

GFYE 0097: The Gordon College First-Year Experience

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Office Hours and Location: 11:00-1:00 MWF, 2:00-3:00 TR, and otherwise by appointment, Academic Building 103I

Course Description: A one-credit hour course required for all students entering Gordon College with two or three Learning Support requirements (Math, English (writing), and Reading) and optional for all other students. An introduction to college life and responsibilities meant to assist freshmen in making a successful transition from high school to college. The course emphasizes the programmatic development of academic literacy (improving study, time management, and interpersonal communication skills), enhancing awareness of college resources and policies, encouraging participation in the college community, and addressing college-related attitudes and practices.

Required Texts and Materials:

- Gordon College 2011-2012 Academic Catalog

Course Objectives: By the end of the semester, you should be able to

- explain and use campus resources available to you as a student;
- develop a sense of connectedness to the Gordon College community through attendance at or participation in campus activities and cultural events;
- understand the lexical, behavioral, and philosophical underpinnings of the larger academic community;
- appreciate the connectedness of your General Education courses with those in your chosen or eventual major;
- develop confident interpersonal communications skills in your interactions with the students, faculty, staff and administration of Gordon College;
- enhance your potential for academic (and career) success through the development of constructive study, work, and critical thinking skills; and
- expand your appreciation, understanding, and respect of ideas, creeds, and cultures different from your own.

Course Meetings: This course meets two times a week for the first eight weeks of the semester, a total of 16 class meetings. Mid-term for this class is September 9.

GFYE 0097 Requirement and Academic Credit:

1. This course, as a Learning Support class, is considered an "Institutional Credit" course, meaning that it does not count towards your GPA, nor do its credits apply to the Core Curriculum towards any degree program.
2. Unlike other Learning Support courses, you are not required to retake GFYE 0097 if you earn a failing grade; however, you should be aware that the grade earned in this course *is* used in calculating Financial Aid eligibility. A failing grade in this course could compromise your potential for receiving financial aid.
3. If you have Learning Support requirements and are concurrently enrolled in one or more Learning Support courses which meets your requirement(s) and in one or more college-level credit course, you may not withdraw from GFYE 0097 unless you also withdraw from all college-level credit courses (University System of Georgia policy).

4. Students who do NOT have LS requirements or are not enrolled in college-credit courses may drop the course with a W by the midterm date for an 8-week class. Students are encouraged to stay in the class, of course. Be aware that if you receive financial aid, withdrawing from a class means that a portion of your limited financial aid funds are wasted.

Course Requirements: To receive a passing grade in this course, all of the following components must be completed and turned in according to deadline:

Attendance Students are expected to attend class for every meeting. Naturally, some students may have to miss class occasionally, so perfect attendance is not expected. However, for the purposes of this course, attendance will account for 30% of your final grade. This course will meet sixteen times, and each meeting will account for the same number of attendance points. So, perfect attendance will get you a perfect 30 for that grade, missing class once will get you 28.125 out of 30, missing class twice will get you 26.25 out of 30, and so on. Also, tardiness will get you only half credit for attendance on the day you are tardy, so for example, perfect attendance and one day of being tardy will get you 29.0625 out of 30. We will discuss attendance in general in further detail during Week 2.

Exam over Catalog During Weeks 1-4 we will review many of the policies in the Academic Catalog, and during Week 5 we will take an open-book exam on those policies. This will account for 20% of your semester's grade.

Academic and Career Target Plan A big part of the purpose for this course involves you clarifying your academic and career goals. To help this along, you will write an Academic and Career Target Plan for 20% of your semester's grade. It will involve you explaining the major you are choosing, the courses necessary to complete a degree in that major, a consideration of three institutions that offer that degree and why each might be appropriate for you, and three possible career paths or opportunities for further education that one might pursue after completion of that 4-yr degree. We will discuss this project in further detail during Week 1.

The remaining 30% of your course grade will be determined from the input the class provides during the first week of class.

Classroom Behavior: It is up to your individual professors how they want to handle behavioral disruptions in their classrooms. For the most part, behavior that disrupts the teaching and learning process, however the professor views disruptive behavior, can cause a person to be dismissed from class. This does not necessarily mean abusive or profane behavior only. It can also mean eating in class, using cell phones, and dominating class discussion. We will discuss classroom behavior in further detail during Week 2.

