

San José State University -- Science 2 -- SUCCESS IN SCIENCE

Fall 2011

MW 1230-1320

Office Hours for all Instructors: by arrangement

Section 1 (Lecture)

Main Lecture: Morris Dailey Auditorium (Tower Hall)

2 hours lecture + 2 hours activity (3 units total)

Lecture Instructors/Coordinators:

Mr. Michael Randle, Instructor
Student Services Center, GE Advising office.

Appointment Line: 924-2129

Email: Michael.randle@sjsu.edu

Dr. Herb Silber, Associate Dean
College of Science

Duncan Hall, 517 924-4954

Email: hbsilber@science.sjsu.edu

Science 2/90T Activity Section Instructors:

Rocio Avila: (408) 924-5160

Valerie Chapman: (408) 924-2119

Gisela Gray-Peoples: (408) 924-2041

Emmanuel Yera: emmanuel_yera@yahoo.com

Edith Ohene-Nyako: thalia.ohene-nyako@sjsu.edu

Elizabeth David: elizabeth.david@sjsu.edu

John Kim: john_hyunjoon_kim@yahoo.com

Matt Voisinet: mattvoisinet@att.net

Mel Brown: (408) 924-2577

Adrienne Hypolite (408) 924-5950

Catrina Jamello: (408) 924-2584

Bickie Lee (408) 924-4870

Jessica Munoz: (408) 924-2566

Michelle Randle: (408) 924-2922

Dr. Mei-Yan Lu mei-yan.lu@sjsu.edu

Oscar David: Oscar.David@sjsu.edu

Peer Advisors can be reached at 924-2813 or science2pa@yahoo.com

PREREQUISITE: *Ready to Work!*

REQUIRED TEXT: Robert Sapolsky's memoir titled *A Primate's Memoir* (Simon & Schuster, 2001, ISBN 0-7432-0241-4; available at Roberts bookstore 330 S. 10th St. (408) 286-0983 (across the street from the dorms and College of Business at SJSU) and through online bookstores like amazon.com) is the only text. Reading and other assignments are listed in the **Science 2 Schedule**. Additional reading purchases for the course include the current *San José State University Catalog and a course reader entitled Success as Spartans I, which can be found at* Maple Press 481 E San Carlos St., San Jose, CA 95112 (408) 297-1000.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS: You will need to purchase a big wall calendar (desk calendar size), and a package of 3 x 5 blank index cards. You must be able to email attachments created in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint; if this is not possible, talk with your instructors about alternatives). If you are in LLD 1 or 2, you will need a dictionary and thesaurus. Additionally you will be required to attend at least 4 campus events such as club meetings, sporting events, seminars, lectures, plays, etc. **NOTE: At least one event must be college or major department related.** These events must be spaced such that one event is completed every 2-4 weeks. **Do not wait until the last minute.** Your write-ups must be at least one paragraph in length and be submitted to your PA. .

Your write ups must answer the following questions:

1) *See instructions for write up in appendix of reader under "campus events"*

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The purpose of Science 2, *Success in Science*, is to assist students, especially those who are majoring in the sciences and engineering, in becoming successful at San José State University. Science 2 introduces students to College of Science faculty, SJSU campus administrators, and campus resources. It also provides students with a wide range of information regarding various university policies and procedures as well as practical study skills to prepare them for the successful completion of “gateway” courses in the sciences at SJSU. This course has a proven track record of improving student GPA and retention.

Why does this course help students succeed? The transition from high school to university is not easy for many students. Science 2 focuses on the development of the study skills, time management, and personal growth needed for this transition. Consideration of the influences of “Nature & Nurture” frames this practical content of the course by placing it in the larger context of learning across the lifespan, particularly as applied to fresh(wo)men. You (students) are subject to physiological, psychological, and social/cultural changes that are inherently a part of the high school to university transition. Science 2 examines these changes to help you understand where you have been, where you are now, and especially where you are going.

