First Year Seminars: Building Academic Success

2010

Speakers of this Seminar

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• Prof. Becky Loo, Associate Dean of Social Sciences (Postgraduate Education) and Professor, Department of Geography
• Dr. David Gardner, Associate Director, The Centre for Applied English Studies
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Tips on Building Academic Success

Three basics:
• Inquisitive Mind
• Effective self-management
• Good command of English

Remark: Tips and advice on building academic success in this powerpoint file are mainly based on the views expressed by our guest speakers.

Inquisitive Mind

• Always try to read as much as you can about a study topic, compare different information, theories and arguments.

• Actively participate in meaningful and stimulating discussions on study topics with your peers. The exchange of views can definitely enhance your understanding of these topics. Eventually, you will be able to achieve “deep learning” which is the core of university education.
Effective self-management

• Making achievable plans.
• Managing your time wisely. Don’t over commit.
• Be assertive! Say no to invitations from your peers when you have to concentrate on your studies.

Good Command of English

• You need to have good English skills to survive your university studies and definitely need this “important tool” for networking and getting a desirable job.

Want extra support?
• You may talk to a language instructor of the Centre for Applied English Studies (CAES).

Make an appointment
http://caes.hku.hk/ve/veconsult.php

Other on-line learning resources available:
http://caes.hku.hk/home/learning-resources/
Other Advice on Academic Studies

- Choosing Your Courses
- Attending Lectures
- Preparing for Tutorials
- Taking Examinations
- Changing My Major
- Where to get help?

Choosing Your Courses

- Always check with your departmental curriculum advisors and senior students to get more information about the requirements and workload of the courses in which you wish to enroll.
Attending Lectures

• Do attend the lectures even if they are not entertaining.

• Attending lectures will help you better understand the study materials. In addition, they will give you a better idea about the requirements for getting good results!

Preparing for Tutorials

• Do read the readings before going to tutorials so that you can make the best out of them (e.g. asking questions and clarifying what you don’t understand).

• Speak up: take this chance to practise your presentation skills and more importantly, engage yourself in stimulating discussions with your peers so as to deepen your learning.
Taking Exams

• Start your revision early

• Concentrate on selected areas instead of hopping around if you don’t have enough time to review all topics.

• Conduct a “cognitive mock exam” by thinking about answers to the questions in past papers so that you won’t be nervous when taking a real exam.

Tips on dealing with exam anxiety:
http://cedars.hku.hk/studysmart

Changing My Major

• Don’t switch your major just because you don’t like your current major.
• Review your goals and collect right information from the right persons (e.g. seeking advice from the teaching staff of the department to which you would like to transfer).
• “Test water”: attend the classes of the department to which you would like to transfer to.
• Remember: you must get a high G.P.A. to transfer. Therefore, you can’t give up your current studies. Work hard!
Where to get help?

• If your performance is unsatisfactory, consult your teachers and CEDARS-Counselling and Person Enrichment (CoPE) as soon as possible. The sooner you get help the better your chances of a significant improvement.

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