

GST101:

Gateway to University Success

INSTRUCTOR: _____ **PEER LEADER:** _____
Office: _____ **Home Phone:** _____
Phone: _____ **Home:** _____ **E-Mail:** _____
E-Mail: _____

TEXTS:

Gateway to University Success Textbook. Belmont: Wadsworth Publishing Company, 2003.

Strengths Quest: Discover and Develop Your Strengths in Academics, Career, and Beyond. Washington, D.C.: Gallup Inc. 2002-2003.

UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT:

Lee University seeks to provide education that integrates biblical truth as revealed in the Holy Scriptures with truth discovered through the study of the arts and sciences and in the practice of various profession. A personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is the controlling perspective from which the educational enterprise is carried out. The foundational purpose of all educational programs is to develop within the student's knowledge, appreciation, understanding ability and skills that will prepare them for responsible living in the modern world.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Gateway to University Success is designed to equip first-year students for success in the Christian university community. This course will acquaint students with the academic, social, and critical thinking skills necessary to succeed in college. **TWO HOURS CREDIT**

I. PURPOSE

This course is designed to assist first-year students at Lee University in adjusting to university life. Students will be introduced to: essential academic skills and the application of critical thinking skills and a personal Christian worldview to life decisions. Students will use a "Strengths-based" approach to achieve success in their endeavors.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

A. General Instructional Objectives:

This course seeks to:

1. Introduce and encourage the development of analytical and critical thinking skills.
2. Introduce students to the three traditional worldviews: humanism, materialism, and theism.

3. Introduce students to the “StrengthsFinder” assessment.
 4. Acquaint students with appropriate study strategies for success in college.
 5. Orient students to, and promote involvement in, co-curricular activities and student organization.
 6. Assist students in developing relationships within the university environment.
 7. Encourage in students concern for community affairs.
- B. Specific Behavioral Objectives:**
As a result of the study and activities in this course, the student will be able to:
1. Apply analytical and critical thinking skills in solving challenging problems in life-related areas.
 2. Articulate a personal Christian worldview integrating Christian spirituality into various aspects of life.
 3. Use the information from the “*StrengthsFinder*” instrument to identify their themes and begin to cultivate them into strengths.
 4. Demonstrate the ability to write effectively.
 5. Participate in co-curricular events.
 6. Identify a faculty member and a group of peers with whom s/he has established a relationship.
 7. Participate in specified community service projects.

III. TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- A. Discussing and reflecting on worldviews.
- B. Values and ethics.
- C. Time, money, and academic management.
- D. Identifying and understanding your strengths.
- E. Applying thinking skills and strengths in life-related areas (career planning, time management, money management).
- F. Success in the classroom.
- G. Study skills.
- H. Campus life: the social aspects.
- I. The Christian lifestyle as it applies to college life.
- J. The Golden Rule: The heart of *community service*.
- K. Continuing your education.
- L. Choosing a major and advanced class registration.
- M. Global perspectives.

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. Lectures by the instructors and peer leaders
- B. Class discussions
- C. Demonstrations
- D. Visual and auditory aids
- E. Guest speakers
- F. Service Learning Projects
- G. StrengthsFinder Tool

V. COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Complete activities from the textbooks.
- B. Participate in class discussion and activities.
- C. Write five reflection papers.
- D. Present the first reflection paper, your autobiography.
- E. Fulfill the required service learning projects.
- F. Complete various self-assessments.

VI. EVALUATION

- A. Your grade for this course will be based on your completion of the following:
 - 1. Five Reflection Papers – 30%
 - 2. “StrengthsFinder” Profile – 10%
 - 3. Presentation – 10%
 - 4. Service Learning Projects – 30%
 - 5. Attendance – 10%
 - 6. Other items as determined by your instructor – 10%
- B. Grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

90-100%	A
80- 89%	B
70- 79%	C
60- 69%	D
Below 60%	F

C. Class Attendance

Regular attendance is essential to accomplish the purposes and objectives of this course. Each student is responsible to the teacher for class attendance and participation. The professor will make specific attendance requirements.

HOWEVER: She or he may develop a system by which grade reductions can be made, not to exceed one letter grade per semester, based on absence alone.

Therefore, it is imperative that you understand the importance of class attendance. (Lee University Catalog 2003-2004, pg.40).

VII. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Lee University is committed to the provision of reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities, as defined in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. If you think you may qualify for accommodations, notify your instructor immediately.

VIII. SUPPLEMENTAL READING

Barry, V.E. & Rudinow, J. (1990). *Invitation to Critical Thinking* (2nd ed.). Chicago: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston.

Buckingham, Marcus, & Clifton, Donald O. (2001). *Now, Discover Your Strengths*. New York: The Free Press.

Chaffee, J. (1995). *The Thinker's Guide to College Success*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Ellis, D. (1994). *Becoming a Master Student* (7th ed.). Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Friday, R.A. (1988). *Create your College Success*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Company.

Holmes, A. (1975). *The Idea of a Christian College*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.

Kanar, C.C. (1995). *The Confident Student* (2nd ed.). Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Lee University Undergraduate Catalog 2003-2004

Lee University Student Handbook 2003-2004

Robinson A. (1993). *What Smart Students Know*. NY: Crown Publishers Inc.

Schimmels, C. (1990). *How to Survive and Thrive in College*. Elgin, IL: David C. Cook Publishing Company.

Walter, T.L. & Siebert, A. (1996). *Student Success: How to Succeed in College and Still Have Time for your Friends* (7th ed.). New York: Harcourt.