Azusa Pacific University

Department of College Student Affairs and Leadership Studies

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: CSA 101 Beginnings: Personal Development & the College Experience
Fall 2010, Tuesday/Thursday 9:45-11:10 AM; Wednesday 1:00 – 1:55 PM
Upper Turner Campus Center

INSTRUCTOR: Stacie Champine, M.A. • Director of Student Success • Office of Student Success
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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.


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 1 hour of academic credit. Passing students must earn 470 out of 500 points for various projects and 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 8 a.m. – 4 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 inside cover 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 20, 2010.

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 Friday, October 22, 2010.
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.

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 14-16 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 Momentum

Week 2: Sept. 21-23 Strengths Overview
Homework: Schedule one-on-one time with Alpha Leader

Week 3: Sept. 28-30 Awareness Education

Week 4: Oct. 5-7 Spiritual Formation

Week 5: Oct. 12-14 Individual Strengths Week
***No meeting in class…attend Strengths workshop throughout week!!!

Week 6: Oct. 19-21 Priorities

Week 7: Oct. 26-28 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: Momentum Reading
Due: Group Reflection Project