

first year seminar

California State University, Sacramento

Phil 21-80

Fall 2018

Mon, Wed, Fri 11:00 – 11:50

Brighton Hall (BRH) 203

Peer Mentor: Aryton Merino

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Instructor: Jonathan Chen

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Office Hours: Mendocino Hall 3036 Mon Wed Fri 9:00 – 9:50am

Website: farewelljon.com/teaching

BASIC NEEDS SUPPORT

If you are experiencing challenges in the area of food and/or stable housing, help is just a click, email or phone call away! Sacramento State offers basic needs support for students who are experiencing challenges in these areas. Please visit our Basic Needs website to learn more about your options and resources available. <https://www.csus.edu/basicneeds/>

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

This is a freshman seminar intended to provide students with an introduction to the nature and possible meanings of higher education, and the functions and resources of the University. This course is designed to help students develop and exercise fundamental academic success strategies and to improve their basic learning skills. The seminar will also provide students with the opportunity to interact with fellow students and the seminar leader and to build a community of academic and personal support.

ABOUT THE COURSE

The student will have an enlarged understanding of the ideas and values related to education which will include:

- ✓ The philosophy and history of higher education and the CSUS mission
- ✓ The relationship of education to personal development
- ✓ The significance of the teaching and learning process

II. Demonstration of active learning and improvement of intellectual skills:

- ✓ Academic skills (speaking, writing, note-taking, study skills, time management)
- ✓ Evidence that student is taking responsibility for his/her own education and development
- ✓ Academic dishonesty

III. The student will begin to develop information competence and computer literacy

IV. Demonstrate and understanding of “self” as an integrated biological, psychological, and social being:

- ✓ Students will gain an understanding and appreciation of the multicultural nature of society and this University

V. Acquisition of organized knowledge:

- ✓ Reading about, writing on, and discussion of course topics

LEARNING GOALS

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of academic content knowledge regarding self-development as a physiological, social and/or psychological being.
2. Students will critically examine prior or current experiences or behaviors from their own lives in response to real world physiological, social and/or psychological contexts (may be evident in self-assessment, reflection or creative work).
3. Students will apply skills and knowledge regarding development of the self to differing situations, such as real world challenges, and/or to make connections across perspectives.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students will be able to identify their own perspective and make connections/comparisons across perspectives.
2. Students will be able to plan, monitor, and assess their own learning.
3. Students will be able to set personal and/or professional goals.

BOOK

Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family (2016)

First Year Seminar: Persp. & Empow. (Cengage Learning, 2010) (**Free on Canvas!**)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Blackboard & Announcements

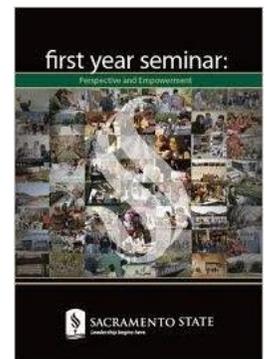
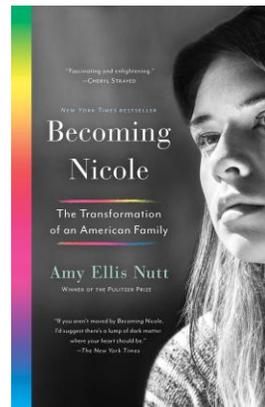
We will be using *Blackboard*, or *SacCT*, as a means of communication and assessment. Please log in by going to <https://sacct.csus.edu/>.

- ✓ Always check your CSUS e-mail for class announcements.
- ✓ I respond to all e-mails within 24 hours. If I do not respond within that time, assume I did not receive it.

Attendance

Attending class and scheduled events or presentations are mandatory. Attendance is taken in every class meeting. Each unexcused absence will result in a 15 point deduction. I will assume you are dropping the course after 4 absences. If your four absences occur after the drop date, you will receive a failing grade (F) for the course. It is your responsibility to withdraw from the course by the appropriate deadline.

