Siena Heights University
LAS 301 - The Adult Learner

Instructor: James Owens, B.S., M.A., LLPC
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Course Website: http://www.lcc.edu/personal/owensj

Office Hours: By appointment.

Required Texts:


Prerequisite: Three semester hours of English.

Course Description: 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. This course fosters integration of life and educational experiences. Topics include, but are not limited to: (a) principles of adulthood, (b) lifelong learning, and (c) critical thinking. These topics provide a forum for open intellectual inquiry, and written and oral communication which challenge students to refine and examine their personal and professional goals. These topics provide a forum for open intellectual inquiry and opportunities to refine written and oral communication.

Course 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.
Course Strategies: This professor strongly believes in learning by doing, therefore you will be expected to be an ACTIVE student in this course; the learning outcomes largely rely on your ability to personally engage the topics of the course.

Course Policies: Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made, or a medical emergency has occurred. Technological devices must not disrupt class and shall be utilized in class only for class related activity.

Grading: Students will be expected to attend and participate in all scheduled meetings, read the required materials, and complete assignments. The responsibility for determining grades rests with the instructor and reflects the student’s achievement of the academic goals set for each course. Grades are recorded at the close of each semester in the following terms: Grades will be based on the following scale: Grade Percent (A+ 100-99%) (A 98-97%) (A- 96-94%) (B+ 93-91%) (B 90-88%) (B- 87-85%) (C+ 84-82%) (C 81-79%) (C- 78-76%) (D+ 75-73%) (D 72-70%) (D- 69-67%) (E 66-00%)

Academic Dishonesty Policy: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and if demonstrated will result in failure of the course. Academic dishonesty is unethical behavior which violates the standards of scholarly conduct. It includes such behaviors as cheating on assignments or examinations and plagiarism. Plagiarism is the failure to give credit for the use of material from outside sources. It includes, but is not limited to, verbatim use of a quote without quotation marks and adequate documentation, submission of a paper prepared by another person as one's own work, using the ideas, facts, words, or data of someone else and claiming them as your own, or not documenting ideas, facts, words, or data gathered during research.

Non-Discrimination and Academic Accommodations Policy: It is the policy of Siena Heights University not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, religion, or sexual orientation, in the admission or access to or treatment in any university programs and activities or any aspects of employment by the university. To maintain the University’s commitment to the policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability and to ensure the university’s continuing compliance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, Siena Heights University has designated the Director of Human Resources as the coordinator of university compliance.

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. In accordance with University policy and the Equal Access Laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may be eligible for as a student with a disability. Please contact me for an appointment to discuss possible accommodations. Students must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities for disability verification and determination of reasonable accommodations. Requests for accommodations must be done in a timely manner and are not retroactive.
Assignments:

**Pre-Class Assignment:** Read pp 3-11 in *How to think like Leonardo DaVinci.* Be prepared to discuss and write on in the first class session.

**Attendance** Due: Weekly
Attendance is required. Up to one missed class may be excused for mitigating circumstances. A second will result in the final grade being dropped a full letter. A third will result in failure of the course.

**Journal** (5 pts each x 7 = 35 pts). Due: Weekly
Type a 1 page, double-spaced paper comprised of reflections on the discussions, lectures, presentations, etc. of the prior class period.

**Notes** (5 pts each x 7 = 35 pts). Due: Weekly
Write or type 1-2 pages of notes taken while reading the assigned week’s chapter. You do not need to take notes on the activities in the book.

**Autobiography** (40 pts). Due: Week 4
Type a 5 page paper, in APA format, denoting several significant learning experiences from your life (in or outside the classroom), reflecting on how these experiences have shaped you as a life-long learner today. References are not required.

**Research Paper** (50 pts). Due: Week 7
Due by email to the professor. Type an 8 page research paper, in APA format, on an individual who has made a significant positive impact on the world. Either an historical figure or someone from present day may be selected. Instructor approval is required by week 4 of the class. A minimum of 4 scholarly references, such as books and journals, is required (no websites, e.g. no Wikipedia, Dot Coms, etc.).

**Essays** (10 pts x 2 = 20 pts). Due: Spontaneously Announced
The in-class essay is a Siena Heights University requirement designed to assess students’ writing.

**Presentation** (20 pts). Due: As Assigned
This creative assignment shall be designed to educate classmates on something with which the presenter(s) is already highly familiar. Presentations shall be approximately 10 minutes long. Students are highly encouraged to use presentation software such as PowerPoint, Keynote, or Impress. Presentations will be graded by classmates and the instructor.

**Book/Activity Leader** (40 pts). Due: As Assigned
Part One: For their assigned week and topic, leaders will use from the text or create their own experiential activity for the class to engage (15 minutes).
Part Two: Leaders will develop open-ended questions to co-lead (not teach) a 45 minute round-table style discussion on the assigned readings for a class period to inspire critical thinking and conversation. Email questions to instructor ahead of class.

**Degree Plan** (5 pts). Due: Week 8
A degree plan can be developed and copy obtained through your SHU advisor. Submit a copy of the degree plan to this instructor.
### Weekly Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1. Read pp 3-11 in <em>How to think like Leonardo DaVinci.</em></td>
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| 2    | 1. Journal #1  
2. Reading and Notes: Dimostrazione: 76-93 |
| 3    | 1. Journal #2  
2. Reading and Notes: Curiosita: 48-75 |
| 4    | 1. Journal #3  
2. Reading and Notes: Sfumato: 142-163  
3. Research Paper Topic  
4. Autobiography Paper |
| 5    | 1. Journal #4  
2. Reading and Notes: Corporalita: 192-219 |
| 6    | 1. Journal #5  
2. Reading and Notes: Arte/Scienza: 164-191 |
| 7    | 1. Journal #6  
2. Notes: Connessione: 220-257  
3. Research Paper |
| 8    | 1. Journal #7  
2. Notes: Sensazione: 94-141  
3. Potluck |