

FRESHMAN FOOTNOTES

An e-Newsletter for First Year Students at Georgia College & State University

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STUDY SKILL OF THE WEEK: *COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR INSTRUCTORS*

Have you had a really good discussion with any of your professors this term? Do you *need* to have one due to possible concerns for the upcoming final outcome of a class? It's never too late ... faculty members appreciate it when you demonstrate interest in the course material, or their research, or perhaps improving your own performance in the class. The tips below are excerpts from English professor and blogger Michael Leddy, of *Orange Crate Art*.

- Check your professor's office hours listed on the course syllabus. If the hours are not compatible with your schedule, inquire with your professor when he or she can meet with you.
- When you arrive, knock on the door – even if it's open – and greet your professor by name.
- If the conversation involves your difficulty with a course, here are some sentences to avoid:
 - “**Will this affect my grade?**” Whatever you're discussing will most likely play a part in your grade. How much or how little depends upon the rest of your work.
 - “**Can I still get a 'B'?**” This question indicates that your GPA, not learning, is your priority.
 - “**I'm an 'A' student.**” Your professor will not grade you based on your reputation.
- If you're having difficulty in a course, let your professor know that you realize it and ask what you can do to improve (even if it's a suggestion to implement next semester).
- If you want to talk to a professor in some other way — about a question that you didn't get to ask in class or an idea that you want to discuss — just do the best you can. Your professor will very likely meet your genuine interest with kindness and encouragement.



COLLEGE TRANSITIONS: *THE HOLIDAY TRIP HOME*

What do you love most about your college experience so far? Most GC freshmen will respond with an answer that involves “freedom” and “independence.” You've most likely become accustomed to being on your own; and as a college freshman, you can basically do what you want, when you want, right? So, what will it be like if you're headed home for Thanksgiving ... and again for the longer winter break soon after that? You should mentally prepare yourself that your college model of independence might not match the expectations your parents or family members may have once you're back “under their roof.” Here are some tips:



- Talk to your parents in advance about their expectations so there are no surprises.

- Discuss the house rules and how they may differ from what you've experienced for the past four months. Even if they no longer hold you to a curfew, respect your parents' feelings and be home at a decent hour. (Parents worry, and will worry about you no matter how old you are).
- Catch up with your high school friends, but establish family time, too. It may be helpful to ask your parents in advance what they have planned for you.
- Be a considerate guest and not tie up telephone or computer lines or hog the television.
- While you've been changing, your family members have, too. Share what has changed and enjoy what is new.
- Be sure to tell your parents what has been going well this fall semester, what you found challenging, and what adjustments you plan to make for the spring 2012 semester.

(Tips adapted from "10 tips for parents of college students: How to keep the holidays happy," K. Tuttle, Office of the Vice Provost for Student Success, University of Kansas)

SPOTLIGHT ON CAMPUS RESOURCES: REGISTRATION

How did you fare with registration on October 27th? Did you get a full-time schedule of classes required in your Core curriculum? If not, keep in mind that registration is a fluid process. Various academic departments may be making decisions in the weeks ahead regarding seat limits and possible additional sections. If you are currently on a wait list for a class, or seeking to either add classes or make some schedule adjustments, it's important to monitor your Bobcats student e-mail for any alerts and announcements, and also keep an eye on the online class schedule, C.A.T.S.

A NEW OPTION: MATH2400 – MATHEMATICAL THOUGHT

The topics covered in this course have been chosen with the aim of conveying to students that mathematics deals with large and universal questions, that it does so in a unique and compelling way, and that mathematics has much to contribute to other areas of thought including philosophy, linguistics, and aesthetics. The course will treat the following topics:

- Perfect Numbers
- Group Theory
- Infinity

This course is intended for those students who are pursuing non-math/science majors and who do not need MATH 2600 (Probability and Statistics) for their chosen major. For these students, this course is an excellent option for Area D. The prerequisite is minimal. In fact, the only prerequisite for this course is completion of the Area A2 mathematics requirement. Please contact the Mathematics department on the first floor of the A&S Building to learn more.

A TRADITION IN THE MAKING: THE BOBCAT EMBLEM

You may walk by it each week – the image of our Bobcat mascot crafted out of granite in the medallion in the center of our Front Campus lawn. What do you do as you approach it? Do you walk straight across it, or around it? Many GC students, faculty and staff have adopted an unofficial tradition of walking around the medallion, out of respect for the mascot. Here's another good reason to walk around – on rainy days, it's extremely slippery!

