HONORS 2160-01
Scholars Development Seminar
Fall 2013

Instructor: Dr. Dodson
Office: Honors Program Building
Office Hours: MW 1:30-3:30; TR 11-1.
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Required Readings:

Course Description.
The Scholars Development Seminar prepares Honors students to apply for research programs, study abroad, competitive fellowships, internships, and graduate/professional school. We will cover such topics as essay preparation, research opportunities, study abroad, internships, interviewing skills, selection of graduate/professional schools, advisors/mentors, letters of recommendation, etc.

Course Outcomes

Learning Outcomes.
At the end of this course, students will:

1) be able to identify and investigate scholarships, fellowships or graduate/professional schools for which they are well suited to apply;
2) have developed self-knowledge and personal development through the acquisition of a better understanding of their own strengths, interests, career goals, and aspirations;
3) be able to develop a well-written, soundly argued and thoughtful personal statement and resumé;
4) have developed their verbal communication skills.

Core Curriculum Outcomes.
At the end of the course, students will developed their abilities in the following areas:

1) Critical Thinking – inquiry, analysis, and the evaluation and synthesis of information;
2) Communication – effective written, oral, and visual communication;
3) Teamwork – the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.

Course Workload.
The workload for this course will consist of the following:

1. Ten short writing assignments focused on identifying academic opportunities appropriate to the students academic and career interests. Each writing assignment will be worth five points for a total of 50 points.
2. A personal essay as part of an application for a national scholarship or fellowship. Students will be required to write three drafts of this essay for a total of twenty points (five points for each of the first two drafts and ten points for the final draft).
3. A mock interview project in which students will serve as both interviewers and interviewees. Each student will be interviewed individually (10 points) by a group of his/her fellow students as if he/she were actually applying for a national scholarship or academic program. As interviewers, students will represent that scholarship or program and work as a team to develop an interview that is designed for each interviewee’s application (20 points).

Grading Scale:
- A: 90-100 points
- B: 80-89 points
- C: 70-79 points
- D: 60-69 points
- F: Under 60 points.

Attendance Policy:

Students are required to attend every class and are expected to come to class prepared and to participate in class discussions. Class contribution or detractio may be a factor in raising or lowering the grade as determined by performance on the papers. Students will lose five points for each absence starting with the second class session missed. Cell phones are not permitted in the classroom.

Schedule

August 28: Orientation and Self-Profile
September 4: Introduction to National Competitions and Phi Kappa Phi.
September 11: Resumés
September 18: Volunteer and Study Abroad Opportunities.
September 25: Research Opportunities and Presentations.
October 2: REUs, Internships, and Coop Education
October 9: Beck Fellowship.
October 16: Proposal Writing.
October 30: Review of Proposals.
November 13: Interviews
November 20: Interviews
November 27: Interviews
December 4: Last Class Day: Review and Evaluation.
Final Exam Period: Final Draft of Proposal Due.
Drop/Withdraw:

It is the responsibility of any student wishing to drop or withdraw from this course to initiate and follow through with the proper procedure to have their names removed from the official class roll. It is also the instructor’s prerogative to drop any student that does not comply with the standards of the course.

Last day to drop or withdraw without academic penalty is Monday, September 30th.
Last day to drop or withdraw with academic penalty is Monday, November 4th.

Disability Accommodation

It is the policy of Lamar University to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law and to the University’s commitment to equal educational opportunities. Students with a documented disability should contact the Director of the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SFSWD) which is located in 105 Communication Building. Students may write to P.O. Box 10087, Beaumont, Texas 77710, call 409.880.8347, fax 409.880.2225 or e-mail SFSWD@lamar.edu. The Director will arrange to meet with the student to determine reasonable academic adjustments and/or accommodations. Additional information is available at http://dept.lamar.edu/sfswd.

Academic Honesty

Students are specifically warned against all forms of cheating and plagiarism. The Lamar University Student Handbook clearly reads: “Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subjected to disciplinary action. Punishable offenses include, but are not limited to, cheating on an examination or academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of source materials.” One aspect of the Handbook’s definition of cheating includes “purchasing or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one’s own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm.” Plagiarism is defined as “the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of another’s work or ideas into one’s own and submitted for credit.”