San Diego State University  
Discover San Diego University Seminar  
Fall 2014

Instructor: Jenna Hazelton, M.Ed  
Email: jhazelton@mail.sdsu.edu  
Office Hours: by appointment

Class Times: Tuesday 2:00pm-2:50pm  
Class Location: Cuicacalli Seminar Room

Office Location: Office of Housing  
Administration/Residential Education Office  
Office Phone: (619) 594 - 8717

Course Description
This course is designed to help you become engaged members of the San Diego State University academic community by connecting you to faculty, peers, and your discipline early in your college career. The course encourages you to claim your education through a focus on the process of learning, cultivate the habits of mind for lifelong achievement and success, and develop skills that are applicable across subjects and across time. Through the reflection and discussion that is required in this course, you are asked to understand your role as a member of the academic community and the responsibility and benefits of being an SDSU student.

As a member of the Discover San Diego Residential Learning Community, this course will assist you in your exploration of and adjustment to SDSU and the San Diego community. More specifically, establishing clear academic goals, social support and networking as well as an emphasis on self-awareness, social identity and reflection are key components to this community.

Learning Outcomes
Through a curriculum that fosters critical thinking and written reflection, you will:
- Develop an understanding of the culture of higher education;
- Discover SDSU campus resources;
- Become engaged with the campus community by participating in campus endeavors and/or organizations based on an assessment of interests, academic and career goals;
- Develop an understanding of holistic wellness, including stress management, emotional health, and physical health as well as issues relating to campus safety;
- Understand what it means to be a critical thinker, and the dispositions and habits of mind that facilitate college-level learning;
- Gain a better understanding of your identity through a bit of critical examination and reflecting on the question: "Who am I and what forces have shaped me?"
- Increase your understanding of your own motivational focus;
- Develop a greater understanding of and accountability for your academic success;
- Recognize personal growth and achievement as well as opportunities for further academic enrichment;
- Communicate the advantages and challenges of a diverse society as well as understand the impact of diversity on your own identity and culture;
- Gain a greater understanding of your own career choice possibilities as well as what SDSU Career Services can offer.

Required Reading/Materials
- Red ID# and password for Blackboard log-in
- 2014-2015 SDSU General Catalogue
- Computer and Internet access
  Note: The Library’s Student Computing Center is open Sunday-Thursday 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. and Friday-Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted at http://infodome.sdsu.edu.
- Writing materials for assignments and notes

Additional Readings
All additional readings will be made available on Blackboard (Bb).
Student Responsibilities
1. Come to class prepared to participate.
   Please give all activities a personal sense of purpose and discover different ways you can make various strategies work for you. Your attendance and participation in class is essential for a complete learning experience. The type of learning that takes place as a result of social interaction between you and your instructor, and between you and your classmates represents a unique learning experience that cannot be attained on an individual basis. Exhibit intellectual curiosity, be willing to experiment with new ideas, challenge your own beliefs, seek out other points-of-view, and contribute consistently, thoughtfully, and respectfully to discussions.

2. Check your email and Blackboard announcements frequently for important information regarding the course. Emails sent through the Blackboard system are automatically routed to the junk mail folder of some email systems, including hotmail. Thus, you should make sure that the instructor’s email address appears in your “safe list.”

3. Notify the instructor before the class meets if you will be arriving late, leaving early, or missing class entirely. Before returning to class, obtain any missed information, assignments and handouts from another student or the instructor.

Course Requirements
1. Attendance
   Responsible attendance and class participation is expected. In order to get the full value of the course, it will be important to regularly attend, and arrive promptly to class. It will be our policy in the Seminar to listen and speak respectfully. You must come to all face-to-face class sessions unless extenuating circumstances keep you from attending. If a student is missing a class on the day an assignment is due, the student should make arrangements for that assignment to be turned in on time. In order to pass the course, you may not have more than two (2) in-class absences.

2. Required Participation Events
   In addition to regularly attending class, you are expected to participate in four (4) required events this semester. These events include: Journey to a Shared Humanity, one (1) Aztec Nights event and a minimum of two (2) Field Trips. In order to pass the course you must attend all four of these events and complete the required reflection essays.

3. Reflection Essays
   In order to pass the course you must complete all reflection essays.

3. Application Activities
   In order to facilitate your engagement in topics discussed in class, there will be several activities provided by your instructor. These activities are meant to be discussion points for the topics covered that week in class. In order to pass the course you must complete all application activities.

4. Neighborhood Presentation
   To demonstrate that you have truly discovered San Diego you are required to make an oral presentation about a San Diego neighborhood. This is a group assignment. A more detailed description of the Neighborhood Assignment may be found on PAGE 5 of this syllabus. In order to pass the course you must complete a neighborhood presentation.

Plagiarism/Cheating
   Each student agrees to submit and take credit for only his or her own work, individually or in a group. Plagiarism will NOT be tolerated. Engaging in plagiarism will minimally result in a failure (automatic zero) for that assignment and could potentially result in a failure of the course. A detailed description of what constitutes as plagiarism can be found in the General Catalog.

Additional Resources:
Counseling & Psychological Services: http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/cps/index.html
The Counseling Center offers counseling for personal & career concerns, self-help information, and referrals for additional mental health services. Counseling & Psychological Services Counseling Center is located in Calpulli Center, Room 4401.
Student Disability Services (SDS): [http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/sds/](http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/sds/)
SDS is the campus office responsible for determining and providing appropriate academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Please inform your Instructor if you require special classroom accommodations due to a disability. You must register with SDS prior to receiving these accommodations. Student Disability Services is located in Calpulli Center, Suite 3101.