You must meet with your peer mentor at least twice in the semester. Once should be before the midterm semester and once should be after. Failure to do so will result in an inability to register for classes the coming semester.



Online Discussions

I will be facilitating two mandatory discussion forums on *SacCT*, in which you will be evaluated on the following:

- (1) How constructive are your contributions?
- (2) Does your post reflect your familiarity with the readings for the course?

Students who provide insightful responses that are relevant to the discussion and help move the conversation forward will receive full credit for that particular assignment, while students who provide somewhat irrelevant responses that show a lack of preparation and also do little to move the conversation forward will be given half credit. Students who neglect to participate or make inappropriate remarks that harm the group discussion will receive no credit for the assignment.

There will be three parts to each online discussion. These include the Original Post, Ratings & Acknowledgments, and Thoughtful Replies. For the Original Post, you will respond to an assertion I have made, and explain whether or not you agree with it. Afterward, you will rate your teammates' Original Posts and write a couple of sentences to let them know you've read their posts. Lastly, you will respond in more detail to two of your teammates' Original Posts; you can offer counterexamples, voice your disagreement, raise questions, etc. Further details for the assignment will be available on *SacCT*, though you can find the due dates for each discussion on the course schedule below.

Exams

There will be two exams that reflect the three units for this class. You will need an 882-E Scantron for each.

***Becoming Nicole* Literature Review**

In order to prepare you for, what will most likely be, many research papers, here is a mini research paper for practice. The goal is to become familiar with the processes of research, resources, and using peer-reviewed articles and citing sources correctly.

A literature review refers to a collection of sources on a specific topic. The review evaluates and reports on the main ideas of a particular subject area by combining their elements into one review. You are *NOT* summarizing each article, but rather analyzing the articles and reporting your analysis.

See the assignment guideline on *SacCT*.

Signature Assignment

For this assignment, you will be conducting an interview with a professor about a planned discipline/career/major. You will then conduct research on the topic, and ultimately reflect on a future plan for success.

See the assignment guideline on *SacCT*.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Getting to Know You	20 pts	2%
Participation	220 pts	22%
<i>Girl in Translation</i> Lit Review	220 pts	22%
Signature Assignment	200 pts	20%
Online Discussions (2)	140 pts	14%
Exams (2)	200 pts	20%

A = 93 – 100, **A-** = 90 – 92, **B+** = 87 – 89, **B** = 83 – 86, **B-** = 80 – 82, **C+** = 77 – 79, **C** = 73 – 76, **C-** = 70 – 72
D+ = 67 – 69, **D** = 63 – 66, **D-** = 60 – 62.9, **F** = 0 – 59

Late Assignments

You will be given a feasible amount of time to complete each assignment, and it is your responsibility to know when an assignment is due. Should you need to make up an assignment, the following penalties will be enforced:

- 5 points for each 24-hour period that the 'Who is You?' assignment is submitted late. No excuses accepted.
- 30 points for each additional class session that an exam is taken late, unless you have relevant documents to account for your absence.
- 40 points for each 24-hour period that a written assignment is submitted late. No excuses accepted.

For instance, if you submit the literature review 3 hours after the due date, you will be penalized -40 points. If you submit it 25 hours after the due date, you will be penalized -80 points.

Note: When submitting your assignment in *blackboard*, please make sure that it has been submitted properly. If you are unsure, you can always send me an e-mail **with the attached file** (don't just send me an e-mail asking if I received the assignment posted on *blackboard*).

ACADEMIC HONESTY

DO NOT PLAGIARIZE. Any student caught plagiarizing will automatically receive an **F** in the class and be reported to Student Affairs and the department chair for serious disciplinary action.

"Plagiarism, as a form of cheating, is the use of distinctive ideas or works belonging to another person without providing adequate acknowledgement of that person's contribution. Regardless of the means of appropriation, incorporation of another's work into one's own requires adequate identification and acknowledgement. Plagiarism is doubly unethical because it deprives the author of rightful credit and gives credit to someone who has not earned it. Acknowledgement is not necessary when the material used is common knowledge."

