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 2009, 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.

REQUIRED TEXT:  
My Sky's the Limit flash drive (available in University Bookstore)

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 540 out of 600 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. Please be ON TIME…you will not be given attendance credit if you are late!  
   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  
   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 My Sky’s the Limit flash drive box. This is a MANDATORY credit in order to pass Beginnings. This must be completed by your Beginnings class the week of September 21, 2009  
   50 points

5. My Sky’s the Limit Worksheets  
   Students will be assigned to complete a worksheet that coincides with the My Sky’s the Limit curriculum four times throughout the semester. These worksheets should be completed and turned in to your Alpha Leader on the assigned date. Your Alpha group will spend time sharing about your reflections from these worksheets.  
   200 points
6. **Individual One-on-Ones**  
   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 23, 2009**.

7. **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 links for the questionnaire are as follows: [http://tiny.cc/Beginnings1](http://tiny.cc/Beginnings1) (beginning) and [http://tiny.cc/Beginnings2](http://tiny.cc/Beginnings2) (end)

8. **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:  
   *Who are the members of your Alpha group?*  
   *Memories or stories that occurred within the group throughout the semester.*  
   *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.

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**Week 1: Sept 15-17**  
**Welcome to Beginnings! 😊**  
An overview of objectives and purpose  
Review syllabus  
**Group Time:** Schedule semester group meeting times  
Discuss City Links Service Project  
Discuss “College Expectations and Questions”  
**Due:** Go through Folder 1: *What No One Tells You About College* on My Sky flash drive  
Complete “College Expectations and Questions” worksheet  
**Homework:** Take online Strengths assessment  
Complete Survey Monkey online questionnaire

**Week 2: Sept. 22-24**  
**Spiritual Formation**  
**Homework:** Go through Folder 2 on My Sky flash drive  
Schedule One-on-One time with Alpha Leader

**Week 3: Sept. 29-Oct. 1**  
**Starting Over in College**  
**Homework:** Complete “Living Your Dream” worksheet

**Week 4: Oct. 6-8**  
**Strengths Week**  
***No meeting in class…attend Strengths workshop throughout week!!!***  
**Group Time:** Discuss “Living Your Dream” worksheet  
**Homework:** Go through Folder 3 on My Sky flash drive  
Complete “Succeeding at Relationships” worksheet

**Week 5: Oct. 13-15**  
**Building Diverse Relationships**  
**Group Time:** Discuss “Succeeding at Relationships” worksheet  
**Homework:** Go through Folder 4 on My Sky flash drive  
Complete “Strengths for Academic Success” worksheet

**Week 6: Oct. 20-22**  
**New View of Academic Success**  
**Group Time:** Discuss “Strengths for Academic Success” worksheet

**Week 7: Oct. 27-29**  
**Global Vision: You Can Impact the World**

**Week 8: Nov. 3-5**  
**True Story**  
Guest Speaker: Elane Norych Geller (Child Survivor of the Holocaust)  
**Homework:** Work on Group Reflection project

**Week 9: Nov. 10-12**  
**Real Issues**  
**Homework:** Complete Survey Monkey Online Questionnaire  
Work on Group Reflection Project

**Week 10: Nov. 17-19**  
**Celebration in Community: Now What?**  
**Due:** Group Reflection Project