ABEN 189 - SKILLS FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS (version: Oct. 12, 2015)

Fall 2015 1 credit
8:30 - 9:20 AM (Tuesday & Thursday to Oct. 15) Dr. Dennis Wiesenborn
Classroom: ABEN room 201 Office: ABEN room 206
Office hours: MWF 11 a.m. – noon; TTh 9:30-11 a.m. Office phone: 231-7277

Title:  
Skills for Academic Success at NDSU
This course is designed to ease the transition for new students at NDSU. Students will learn
skills and techniques used by successful college students. In addition to introducing the students
to campus resources and governance, topics may include study techniques, time management,
test taking, note taking, goal setting, wellness, stress management, and career orientation (ABET
Program Educational Objectives 2g & 2i. – see below).

Text:  
Schnell, Carolyn (Ed), 2015. Skills for Academic Success at NDSU. North Dakota State University Research Foundation

General education
This course has been approved for the First-Year Experience category in general education. It
explores those topics found to be necessary to be a successful college student. The General
Education Outcomes that students should expect to meet as the result of this course are:
- Be able to locate and use information for making appropriate personal and professional
decisions, and
- Comprehend intrapersonal and interpersonal dynamics.

Course objectives
This course is designed to ease the transition to NDSU for new Agricultural Systems
Management (ASM) and Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (ABEN) students at North Dakota State University. Specific objectives include:
1. Students will be able to identify and explain their own academic and personal
   responsibilities in working for academic success.
2. Students will be able to identify and use the services and resources available on campus
   for their success.

Course philosophy
Learning is an active, collaborative process that requires student effort and is facilitated by
teacher effort. Teachers and students are responsible to one another.

Teacher obligations include:
a) being knowledgeable about the subject matter
b) planning and providing good learning experiences
c) evaluating work fairly, promptly, and frequently
d) assisting you to meet the course goals and to fulfill your needs

Student obligations include:
a) reading and completing assignments on time
b) participating actively and positively in the learning process
c) expressing needs to the teacher
Grading (tentative)

Grades will be determined by the number of points earned during the class converted to a percentage of the number of possible points. Expect the following standard to apply:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Mediocre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 60%</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Unacceptable/Failing</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Professional practice: 40 pts
Homework essays (20 points each): 60 pts
Other assignments: 60 pts
Final exam (in-class): 40 pts
Total: 200 pts

Professional Practice: Participation and Attendance

How deeply you participate in class discussions and lectures and lab activities will undoubtedly determine how much you benefit from this course. Your attendance and full participation is expected and is incorporated into the professional practice component of your course grade, through punctuality, classroom discussions, volunteering answers to questions, asking constructive questions, and by helping to create a spirit of cooperation within the class.

Please note: Students should provide documentation of a valid excuse, such as from a medical professional or advisor of an NDSU student organization, to avoid a grade penalty of up to 10 points per unexcused absence.

Homework Essay Assignments (20 points each)

**Essay #1** Reflect on the experiences of your first days at NDSU. How did they meet or not meet your expectations? What has been the most difficult, the most enjoyable, the most surprising, the most gratifying, etc.? Describe an individual who has been particularly helpful in these first few days at NDSU and why. **Due: Sept. 3**

**Essay #2** Attend a campus organization meeting (those in a university athletics program can write about that program). Report what you learned about the organization, for example, who is in it? how many members are there? why does it exist? what do they do? when do they meet? etc. Explain why you are (or were) interested in joining the group and what you hope(d) to get out of being a part of it. Because you must attend an organization meeting to do this, you can’t just do it the night before! **Due: Sept. 24**

**Essay #3** Think about why you have chosen to attend college. What is your commitment to this choice? What would you be doing if you were not in college right now? Compare what you think your future life would be with and without a college education. Are you on track to meet your educational goals at NDSU? **Due: Oct. 13**

Essays should be prepared in MS Word. **Submit a print (paper) copy.** Essays should be approximately 1-2 pages in length and typed using a standard 12 pt font size, double-spacing,
and one inch margins on all four sides of the page. The top of the first page should simply give your name, essay number, “ABEN 189,” and the date submitted. Please be thoughtful about your answers and present them professionally. Professional writing includes logical paragraph breaks to organize key ideas as well as use of correct spelling and grammar. Please also proof read your work and use the spell-checker and grammar checking functions of MS Word.

