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 2008, 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 APU, and in society.


OUTCOMES: As a result of attending 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, in academic settings, and in discerning vocation
3) debate current issues in higher education locally, nationally, and globally
4) explore diverse cultures, backgrounds, beliefs, and worldviews
5) learn to recognize the importance of others’ contribution to society, and within the body of Christ.
6) gain a profound understanding of God’s love for every individual and how to show His love throughout our daily lives.

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 **410 out of 450** points for various projects and must participate in or make an attempt at **every** requirement.

1. Attendance at ten general sessions
   Attendance is taken by scanning the student’s ID card before the start of each class at the Southeast entrance of UTCC. **100 points**

2. Attendance at ten Alpha group meetings
   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. **100 points**

3. City Links Service Project
   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. – 3 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 your Alpha Leader know as soon as possible so you can receive an alternative service day. **50 points**

4. StrengthsFinder Assessment and VIA Signature Strengths Questionnaire
   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 in the StrengthsQuest book. In addition, students are required to take the VIA Signature Strengths questionnaire at www.authentichappiness.org. This is a **MANDATORY** credit in order to pass Beginnings. Both of these must be completed by your Beginnings class the week of **September 15th**. **50 points**
5. Strengths Counseling Session  
All students enrolled in Beginnings are required to meet one-on-one with their Alpha Leader for an hour of Strengths Counseling. You must take the StrengthsFinder assessment prior to your appointment and bring a copy of your “top five” Strengths to the session. This is a **MANDATORY** credit in order to pass Beginnings. It is your responsibility to meet with your Alpha Leader before **Friday, October 10, 2008**.

6. Two Completed Survey Monkey Questionnaires  
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. The link for the questionnaire is as follows:  
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=6WQw4W2lVXGbnBMYE0rE5Q_3d_3d

7. Group Reflection Project  
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:

1) Who are the members of your Alpha group?
2) Memories or stories that occurred within the group throughout the semester.
3) Two 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 9-11**  
**Starting Well**  
An overview of objectives and purpose  
Review syllabus  
Why Strengths?  
**Group Time:** Schedule semester group meeting times  
Discuss City Links Service Project  
**Homework:** Take StrengthsFinder assessment  
Take VIA Signature Strengths questionnaire  
Read about your Strengths in *StrengthsQuest*  
(chapters 3 & 5)

**Week 2: Sept. 16-18**  
**Building Awareness of our Talents and Strengths**  
**Group Time:** Cover any Strengths not covered in class  
**Homework:** Complete Survey Monkey online questionnaire  
Schedule Strengths Counseling time with Alpha Leader

**Week 3: Sept. 23-25**  
**Thinking Ahead**  
 Majors, Values, and Callings…oh my! 😊

**Week 4: Sept. 30-Oct. 2**  
**Meaningful Effort**

**Week 5: Oct. 7-9**  
**Diversity and Racial Reconciliation**

**Week 6: Oct. 14-16**  
**Genocide/Racism/Anti-Semitism**  
Guest Speaker: Elane Norych Geller (Child Survivor of the Holocaust)

**Week 7: Oct. 21-23**  
**Priorities and Patterns**  
Who the Son sets free is free indeed

**Week 8: Oct. 28-30**  
**Men’s and Women’s Issues**  
**Homework:** Work on Group Reflection project

**Week 9: Nov. 4-6**  
**Global Vision: You Can Change the World**  
**Homework:** Complete Survey Monkey Online Questionnaire  
Work on Group Reflection Project

**Week 10: Nov. 11-13**  
**Celebration in Community: Now What?**  
Tying it all together: Strengths and Leadership!  
Write a letter to yourself  
Presentation of Group Reflection Project