal Code of Ethics Prepare for Assignment #13: Poster Assignment	Assignment #7: Understanding Failure
Tu, 10/25	Review Assignment #7: Understanding Failure Prepare for Assignment #9: Stepping out of Your Comfort Zone	Assignment #8: Outline of Ideas for Poster Presentation
Tu, 11/1	No class: Use class time to "step out of your comfort zone!"	
Tu, 11/8	AMFN: Ch. 12 (Learning to Appreciate Your Talent) Prepare for Assignment #10: Maintaining Success	Assignment #9: Stepping out of Your Comfort Zone
Tu, 11/15	Prepare for Assignment #11: Finding Scholarships	Assignment #10: Maintaining Success
Tu, 11/22	Optional Conferences with Kim (if you'd like to meet with me with me about your Poster Presentation, I'll be in my office during our scheduled class time)	
Tu, 11/29	Review Assignment #10: Maintaining Success Prepare for Assignment #12: Looking Back	Assignment #11: Finding Scholarships
Tu, 12/6	AMFN: Ch. 15 (Renaissance Learning) Course Evaluations Last Day of Class	Assignment #12: Looking Back
Tu, 12/13	Poster Sessions	Assignment #13: Poster Presentation (Please note: this assignment is due in-person during our final exam period)