Written assignments are due at 5 p.m., and may be submitted directly to Dr. Wiesenborn or placed in his mail slot in the main office. Again, submit a print (paper) copy. Late assignments will be accepted up to two class days after the due date with a penalty of 10% of 2 points per day late.

Other Assignments
These have yet to be determined, and may include a number of minor exercises in class and some out-of-class assignments.

Final Exam
This will be conducted during the regular class time on October 15, our last meeting of ABEN 189. Questions will be derived from the classroom activities and assigned readings. Watch for more details on Blackboard, which may include sample questions.

### CLASS SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic/Activity</th>
<th>Readings (Before Class)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25-Aug</td>
<td>Welcome/Introductions</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-Aug</td>
<td>Internships - Student Stories</td>
<td>Chapter 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-Sep</td>
<td>Student Perspective: Club Officers &amp; Peer Mentors</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
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<td>3-Sep</td>
<td>Know your Department - Faculty and Staff</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Introductions (caramel rolls)</td>
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<td>8-Sep</td>
<td>HS to College Transitions…Initial Perspectives</td>
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<td>10-Sep</td>
<td>Learning Styles &amp; ACE Tutoring (Betsy Sand, ACE)</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>15-Sep</td>
<td>Behind the Scenes in the ABEN Department (Julie Bietz and Jana Daeuber)</td>
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<td>17-Sep</td>
<td>Career Planning (Sarah Miller, Career Center)</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>22-Sep</td>
<td>Sexual Assault Prevention &amp; Advocacy (Kelsey Keimig, Student Life)</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>24-Sep</td>
<td>Mid-semester Checkup</td>
<td>Chapter 9 &amp; 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>29-Sep</td>
<td>Study &amp; Testing Skills (Jaryn Allen, Counseling Center)</td>
<td>Chapter 6 &amp; 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-Oct</td>
<td>No class (in lieu of 189 program outside of class)</td>
<td>Chapter 4 &amp; 8</td>
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<td>6-Oct</td>
<td>Peer Mentoring Follow Up</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-Oct</td>
<td>Cultural Competence (Study Abroad– Dominique Speer)</td>
<td>Chapter 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>13-Oct</td>
<td>Academic Advising</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>15-Oct</td>
<td>Final Exam (in class)</td>
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Some Other Important Dates
Agriculture & Agribusiness Expo: Sep 22, 1-4 p.m.
Engineering & Tech Expo: Sep 23, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Advising for Spring 2016 semester: begins Oct. 27
Attendance
According to NDSU Policy 333, attendance in classes is expected. Students are responsible for getting any information or announcements made if class absence is necessary.

Students with Disabilities:
Any students with disabilities or other special needs who need special accommodations in this course are requested to share these concerns and requests with the instructor as soon as possible.

Students and Military Service:
Veterans and student soldiers with special circumstances or who are activated are encouraged to notify the instructor in advance.

Academic honesty:
The academic community is operated on the basis of honesty, integrity, and fair play. NDSU Policy 335: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct applies to cases in which cheating, plagiarism, or other academic misconduct have occurred in an instructional context. Students found guilty of academic misconduct are subject to penalties, up to and possibly including suspension and/or expulsion. Student academic misconduct records are maintained by the Office of Registration and Records. Informational resources about academic honesty for students and instructional staff members can be found at www.ndsu.edu/academichonesty.

All work in this course must be completed in a manner consistent with NDSU University Senate Policy, Section 335: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct (http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/policy/335.htm). Plagiarism is unacceptable!

COE Honor System: All work in this course must be completed in a manner consistent with NDSU University Senate Policy, Section 335: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct (http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/policy/335.htm) and the CEA Honor System available at http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/ndsu/cea/.

Cell phones:
Please refrain from using your phone (phone/text/app) during class as a courtesy to others

ABEN Program Educational Objectives and Student Outcomes for ABET:

Educational Objective 2. Within a few years of graduation, graduates are expected to have established themselves as practicing engineers who have interpersonal and collaborative skills and the capacity for productive and advancing careers in leadership roles. This objective addresses the following student outcomes:

- ABET-f Understanding of professional and ethical responsibility
- ABET-g An ability to communicate effectively
- ABET-i Recognition of the need for and an ability to engage in lifelong learning