

## **Professor Campbell's Tips for Succeeding in this Course**

**Find a quiet place to study.** Some students thrive in an environment filled with background noise. But if you are struggling academically and seek to improve your performance, I encourage experimentation. It stands to reason that too much talking, texting, music, or other distractions might prevent you from concentrating.

**Turn off phones and computer programs that you're not using.** There are numerous scientific studies suggesting that too much multi-tasking inhibits our ability to learn.

**Take detailed and organized notes in class.** Powerpoint presentations may give you the "greatest hits" of the lecture in outline format, but they will not provide the supporting details you need in order to do really well in the class.

**Take notes on the readings.** You are expected to keep up with the reading schedule in the syllabus. Taking notes on readings and documents will help you prepare for assignments, exams, and contribute to classroom discussions to earn participation credit.

**Learn where to prioritize your time and energy.** Missing your attendance and participation grade for one class is not going to kill your grade because it is a *very* small fraction of your overall course grade. However, unit tests and the essay are worth much more. Therefore, it would make more sense to set aside time for the essay than argue about attendance.

**Practice time management.** Get into a routine and take advantage of small breaks in your day

**If possible, get plenty of sleep and exercise!**

**Be an active learner:** Be present; listen carefully, take an active role in class discussions

**Invest time in this course outside of class.** Expect 2 hours of study per week outside of class for every 1 unit of class. Some students may need more time. Re-read handouts on your own time. Orient yourself with maps and geography

**Show respect for the learning environment in the classroom.** Don't talk with friends during a lecture. Show respect for others' ideas.

**Use a dictionary.** Keep track and memorize new words. It is liberating to know the meaning of words and when to use them! We can all improve our vocabulary!

**Get to know your professor.** I am available to discuss material you don't understand, to explain what I'm looking for on assignments, and explain comments more in-depth.

**Take an idealistic, long-term approach to your education:** Our digital world too often emphasizes instant gratification and quick answers. True mastery of a subject, however, requires patience. Viewing a class as an opportunity to gain knowledge – rather than as a hoop to jump through – is much more likely to ensure a fulfilling experience.