EDCP 108M – College and Career Advancement: *Confidence Building and Study Skills in Mathematics*

**SYLLABUS AND COURSE INFORMATION**

University of Maryland, College Park

**EDCP 108M: College and Career Advancement: Confidence Building and Study Skills in Mathematics:** (1 credit).

**INSTRUCTOR:** Farhaana Nyamekye, M.Ed  
**OFFICE:** 3125 South Campus Dining Hall  
**E-MAIL:** farhaana_n@yahoo.com  
**PHONE:** 301-314-7693  
**COURSE SITE:** Found on [www.elms.umd.edu](http://www.elms.umd.edu)  
**TERM:** Spring, 2010

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The student will attend weekly seminars for 8 weeks to discuss individual learning and insight, as well as to further develop the course topics, form collaborative groups, and take the course exams. The student is responsible for all content as found in the course modules.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Build relationships with adults and peers at the University of Maryland to assist with the transition to independence, interdependence, and skill development required for success within the college environment.
- Expand current repertoire of study skills to develop the learning patterns expected of an undergraduate student.
- Relate personal goal setting and effective time management to academic success.
- Further develop self-understanding by identifying predominant learning styles and the characteristics of student success students need to adopt or expand.
- Complete Fundamental Studies in Math and English within the first year of college.

**EDCP108M Learning Competencies:**

**Knowledge**

- Know their personal learning style and how to best study math using the strengths of this style and how to compensate if their style is underdeveloped in either the visual or mathematical reasoning dimension.
- Use a defined process for critical thinking.
- Be aware of math-specific study strategies for homework and test preparation.
- Become aware of available resources for math and study skills.
- Understand the processes and components for successful math learning.

**Skills**

- Be competent in using computer-assisted learning.
- Use Standard English in all forms of communication.
- Be a good citizen in the university classroom environment.

**Attitudes**

- Be aware of the effects of negative self-talk and consequent math performance.
- Become more independent in learning math.
- Take control of their math learning in the university.
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COURSE TOPICS

Class  Topics
1  Unit 1: Being Successful in College Math Courses
   •  — Math Autobiography
   •  — Circle of Math Success
   •  — Locus of Control
   •  — Learning with Others
2  Unit 2: Make Time for Math
   •  — Awareness of Time
   •  — In College It’s Your Time: Yes or No?
   •  — What are you going to do with your 168 hours this week?
   •  — How will you get everything accomplished in 15 weeks?
   •  — Freedom to be responsible
   •  — What Should I Do with Study Time?

3-4  Unit 3: Take Charge of Your Math Learning
   •  — Notetaking and Active Learning
   •  — Notetaking and Notemaking
   •  — 6R’s of Notetaking
   •  — T-notes and other Samples
   •  — Three Steps to the Test
   •  — Study Patterns
   •  — Math Resources
4  Mid-term Exam

5-6  Unit 4: Critical Thinking and Math
   •  — Learning Math is Different
   •  — Levels of Cognition
   •  — What is Critical Thinking?
   •  — Seven Step Model to Solving Problems with Critical Thinking (Chaffee)
   •  — Eight Step Model to Think Critically (Hobson)
   •  — Four Questions to Ask to Think Critically (Hobson)
   •  — Four Steps for Math Problem Solving(Polya)
   •  — TMI and Mind Sets
   •  — RATS! A Way to solve Word Problems

7  Unit 5: Learning to Learn Math
   •  — Learning with Style!
   •  — Learning Differently
   •  — Breaking out of the Vicious Cycle: Self-Talk
   •  — Success Cycle and Derailers
   •  — Homework Strategies

8  Final Exam

**NO CLASS THE WEEKS OF MARCH 15TH AND 22ND**
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GRADING: The final grade will be determined by points. There will be a total of 100 points for the course. A ~ 90-100; B ~ 80-89; C ~ 70-79; D ~ 60-69; F ~ 59 or below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Total Number of Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journals (4)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Management: Parts A &amp; B</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Styles</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math Toolkit: Website Resources</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word Problem Demo</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- All assignments have specific due dates, and work is to be submitted by class time on the DUE date assigned on the attached table of assignments. Late assignments are not accepted, except with a validated excuse. The instructor reserves the right to set alternate deadlines for validated excuses.

EXAMS:
- There will be a midterm exam and a cumulative final exam for the course.
- The exam will consist of short answer questions. Students should use the given review questions to study for the exams.

COURSE INTEGRITY
- The University has a nationally recognized Honor Code, administered by the Student Honor Council. The pledge, approved by the University Senate, reads: "I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment/examination." The Pledge should be handwritten and signed on all tests in this course.
- In conjunction with the University’s Code of Academic Integrity, allegations of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Honor Council. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards. Be aware of consequences of cheating and facilitation. More information can be found at www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu

CLASSROOM CURTESY
Students are expected to respect the learning environment of the classroom. Respect is to be shown to the instructor, fellow students, classroom visitors, and the classroom environment. The use of computer and electronic recording equipment requires the permission of the instructor. Electronic communication with classmates and others (cell phones, email, etc.) during class is inappropriate.

The instructor of the course reserves the right to amend the topics, schedule, and/or assignments of the course.