Guest lecturers throughout the course donate their time to present information and answer your questions. Students will be given opportunities to ask questions about grading, faculty attitudes, career opportunities, learning resources available at the university, etc. Some guest faculty will discuss the context for their various disciplines within the College of Science. “What does a meteorologist do?” “What is geology?” “Why are chemistry and physics so important for all science majors?” Other guests will lecture on the influences of your genes and your environment (Nature & Nurture) on who you are, and how you learn about yourself, others, and the world around you.

Science 2 is an integrated course consisting of a main lecture, activity sections, and peer mentor contacts. The Monday/Wednesday lectures will introduce a wide variety of topics. Activity sections (no separate green sheet) meet once a week for 2 hours and introduce new material as well as reinforce lecture topics. An instructor and a peer advisor are assigned to each activity section. Additionally, students are required to meet regularly (typically once per week) with their peer advisors outside of activity section to help stay on track in ALL courses. Success teams will be organized in activity sections; these will meet outside of class time. Attendance and participation in all portions of the course are crucial to passing the course. You will be responsible for your own learning and development. You will also be held accountable for all information taught in each and every lecture class and activity session.

SCIENCE 2 satisfies the Core General Education Requirement for
HUMAN UNDERSTANDING AND DEVELOPMENT (E); from the Fall 2005 GE Guidelines:

A. Goals: Students will understand themselves as integrated physiological, social, and psychological entities that are able to formulate strategies for lifelong personal development. Courses shall address challenges confronting students who are entering the complex social system of the university, so that students can employ available university resources to support academic and personal development.

B. Student Learning Objectives:

1. Students shall recognize the physiological, social/cultural, and psychological influences on their well-being. [This objective is met primarily through the activities and guest lectures identified as *Nature/Nurture* on the schedule, and the final oral presentation; secondarily through readings, discussions, and assignments related to *A Primate’s Memoir*.]

2. Students shall recognize the interrelation of the physiological, social/cultural, and psychological factors on their development across the lifespan. [This objective is met primarily through the activities and guest lectures identified as *Nature/Nurture* on the schedule, and the final oral presentation; secondarily through readings, discussions, and assignments related to *A Primate's Memoir*.]
3. Students shall use appropriate social skills to enhance learning and develop positive interpersonal relationships with diverse groups and individuals. [This objective is met primarily through the "Success Team" assignments, e.g., the final oral presentation; secondarily through student-led discussions of *A Primate's Memoir* during the weekly activity sections]
4. Students shall recognize themselves as individuals undergoing a particular stage of human development, how their well being is affected by the university's academic and social systems, and how they can facilitate their development within the university environment. [This objective is met through a variety of assignments, including the "Campus Events", the "Scavenger Hunt," the "Letter to Your Future Self."

C. Content:

Diversity. Courses shall incorporate issues of diversity in an appropriate manner. [This objective is met primarily through the "Diversity Assignment."]

Writing. The minimum writing requirement is 1500 words in a language and style appropriate to the discipline. Writing WILL be assessed for grammar, clarity, conciseness and coherence. [This objective is met through the variety of writing assignments listed on page 4 of this green sheet.]

Courses shall enable students to achieve the competencies described above by including:

- a focus on the interdependence of the physiological, social/cultural, and psychological factors that contribute to the process of human development and determine the limitations, potential, and options of the individual across the lifespan; [*Nature/Nurture* activities and lectures; "Letter to Your Future Self" (related to guest lecture "Charting Your Life's Course")]
- an understanding of the university as a learning center for the integrated person, an introduction to its resources, and an appreciation for the intellectual and social vitality of the campus community; [guest lectures and "Scavenger Hunt" activities, esp. the "Campus Event" reports]
- An inventory and evaluation of university-level learning skills (e.g. methods of inquiry, critical thinking, study skills, research skills, information literacy), and an exploration of the application of these skills to the student's academic and personal development and; [Week 3-4 activities]
- An understanding of ethics and integrity in academic and non-academic settings. ["Values & Ethics" guest lecture (week 13) and plagiarism on-line MLK Library module]

