



LAS 301 The Adult Learner

Course Syllabus

- Instructor: Anthony Rana, M.S.A.
- Telephone/e-mail: 517.796.8605/arana@jccmi.edu
- Meeting Time: Monday, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- Required Texts: Maimon, E., Peritz, J., & Yancey, K. (2007). *A writer's resource: A handbook for writing and research*. New York: McGraw-Hill.
Coursepack. (Available at JCC Bookstore.)
- Recommended Text: *The American heritage college dictionary*. (2002). Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin.

Course Description:

LAS 301 The Adult Learner (3 Semester Hours)

In this course students will view the world through the lens of liberal arts learning in the traditions of Siena's Catholic and Dominican heritage. In LAS 301 students transition into their residency asserting and further enhancing critical thinking and communication skills in compliance with the university's mission and standards. LAS 301 affords the opportunity for students to begin academic studies at Siena from a position of strength. The course fosters integration of life and educational experiences consistent with the values and principles of liberal arts at Siena Heights University. Topics include, but are not limited to: critical thinking, learning styles, adult development, personal/professional goals and lifelong learning. These topics provide a forum for open intellectual inquiry and opportunities to refine written and oral communication.

Prerequisite: Six Semester Hours of English Composition.

Mission Statement:

The mission of Siena Heights, a Catholic university founded and sponsored by the Adrian Dominican Sisters, is to assist people to become more competent, purposeful, and ethical through a teaching and learning environment which respects the dignity of all.

Learning Outcomes:

Liberal Arts Learning

Students will be conversant with the ideas, content and methods of various disciplines.

Religious Traditions

Students will reflect on the wisdom of religious traditions in understanding the meaning of life.

Creativity

Students will engage in the creative process.

Critical Thinking

Students will think critically.

Communication

Students will communicate effectively.

Technology

Students will demonstrate effective use of technology.

Ethical Integration

Students will examine personal and professional decisions in light of ethical principles.

Diversity in Community

Students will understand the diversity and interdependence of cultures.

Social Responsibility

Students will realize the importance and demands of social responsibility.

Schedule of Class Meetings:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Week</u>	<u>Pages/Coursepack</u>
Oct. 26	1	1 - 16
Nov. 2	2	17 - 33
Nov. 9	3	34 - 42
Nov. 16	4	43 - 49
Nov. 23	5	50 - 60
Nov. 30	6	61 - 72
Dec. 7	7	73 - 94
Dec. 14	8	

Methods of Evaluation:

Students will be expected to attend and participate in all scheduled meetings, read the required materials, and complete assignments. Grades will be based on:

Attendance	8 x 04 = 32
Papers	2 x 12 = 24
Exam	1 x 12 = 12
In Class Writing	2 x 06 = 12
Oral Presentation	1 x 12 = 12
Resume'	1 x 04 = 04
Degree Plan	<u>1 x 04 = 04</u>
Total	= 100

Grading Scale:

A	=	94 - 100	C	=	76 - 78
A-	=	91 - 93	C-	=	73 - 75
B+	=	88 - 90	D+	=	70 - 72
B	=	85 - 87	D	=	67 - 69
B-	=	82 - 84	D-	=	64 - 66
C+	=	79 - 81	F	=	0 - 63

Assignments:

Written - Outside written class assignments must be three to four pages typed (double-spaced) and conform to standards of the American Psychological Association. **Students are to cite two outside references for each paper.** Each grammatical error will result in a 5% point reduction and late submissions will be reduced by 10% (assignments will continue to lose 10% of allowable points for each subsequent week late). **Plagiarism** is unacceptable and, if demonstrated will result in failure of the course (see University Catalog p. 166).

Paper #1 - Due 4th class meeting on an article of your choice from the coursepack. Please include the following:

1. Reason why you selected the article.
2. How content relates to you.
3. State whether you agree/disagree with the information.
4. Indicate whether you would recommend the article to others.