Read more at: <http://www.csus.edu/umannual/student/STU-0100.htm>

DROP POLICY

First 2 weeks - During the Fall and Spring semesters a student can add and drop classes using MySacState until the end of the second week of the semester.

Weeks 3-6 - During this period the student must describe the seriousness of the circumstances that necessitate dropping and get the approval of the instructor and department chair on a Drop Petition. Most departments require verifying documents, such as a letter from a doctor or supervisor. In weeks 3 & 4, drop forms are turned in to the department office and no grade is given. In weeks 5 & 6, forms are turned in to the Office of the University Registrar and "W" grades are assigned.

Week 7 through the last day of classes - It is more difficult to drop classes after the sixth week. The drop petition requires signatures from the instructor, the department chair, and the dean of the college which offers the class. Students are required to have a letter from a doctor or supervisor stating that a medical or work-related circumstance is beyond the control of the student. Turn in forms to the Office of the University Registrar; a "W" grade will be assigned.

Finals Week - No drops allowed.

University's Drop and Withdrawal Policy: "Although instructors may exercise their authority to administratively remove any student who during the first two weeks of instruction fails to attend, students should not assume they will be dropped by this procedure. Students will receive a final grade of "F" or "WU" in courses they fail to drop officially. 'Failure to attend' is defined as failure to attend any two class meetings (for courses that meet two or more times a week), one class meeting (for courses that meet once a week), or the initial meeting of those courses that require attendance at the first class meeting. Students should verify their registration to make sure they are enrolled in only the classes they are attending."

ACCOMMODATIONS

For students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations, please contact me before the end of the third week of the semester so that arrangements can be made. Late notifications may interfere with providing accommodations in a timely manner. Also, please provide disability documentation to SSWD (<http://www.csus.edu/sswd/>), Lassen Hall 1008, (916) 278-9655, so that they may facilitate the reasonable accommodations process.

OTHER USEFUL RESOURCES

Student Health & Counseling Services: <https://shcssacstate.org>

Dreamer Resource Center: <http://www.csus.edu/saseep/drc/>

University Writing Center: <http://www.csus.edu/writingcenter/>

Pride Center: <http://www.csus.edu/pride/>

Academic Advising: <http://www.csus.edu/acad/>

Multi-Cultural Center: <http://www.csus.edu/mcc/>

Women's Resource Center: <http://www.csus.edu/wrc/>

Information Resources & Technology: <http://www.csus.edu/irt/>

ASI Food Pantry: <http://www.asi.csus.edu/programs/food-pantry/>

Basic Needs (Food, Housing, Financial Security): <http://csus.edu/basicneeds/index.html>

COURSE SCHEDULE

This is subject to change. You will be given at least a two-week notice if any changes are made.

All readings should be completed before coming to class.

- - meeting *outside of class*
- - presentation *in class*
- - peer mentor presentation *in class*
- - assignment due date or exam date
- - no class

Date	Lectures & Readings	Assignments Due
WEEK 1		
Aug 27 – 31	<p><u>Monday & Wednesday</u> Introduction</p> <p><u>Friday</u> Icebreakers– with Ayrton</p>	<p><u>Due Monday at 11:59pm</u> 'Who is You?'</p>
WEEK 2		
Sep 3 - 7	<p><u>Monday</u> Labor Day – No Class</p> <p><u>Wednesday</u> Phlagleblast – Meet at Information Desk in Student Union</p> <p><u>Friday</u> Four Corners Activity</p>	
WEEK 3		
Sep 10 - 14	<p><u>Monday</u> History of Sac State – Meet at LIB 3023</p>	

	<u>Wednesday & Friday</u> Plato's <i>Apology</i> (Reading in Modules)	
	WEEK 4	
	TBA	