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that accommodations based upon disability cannot be provided until you have presented your instructor with an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Career Services: [http://career.sdsu.edu/](http://career.sdsu.edu/)
Career Services provides many different services related to professional development. Available services include national and international employer opportunities for SDSU students. Career counseling is available for assistance with selecting a major and reviewing majors. Also, Career Services hosts career fairs for all students, as well as on-campus job interviews for students registered with Aztec Career Connection. Career Services is located in Student Services East, Room 1200.

Aztec Nights: [http://www.AztecNights.com](http://www.AztecNights.com)
Aztec Nights provides free entertainment in campus for SDSU students on select Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights. This is your chance to become engaged and meet new people.
## Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENT DUE at beginning of class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>8/26</td>
<td>Introduction to the University Seminar Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>9/2</td>
<td>Discuss University Seminar Course syllabus, expectations, experiences thus far</td>
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| Week 3  | 9/9   | **Wellness Session**  
Meet in the Cuicacalli Seminar Room |                                      |
| Week 4  | 9/16  | **Getting Involved on Campus – Student Life & Leadership**  
Meet in the Cuicacalli Seminar Room |                                      |
| Week 5  | 9/23  | History of San Diego  
Pablo Ben, guest speaker |                                      |
| Week 6  | 9/30  | NO CLASS  
Must complete Library Tour by next class period |                                      |
| Week 7  | 10/7  | History of San Diego  
Pablo Ben, guest speaker | Must have completed Library Tour by start of class |
| Week 8  | 10/14 | **Wellness Session #2- Live Well Aztecs**  
Meet in the Cuicacalli Seminar Room |                                      |
| Week 9  | 10/21 | History of San Diego |                                      |
| Week 10  | 10/28 | Career Services overview  
Meet in the Cuicacalli Seminar Room |                                      |
| Week 11 | 11/4  | **Academic Integrity**  
Meet in the Cuicacalli Seminar Room |                                      |
| Week 11 | 11/11 | **NO CLASS- Veteran's Day (Campus Closed)**  
Students must attend 1 Journey to a Shared Humanity tour. Tours run 11/9, 11/10, 11/12, 11/13 (no tours on Veterans Day) |                                      |
| Week 12 | 11/18 | History of San Diego |                                      |
| Week 13 | 11/25 | **NO CLASS (Thanksgiving break)** |                                      |
| Week 14 | 12/2  | Neighborhood presentations |                                      |
| Week 15 | 12/9  | **NO CLASS (final exams begin)** | All field trip reflections due |
NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP PRESENTATION

Purpose: The neighborhood presentation is a direct showcase and demonstration of each student's: (1) involvement in the University Seminar Class, (2) involvement in their learning community, (3) knowledge learned about the San Diego community, and (4) ability to physically navigate the San Diego area.

Overview: You will be assigned to a group. The group will be assigned a specific neighborhood of San Diego. Your group must visit and research the assigned neighborhood. Your group must then make a presentation to educate classmates about the assigned neighborhood. The presentation must include:

1. Artifacts collected from the neighborhood
2. Photographs taken during your visit to the neighborhood
3. General demographics of the neighborhood
4. Date or time period founded
5. A description of the founders and/or settlers of the neighborhood
6. Names of any notable residents
7. Unusual or colorful facts/stories about the neighborhood
8. An explanation of the economic impact of the neighborhood on San Diego
9. Historical sites that could be visited in the neighborhood today
10. Past or present tourist attractions in the neighborhood

Required Materials:
In order to complete this assignment you will need:
- Positive Attitude
- Adventurous Outlook
- Creative Ideas

Neighborhoods to Discover:
Some of the possible neighborhoods that may be assigned are listed below:
- University Heights
- Normal Heights
- North Park / South Park
- Hillcrest
- Coronado
- Gaslamp/Downtown
- Mission Valley
- Del Cerro
- Point Loma
- Mira Mesa
- Beach Cities
- Kensington/Talmadge
- Little Italy
- Additional neighborhoods with approval from instructor
REFLECTION ESSAYS

Purpose: The reflection essays demonstrate each student's: (1) involvement in the assigned activity, (2) personal impact of the activity on the student, and (3) evidence of learning achieved through participation.

Overview: Over the course of the semester, you will be expected to participate in various on-campus and off-campus activities. You will be asked to complete an essay detailing the experience. An outline for the essay is as follows.

1. First Line of essay should include:
   a. Your name
   b. Title of activity
   c. Date of activity
2. A brief description of the activity
3. The most important information you learned from participation in the activity
4. Unexpected information you gained from participation in the activity
5. Suggestions for how to improve the activity
6. How you will use the information gained from the activity

The essay should never be more than 1 page in length. All essays must be typewritten and double-spaced.

Required Materials:
In order to complete this assignment you will need:
- Positive Attitude
- Adventurous Outlook
- Open Mind
- Paper
- Word Processor

FIELD TRIPS

You must participate in a minimum of two (2) field trips. Participation in additional trips is strongly encouraged and greatly appreciated. All participants are required to have a completed release of liability prior to participation. Transportation will be provided for all field trips.

If students are unable to complete the field trip requirement of attending two activities, he/she should make alternative arrangements with the instructor to visit one (1) additional neighborhood and write a reflection paper in lieu of the second field trip assignment.

Field trip dates:

Saturday September 20: Stand Up Paddleboarding/Kayaking (Mission Bay Aquatic Center)

Saturday October 25: San Diego Zoo

Friday December 5: December Nights festival (Balboa Park)

TBD: Julian (gold mining/apple pie)