

**Azusa Pacific University**  
*Department of Leadership and College Student Development*

**Azusa Pacific University is an evangelical Christian community of disciples and scholars who seek to advance the work of God in the world through academic excellence in liberal arts and professional programs in higher education that encourage students to develop a Christian perspective of truth and life.**

**COURSE:** LDRS 100 *Beginnings*: Personal Development & the College Experience  
Fall 2011, Tuesday 9:45- 11:10 AM; Tuesday 11:25AM – 12:50 PM; Thursday 9:45-11:10AM  
Upper Turner Campus Center

**INSTRUCTOR:** Stacie Champine, M.A. • Director • Office of Orientation and Transitions  
626.815.2083 (office) • [schampine@apu.edu](mailto:schampine@apu.edu)

**DESCRIPTION & PURPOSE:**

The Beginnings course is instrumental in teaching students how to develop an understanding of the Strengths philosophy and how to apply it to daily life. Through small groups, students will acquire an understanding of Strengths, college success, and an appreciation for those who are different. The course will also address academic and social development for college students today teaching what it means to live an authentic, Christian life as a student at Azusa Pacific University, and in society.

**REQUIRED TEXT:** Hulme, E. (2011). *Momentum*. Dallas: Magnolia Media Press.

**OUTCOMES:** **As a result of engaging in the Beginnings course, students will . . . .**

- 1) be able to identify their top five Strengths
- 2) learn how to best apply their top five Strengths relationally, academically, and in discerning vocation
- 3) learn about the different streams of faith recognized in Christian tradition
- 4) be exposed to current issues in higher education locally, nationally, and globally
- 5) explore diverse cultures, backgrounds, beliefs, and worldviews
- 6) be made aware of various resources available for a successful transition into the university setting

**REQUIREMENTS:**

This course utilizes a pass/fail grading system. *Beginnings* is required of every new freshman student. It is an APU graduation requirement worth one hour of academic credit. Passing students must participate in or make an attempt at **every** requirement.

1. Attendance at ten general Beginnings sessions **100 points**  
Attendance is taken by scanning the student's ID card before the start of each class at the Southeast entrance of UTCC. Please be ON TIME...you will not be given attendance credit if you are late!
2. Attendance at ten Alpha group meetings **100 points**  
Alpha group meetings are designed to allow the group to interact and learn from one another. Each Alpha Group meeting will have a specific task and or challenge to accomplish by means of the group.
3. City Links Service Project **50 points**  
As an Alpha Group, you will participate with your Alpha Leader in one of the City Links Service Project days. You will be assigned a specific Saturday from 7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. This should be done by all members of the group. You will also be able to receive five ministry credits for this service through the Ministry and Service Office. This is a **MANDATORY** credit in order to pass Beginnings. If you are not able to attend your assigned day, please let you Alpha Leader know as soon as possible so you can receive an alternative service day.
4. StrengthsFinder Assessment **50 points**  
Each student enrolled in the Beginnings course is required to take the StrengthsFinder assessment. Your personal online code for the StrengthsFinder assessment can be found on the bookmark inside of the *Momentum* text. This is a **MANDATORY** credit in order to pass Beginnings. This must be completed by your Beginnings class the week of **September 19, 2011**.
5. Individual One-on-Ones **50 points**  
All students enrolled in Beginnings are required to meet one-on-one with their Alpha Leader for an hour to discuss their goals, expectations, and transition to APU. This is a **MANDATORY** credit in order to pass Beginnings. It is your responsibility to meet with your Alpha Leader before **Monday, November 1, 2011**.

6. Two Completed Online Questionnaires

**100 points**

You will be required to complete an online questionnaire at the beginning and the end of class. You will receive credit for each by printing off the completed page and showing it to your Alpha Leader. This is a **MANDATORY** credit in order to pass Beginnings.

8. Two Individual Homework Assignments

**100 points**

You will be required to complete two different individual homework assignments that will be related to the Beginnings course lectures corresponding to a given topic. Requirements and details of the assignments will be communicated during the course sessions.

7. Group Reflection Project

DUE: Week Ten

**50 points**

This assignment requires the participation of every member of the Alpha group (except the Alpha Leader). The group is required to put together any type of project that exemplifies both your group and what you have learned from the course. This project will be given to your Alpha Leader at the culmination of your presentation to them. The project must include the following:

\*Who are the members of your Alpha group? \*Memories or stories that occurred within the group throughout the semester. \*Three things that the group learned during *Beginnings* that was impacting. The project can be created in the form of a collage, book, CD, DVD, etc. The more creative the presentation style, the better.

**Week 1: Sept 13 & 15**

**Welcome to Beginnings! ☺**

**Group Time:** Schedule semester group meeting times  
Discuss City Links Service Project

**Homework:** Take online Strengths assessment  
Complete first online questionnaire  
Begin reading textbook

**Week 2: Sept. 20 & 22**

**Strengths Overview**

**Homework:** Schedule one-on-one time with Alpha Leader

**Week 3: Sept. 27 & 29**

**Transitions**

**Week 4: Oct. 4 & 6**

**Spiritual Formation**

**Week 5: Oct. 11 & 13**

**Individual Strengths Week**

**\*\*\*No meeting in class...attend Strengths workshop throughout week!!!**

**Week 6: Oct. 18 & 20**

**Awareness Education**

**Week 7: Oct. 25 & 27**

**Real Issues**

**Week 8: Nov. 2 & 4**

**Global Vision: You Can Impact the World**

**Week 9: Nov. 9 & 11**

**Building Diverse Relationships**

**Homework: Complete second online questionnaire**

**Work on Group Reflection Project**

**Week 10: Nov. 16 & 18**

**Celebration in Community: Now What?**

**Due: Homework Assignments**

**Due: Group Reflection Project**