For this particular class, classroom behavior is expected to be productive and non-distracting. Particular examples of distracting behavior are being disrespectful of others or others' ideas, talking while others are speaking, overt inattentiveness, and entering class late or leaving early. Distracting behavior will also negatively affect your attendance grade. Your teacher will notify you after class of any distracting behavior, and in cases where that behavior is repeated afterwards, it will count half credit against you on your attendance grade for the day each day that behavior is repeated.

Plagiarism: Passing off someone else's ideas as your own is plagiarism. You'll often hear people refer to "academic dishonesty" or "cheating" in a similar way, but all of these concepts are basically the same. "Plagiarism" is cheating, and it is something that your professors will take very seriously. There are many different ways to plagiarize, and it is serious enough that even accidentally passing off someone's ideas as your own can be punishable with an automatic

F on the plagiarized assignment. Often it is worse. The idea is that students are responsible for their own work and ideas, and they should take care to give credit to other people's ideas. We will discuss plagiarism in further detail during Week 7.

For this particular class, plagiarism is the same as it is defined above – passing off someone else's ideas as your own. It often happens that a person plagiarizes because he or she did not know how to give someone credit for their own ideas appropriately, either because that person was in a hurry and didn't take the time to figure it out, or that person was absent during the day that crediting someone else's ideas appropriately was discussed in class. It is important to note that neither of these reasons will be treated any differently than intentional plagiarism would be. Students in this course are responsible for applying what has been discussed in class, and any instance of plagiarism, regardless of the reason, will result in a grade no higher than a 0 for the assignment. Further, depending on the severity of the case, it may result in an automatic F for the course.

ADA Services: To qualify for ADA Services, you must see Dr. Kristina Henderson in Student Affairs-Counseling. Her phone number is 678-359-5585.

Course Calendar

(Note: These details are incomplete, and most will be determined through class discussion during Week 1.)

Week 1 (August 15 – August 19): Introductions to College and the Course			
Monday	Introductions		Homework: For August 17, complete Course Plan Worksheet
Wednesday	Discuss Academic and Career Target Plan ~ Course Plan Worksheet		Homework: For August 22, complete Assessment of Interests Inventory
Notes: Drop/Add and Payment Deadline for Late Registration ends Wednesday, August 17, 4:00 p.m.; Academic and Career Target Plan is due by the end of class on Wednesday, October 5			

Week 2 (August 22 – August 26): Assessment of Interests and Etiquette			
Monday	Discuss Assessment of Interests Results	TBD	Homework: For August 24, TBD
Wednesday	Classroom Etiquette and Attendance	TBD	Homework: For August 29, TBD
Notes: Bookstore charges end Friday, August 26, 12:00 p.m.			

Week 3 (August 29 – September 2): The Academic Catalog and College Vocabulary			
Monday	Discuss Catalog Exam and Core Curriculum	TBD	Homework: For August 31, TBD
Wednesday	Discuss College Vocabulary	TBD	Homework: For September 5, TBD
Notes: The Catalog Exam will be taken in class on Wednesday, September 14			

Week 4 (September 5 – September 9): Learning Styles and Time Management			
Monday	Learning Styles	TBD	Homework: For September 7, TBD
Wednesday	Time Management	TBD	Homework: For September 12, TBD
Notes: Friday, September 9 is Midterm for eight-week courses and the last day to drop without an automatic WF.			

Week 5 (September 12 – September 16): The Catalog Exam			
Monday	Prepare for Catalog Exam	TBD	Homework: For September 14, TBD
Wednesday	Catalog Exam	Take Catalog Exam In Class	Homework: For September 19, TBD
Notes:			

Week 6 (September 19 – September 23): Studying and Advising			
Monday	Study Habits and Note Taking	TBD	Homework: For September 21, TBD
Wednesday	Meeting with your Advisor	TBD	Homework: For September 26, TBD
Notes:			

Week 7 (September 26 – September 30): Plagiarism and Career Target Plan			
Monday	Plagiarism	TBD	Homework: For September 28, TBD
Wednesday	Work on Academic and Career Target Plan	TBD	Homework: For October 3, TBD
Notes:			

Week 8 (October 3 – October 7): Academic and Career Target Plan			
Monday	Finish Work on Academic and Career Target Plan	TBD	Homework: For October 5, finish work on Academic and Career Target Plan to turn in for a grade
Wednesday	Academic and Career Target Plan Due ~ Course Conclusion	TBD	
Notes: Thursday, October 6 is Midterm for all sixteen-week classes and the last day to drop without an automatic WF.			