HOW TO SUCCEED IN A U.S. CLASSROOM
Agenda

- Student-Faculty Relationships
- Participation
- Group Work
- Using Outside Sources
- “Critical Thinking Skills”
- A Word on Time in the U.S.
Relationships with Faculty

Notes:
• Faculty tend to be less formal
• Faculty want to get to know you as a person
• Faculty are willing to be questioned

Make the most of this!
• Professors can provide academic connections
• Professors can offer help if you ask
Participation in Class

Notes:

• Sharing ideas and asking questions during class is commonplace and expected.
• Participation is frequently factored into your grade
• Participating in class is a great way for your professor to get to know you.
Strategies for participating

• Raise your hand
• Read, read and read some more!
• Create a script if you are nervous to speak in class.
Group Work

Notes

• Grades are given for group work
• Students are expected to meet outside of class for group projects
• There is little oversight of groups – it's up to you to get work done
Surviving group projects

- Be a team player
- Stay organized, keep communication lines open
- Use a third party to help when there are problems

*During a class project*
Me: "Let's divide the work equally and present it together."
Other group members:
Using Outside Sources

Notes

• Using outside sources is expected to support your own thinking

• Using someone else’s words or ideas without reporting that they are not yours is a considered academic dishonesty.

• There is no amount of taking words or ideas and presenting as your own that is considered acceptable.
Resources are great but use them legally!

- ALWAYS give credit to ideas that are not your own
- When in doubt, ask for help with citing
- Attend a workshop on using outside sources
- Visit the writing center or International Center Tutor
- Check out digital resources like Purdue OWL
Critical Thinking

• "The objective analysis and evaluation of an issue in order to form a judgment" - Google
• Don't just accept fact, ask questions and challenge arguments!
Critical thinking 101

• Do your research
• Think outside the textbook and offer your perspective
• Stay openminded (think beyond your biases)
• Draw other sources into your response
• Learn the terminology associated with critical thinking:
  • Analyze, synthesize, evaluate, infer, etc.
Ideas of time in the U.S.

Notes

• People in the U.S. tend to value promptness
• Grades can be impacted if you are late to class (check syllabus)
• Assignments are expected to be turned in by the due date, but can frequently be turned in early
• You are responsible for managing your time
Keeping up with deadlines

Strategies

• Know what's coming up on your syllabus
• Use a planner or calendar
• Work ahead when you are able to
Want to learn more? Check out our events!

September 8th - Power of a syllabus info session

October 13th - What to do when you get off track info session

November 3rd - Group work strategies session

November 10th - Research methods skills session
To access a digital copy of this presentation, scan the code below
QUESTIONS?

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