Paper #2 - Due 7th class meeting on a text from the attached Bibliography. Please include the following:

1. Reason why you selected this book.
2. How the material enlightened your awareness as an adult learner.
3. Identify a strength and weakness of the text.
4. New insight you have derived from the book and how it has influenced the way you will live your life in the future.

Exam - The exam will be administered on the eighth class meeting and will cover material which has been highlighted during classroom sessions.

Oral Presentation - Students are required to give a five minute in class oral presentation. The focus or theme of the presentation should be on learning with an emphasis on helping everyone in class to become a better student. Evaluations (feedback) will be given to you by your classmates and the total points you are awarded for this assignment will be the calculated average of the scores received.

Resume' - Update your resume' using the guidelines in *A writer's resource: A handbook for writing and research* (Maimon, Peritz, & Yancey, 2007, pp. 191-193). A copy of your resume' must be submitted to me electronically at least one week prior to the last class meeting.

Degree Plan - A copy of your updated official personal academic plan from your advisor. I just need to see and review it before or no later than the last class meeting.

Time Estimate:

Students are expected to commit at least 140 hours of work to complete this course:

Class Time	24 hours
Reading Assignments	36 hours
Written Assignments	34 hours
Research	32 hours
Exam Review	5 hours
Oral Presentation	4 hours
Resume'	4 hours
Degree Plan	<u>1 hour</u>
Total =	140 hours

Note: There are no extra credit opportunities in this class.

Special Accommodations:

Siena Heights University is committed to providing a learning environment that benefits all students. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 all reasonable accommodations will be made to meet the documented needs of students. The Siena Accommodations Policy for Students with Disabilities requires a student to provide written documentation of his/her disability to the Academic Advising Office. If you require special accommodations, it is your responsibility to notify each instructor during the first two weeks of the semester.

Bibliography

- Beck, M. (2002). *Finding your own north star: Claim the life you were meant to live*. New York, NY: Three Rivers.
- Cloud, H. (1990). *Changes that heal*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.
- Compton, W. (2005). *An introduction to positive psychology*. Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth.
- Cusack, S., & Thompson, W. (2005). *Mental fitness for life: 7 steps to healthy aging*. Boulder, CO: Bull Publishing.
- Florida, R. (2006). *The flight of the creative class*. Scranton, PA: Harper Collins.
- Friedman, T. (2005). *The world is flat*. Waterville, Maine: Thorndike Press.
- Gelb, M. (2000). *How to think like Leonardo DaVinci*. New York, NY: Delacorte.
- Gross, R. (1999). *Peak learning: How to create your own lifelong education program for personal enlightenment and professional success*. New York, NY: Putnam.
- Hudson, F. (1999). *The adult years*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.
- Hudson, F. (2000). *Life launch: A passionate guide to the rest of your life*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.
- Izzo, J. (2004). *Second innocence: Rediscovering joy and wonder*. San Francisco, CA: Barret-Koehler.
- Kelly, M. (2004). *The rhythm of life: Living every day with passion and purpose*. New York, NY: Fireside.
- Maxwell, J. (2003). *Thinking for a change: 11 ways highly successful people approach life and work*. New York, NY: Warner Book.
- McGrane, W. (1996). *Brighten your day with self-esteem*. Hummelstown, PA: Success.
- Paul, R., & Elder, L. (2002). *Critical thinking: Tools for taking charge of your professional and personal life*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.
- Quinn, R. (2000). *Change the world: How ordinary people can achieve extraordinary results*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.
- Rifenbary, J. (1996). *No excuse!* Hummelstown, PA: Success.

Ryan, R. (2002). *What to do with the rest of your life*. New York, NY: Fireside.

Seligman, M. (1990). *Learned optimism*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster.

Simon, L. (1998). *New beginnings: A guide for adult learners and returning students*.
Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Vaillant, G. (2002). *Aging well*. Boston, MA: Little, Brown and Company.