GS 300: LA Influentials
SPRING 2011
http://www.clara.purdue.edu/alumni/gs300/

Time and Location: Friday, 11:30 a.m.-12:20 a.m., Beering Hall, room 2280
Course Instructor: Irwin Weiser, Justin S. Morrill Dean of Liberal Arts, iweiser@purdue.edu
Jen Talbot, Teaching Assistant, lainfluentials@gmail.com (preferred address)
or jrtalbot@purdue.edu
Office hours: HEAV 207 Monday, Noon-2 p.m. or by appointment

Course Description: As a lecture/discussion course, this course will feature speakers from a diverse range of Liberal Arts majors. The course will emphasize the myriad career opportunities available to liberal arts graduates. Speakers will represent careers in the arts, entertainment field, academia, business, industry, politics, and more. The course will encourage students to initiate dialogue with working professionals and will provide an experiential complement to their academic course instruction.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of GS 300, students will be better prepared to identify how the liberal arts influence and contribute to society, globalization, and world issues and how the liberal arts prepare students for interesting and satisfying careers. Students will develop a better understanding of how these influences and contributions can be applied to their professional and personal development. In addition, students will network with key Liberal Arts alumni.

Emergency Preparedness: In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances.

H1N1 Influenza: No one knows whether H1N1 will become a pervasive health issue this spring, but I want to pass along one key guideline for you to follow should you become ill: Please avoid situations in which you may spread the flu. Recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control are that people with H1N1 stay away from work or class for at least 24 hours after they are fever free. Should you have to miss class because you are ill, please contact me or Jen Talbot to let us know. You can find more information about minimizing your chances of getting or spreading the flu at http://www.itap.purdue.edu/tlt/faculty/Purdue_H1N1_Flier1.pdf

Grading Scale:

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Grade Breakdown (see below for specifics):
Weekly Questions/Attendance 20%
Reflection Questions 50%
Participation 30%
Total 100%

Weekly Questions/Attendance (20%): Before each class and to prompt students to begin thinking the speaker’s career before class, students will prepare one thoughtful question for the week’s guest speaker. These questions are meant to help students create thoughtful, perceptive questions for their future experiences with employers, job recruiters, fellow liberal arts alumni, etc. Web research, such as a Google search, on the speaker or his/her current employer should provide materials for thoughtful, pertinent questions. These questions will not be graded. Instead, they will be collected at the end of class and considered a record of your attendance in class that day. These questions will NOT be accepted by e-mail before or after the class. These questions must be typed – handwritten questions will not be accepted.
Reflection Questions (50%): After each alumnus/a’s presentation, write brief responses to any four of the five questions below. These responses are meant to help you articulate what you learned from the speaker’s lecture and how you can use what you learned in your own studies and careers. Responses to the reflection questions are due in class the week following the alum’s presentation. No handwritten or emailed questions will be accepted. Use these same questions for each speaker. Please be sure that you indicate which questions you’re responding to, either by including the question number or in the language of your response (for example, “The most useful piece of advice I heard from Cindy Kuhn was . . .”)  

Include your name and the speaker’s name on your paper.  

1. Did the alumnus/a inspire you? Why or why not?  
2. What was the most useful piece of advice from the alumnus/a for you?  
3. What information from the alumnus/a surprised you most?  
4. How do you see yourself using the alumnus/a’s insights in your own path toward a career?  
5. After hearing the presentation, if you could ask the speaker a follow-up question, what would you ask and why would you ask it?  

Each submitted response will be evaluated on a scale of 0-5 points:  

5 points  
• Four questions are answered  
• Four responses are thoroughly and thoughtfully developed  
• Responses show that the student was present in class and paid attention to the speaker  
• Responses are supported by examples/anecdotes from the speaker’s lecture  
• Responses demonstrate that the student learned something from the speaker  

4 points  
• Four questions are answered, some more thoroughly or thoughtfully than others  
• Some responses need further development and are not supported by examples/anecdotes from the speaker’s lecture  
• Responses demonstrate that the student learned something from the speaker  

3 points  
• Four questions are answered but are generic and need to be more fully developed  
• Responses are not supported by examples/anecdotes from the speaker’s lecture  
• Responses may or may not demonstrate that the student learn something from the speaker  

2 points  
• Questions are answered and are generic  
• A majority of the responses need to be further developed  

1 point  
• Fewer than four questions are answered  
• Responses are incomplete  

0 points  
• No questions are answered/turned in by deadline  

If you miss a class you cannot submit responses to the reflection questions. At the end of the semester, the two lowest reflection question scores will be dropped. Reflection questions should be submitted via e-mail to Jen Talbot at lainfluentials@gmail.com by the start of the following class time.
Participation (30%): There are numerous ways to participate in this class. Students are encouraged to ask questions during and after the alumnus/a’s presentation, introduce themselves before/after class to the alumnus/a, and ask the alumnus/a for their business card. You are also encouraged to join the CLA Linked-In group at http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=1793727. Connect with alumni (including those who have spoken in this class) and explore potential job/internship opportunities.

Students are required to attend TWO of the participation opportunities listed below. You must attend two of them (either coffees/lunches or CLA Career Development opportunities, or others listed below) to earn participation points:

1. Attend two coffees OR lunches, or a combination of the two with a visiting alumnus/a. A maximum of seven students per coffee/lunch will be allowed. Coffee/lunch registration forms will be distributed and collected the first day of class. All requests must be received by Tuesday, January 18th to Jen Talbot at lainfluentials@gmail.com. You will receive a confirmation by e-mail.
   - Coffee (free) with speaker (Friday, 10:30-11:15 a.m.) in the Vision 21 room (BRNG 7150)
   - Lunch (free) with speaker (Friday, 12:30-1:30 p.m.) in the Vision 21 room (BRNG 7150)

2. Attend at least one of the following events. A class sign in sheet will be at registration and/or at the Alumni Relations table.
   2. One of more event(s) during Liberal Arts Career Week (9 to 5 Know How) sponsored by the Liberal Arts Career Development Office – February 21-25, 2011. Visit http://www.cla.purdue.edu/students/careers/Career_Week_2010/ for details.
   3. The Professional Forum (Liberal Arts career and internship fair) sponsored by the Liberal Arts Career Development Office on February 25, 2011. Visit http://www.cla.purdue.edu/students/careers/The_Professional_For/ for details

Class Etiquette: GS 300 requires students to attend class dressed appropriately. As a courtesy to the speaker, arrive on time. All cell phones in the locked and off position, please! Drinks are permitted, but no food.

Schedule/Speakers: Visit www.cla.purdue.edu/alumni/gs300 for biographies and presentation titles of returning alumni and guests. This website serves as a starting point for your weekly questions. Use the information found here to identify other websites about each speaker. Please check the website frequently for updates and changes.

Please note that due to schedule conflicts sometimes speakers will have to cancel their return to campus. If this happens, we will do our best to schedule another alumnus/a and notify you of the change as soon as possible. If you are signed up to have coffee/lunch with that speaker, we will ask you to select another alumnus/a.