SCIENCE 2 -- Course-Specific Student Learning Objectives:

1. Students shall demonstrate skills necessary to succeed in university-level coursework, especially in science and mathematics. [Discovery-based activities, excel activity, and oral presentations]
2. Students shall demonstrate the knowledge and awareness of "what it takes" to be successful as an educated person beyond the bachelor's degree, especially in science and mathematics. (Taking responsibility for your learning starts NOW.) ["Letter to Your Future Self"]

ASSIGNMENTS AND INFORMATION:

Science 2 Schedule: Lists most assignments for the entire semester (separate handout; distributed during 1st lecture class and available on the course website). [NOTE: APM = *A Primate's Memoir*]

Science 2 Website: <http://www.science.sjsu.edu/science2/>. Check this website weekly for (updated) current information. You will have some assignments that need to be downloaded from this site.

Campus Event Reports: As part of the *Scavenger Hunt*, you will be required to attend at least four (4) campus events such as seminars, lectures, plays, student club meetings, sports, etc. (a separate handout describes this assignment in detail). To find events, you can check the SJSU home page <http://www.sjsu.edu/> under “News.” You can receive a weekly email listing SJSU news and events by subscribing to SJSU This Week at <http://www.sjsu.edu/lists>. You will be required to write a one-paragraph minimum length description of the event, including information on who, when, where, what and your reaction to the event. Details about format, how to submit these reports to your PA, and the due dates for your reports will be given in class. *Do not wait until the last minute to attend campus events.*

Important Deadlines: Tue, Sept 6, 2011 = Last day to drop or withdraw without a “W” grade
Tue, Sept 13, 2011 = Last day to add courses and register late

COMMUNICATION SKILLS:

Oral & Written

You must develop effective communication skills if you are to be successful in college. The ability to communicate effectively with peers, institutional support staff, academic counselors/advisors, and especially your professors can mean all the difference in the world between being able to navigate the institution successfully or getting kicked out of school, your petitions denied, losing financial aid and/or other financial opportunities (such as scholarships and/or internships) and possible research opportunities. You must learn and use new terminologies correctly; ask questions which convey, in meaning, what you want to know and not communicate in a manner which requires you to say as a follow-up comment, “Well what I meant to say is...” or “What I meant was...” Additionally, you will be required as part of your general education experience to participate in oral presentation. You must be able to engage in intellectual discourse, inform an audience, debate effectively and convey your point of view as well as effectively listen to others as they do the same.

In Science 2 and Science 90T we will be working with you to hone and sharpen both your oral communication skills and your written communication ability. You will have a series of oral communication and written exercises. If you are enrolled in Science 2 you will have three speeches to execute. For those of you enrolled in Science 90T the number of oral communication activities is 2.

The speeches are a required part of the course and attendance at the speeches is likewise mandatory. It is our expectation that you demonstrate ability to:

- i. Identify and assess socially significant and intellectual topics, then compose and deliver extemporaneous oral presentations on these topics;
- ii. Engage in critical and analytical listening;
- iii. Analyze audiences, adapt oral presentations to audiences and use that information to accomplish the purpose of the speech; and

iv. Assume the ethical responsibilities of the public speaker, including basic understanding of the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the access and use of the information

Oral communication assignments also include leading at least two of the 20-30 minute weekly activity section discussions on your text, and a culminating group oral presentation, also done in your activity section.

Writing and oral communication are integral parts of this course. You cannot be successful in this course, in your major, or in a career in science or mathematics without excellent communication skills. Writing assignments will include (but are not limited to) 4 out-of-class 2-5 page essays (a Diversity Assignment, 2 “Letter to Your Future Self” and 2 essays: 1 based on *A Primate’s Memoir*) and the other a research paper, four 1-page Campus Event Reports, and short answer questions on midterm exams.

ACTIVE LEARNING: This occurs in EVERY activity section. You are also expected to meet outside of class time with your “Success Team” in order to demonstrate well-prepared and well-rehearsed presentations when it is your turn to lead discussion or give your final oral presentation. Grades on most such assignments will require cooperative group learning and active participation.

