

Senior Seminar Syllabus- Fall '15

Senior Seminar: Life Skills

What's next?

Are you growing up? Or just growing older?

After years of slogging through formal school, students reach a point at graduation where they can do anything they want. So what's next? Should one get a job and begin earning some money or go off to college? Cat Stevens captures the challenge of charting a life course in the back and forth in "Father and Son"

Father

It's not time to make a change,
Just sit down, take it slowly.
You're still young, that's your fault,
There's so much you have to go through.
Find a girl, settle down,
if you want you can marry.
Look at me, I am old, but I'm happy.

Son

All the times that I cried, keeping all the things I knew inside,
It's hard, but it's harder to ignore it.
If they were right, I'd agree, but it's them you know not me.
Now there's a way and I know that I have to go away.
I know I have to go.

This course is designed to provide space to think about what might be next in your life. It is designed to teach you skills that will be required to navigate in contemporary American society. From financial interests, such as paying taxes and budgeting, to social skills such as manners and cooking. Over the course of the semester you will be required to complete lots of different activities that are meant to help prepare you for your impending emancipation. Many activities in this course will be applicable to your school Portfolio. My role as your instructor of this course is to support you as you articulate your own way to go away.

COURSE ALIGNMENT WITH STATE AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

This course is designed to develop the skills, knowledge, and dispositions which global citizenship requires. Students completing this course will learn and practice skills which will be applicable in their present and future lives and careers. Students who successfully complete this course will be able to merge economic theory and its relevance to their daily lives. This economics course is aligned with several of the Oregon State Social Study Standards.

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CLASSROOM RIGHTS

This list, cocreated by students and Mr. Sixta, lists some of your rights as students in this classroom.

1. You have the right to an education.
2. You have the right to property and privacy.
3. You have the right to health and safety.
4. You have the right to give input and be heard regarding your educational environment.
5. You have the right to be treated with respect from your peers, teachers and others in this classroom.

MR. SIXTA'S COMMITMENT TO ENSURING STUDENT RIGHTS

1. Every student in my class has the opportunity to receive an equitable education that is relevant, engaging, interesting, and useful for their life.
2. This classroom is a safe environment for all students. Hateful speech and violent actions will not be tolerated.
3. Students and their families receive the respect of person, property, and privacy that they deserve and are entitled to as students, citizens, and residents of the Butte Falls High School Community.

ASSIGNED TEXTS

There are no assigned texts for this course. Instead each class period will be structured around a specific skill or activity and background readings will be assigned prior to class. Supplemental materials will be provide for many topics for future reference.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to:

- Prepare for every class by completing assigned reading and written work
- Actively participate in all learning experiences in every class discussion
- At the end of the semester you will be required to take a final

COURSE OUTLINE

This is a tentative schedule for the course. It is subject to change as new educational opportunities arise.

<u>SEMESTER 1</u>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Unit</u>
Week 1-2	Getting Started

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Week 2-3	Get a Job & Online College Fair
Week 4-5	Budgeting & Money
Week 5-6	Credit & Saving
Week 6-7	Taxes
Week 7-8	Insurance & Retirement
Week 9-11	College Preparation
Week 12-13	Buying & Maintaining a Home
Week 13-14	Buying & Maintaining a Vehicle
Week 15	Feeding Yourself
Week 16	Breakfast
Week 17	Lunch & Dinner
Week 17-18	The Rest

COURSE GRADE

1. Units
 - a. Basic Financials (15%)
 - b. Transportation & Housing (15%)
 - c. Professional Work (15%)
 - d. Continuing Education (15%)
 - e. Cooking (15%)
 - f. Miscellaneous (10%)
2. Final Reflection Paper (15%)

POLICY ON ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Though we will use cell phones and laptops in class many times to reference information and to support one another's learning, to better enhance individual and collective focus all phones need to be silenced during class sessions. In addition, please refrain from texting and other forms of electronic "chatting" and "surfing" the web during class activities and discussions. Use of Facebook, Snapchat, and other social media that doesn't relate to class material are not allowed during the class period. If you need to communicate electronically or check the Internet, please do so before or after class. Electronic devices cannot only distract the user but

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they can also be disruptive to your peers' ability to focus and learn. Your cooperation is appreciated.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

There will be no tolerance for plagiarism or any other academic dishonesty. In particular, papers with plagiarized ideas or languages will be graded "NC" and must be rewritten with proper citations and references if the student intends to pass the course for credit. A student will receive the grade of "NC" for any unit that contains plagiarized or other academic dishonesty.