GRADING: Grades will be based on accumulated points. There is no curve and there are no makeup exams (except in cases of documented emergencies). Out-of-class (homework) and in-class assignments will be worth 30% the course grade, exams 30%, activity section participation 5%, oral presentation 10%, a Scavenger Hunt (see note below) 10%, weekly peer advisor meetings 10%, and weekly success team activities 5%. Finally, *active participation and completion of all other Activity Section assignments are a requirement for a passing grade in Science 2; no points are specifically assigned to these assignments, but students not completing them will fail the course. Likewise, you may be required to attend study halls or related outside activities (e.g., if any of your grades are below “B” when grade checks are done). You should approach all your classes with the attitude that a “C” grade is not good enough for real success in studying science. The Science 2 grading scale (5366. pts maximum):*

Detailed Table of Assignments and Grading Breakdown:

| <u>Assignment weighted 30%</u> | <u>Points</u> | <u>Due date/wk of</u> | <u>Due date extended</u> |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Letter to future self-pt 1 | 120 | 8/24 | _____ |
| Learning Styles | Stay/Drop | 9/29 | _____ |
| In class speech 1 | 50 | 8/29-9/2 | _____ |
| Goal & Objectives | 100 | date set by act instructor | _____ |
| Time management | 100 | 9/12 | _____ |
| 1 st 2 Campus events | 60(30ea) | 9/19 | _____ |
| Annotated Bibliography | 200 | 9/26 | _____ |
| Diversity assignment | 200 | 9/26 | _____ |
| Written Assign 1 | 150 | 10/10 | _____ |
| 1 st Grade check due 5pm | | 10/13 | _____ |
| Written Assign 2 | 350 | 10/31 | _____ |
| 2 nd 2 Campus events | 60(30ea) | 10/24 | _____ |
| In class speech 2 | 100 | 10/3-10-7 | _____ |
| Study Hall | | 10/24-11/29 | _____ |
| 2 nd Grade check due 5pm | | 11/22 | _____ |
| Letter to future self pt 2 | 120 | 12/16 | _____ |

Other course requirements weighted 40% of course grade competency grading pass/fail

Note- Pathways submitted as part of scavenger hunt 11/8

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|---------------------------|-------|------------------|--|
| Scavenger Hunt | 536.6 | 10% course grade | 11/7 |
| Weekly PA sessions | 536.6 | 10% course grade | Note: miss 3 mtgs forfeit entire 10% |
| Oral Presentations | 536.6 | 10% | 10/31-11/18 unless altered by act instructor |
| Weekly Activity section | 268.3 | 5% course grade | Note: miss 3 acts forfeit 5% |
| Weekly Success Team mtgs. | 268.3 | 5% course grade | Note: miss 3 forfeits entire 5% |

Exams-weighted 30% of course grade

| | | | |
|------------|-----|----------|----------------------------|
| Midterm 1 | 200 | 9/26-30 | given in activity section |
| Midterm 2 | 400 | 10/24-28 | given in activity section |
| Midterm 3 | 210 | 11/21 | in main lecture auditorium |
| Final exam | 800 | 12/16 | in main lecture auditorium |

Total exam/essay points = 1610

DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER: If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with us as soon as possible, or see us during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with DRC to establish a record of their disability. (Please let us know as soon as possible in order to more effectively accommodate your needs.)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The policy on academic integrity can be found at http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct. Academic integrity is essential to the mission of San José State University. For Science 2, this includes (but is not limited to) the expectation that students are to perform their own work without the use of any outside resources (except when collaboration or use of outside sources is expressly permitted by the course instructor). Furthermore, students are not permitted to consult with students who have already taken the current exam. Violations to the Academic Integrity Policy undermine the educational process and will not be tolerated. They demonstrate a lack of respect for oneself, fellow students, the course instructors, and can undermine the university's reputation and the value of the degrees it offers. *Good luck and have a GREAT Fall semester. We look forward to your success!*