STUDENTS IN TRANSITION SEMINAR (STS)
Science Success Fast Track (SSFT)
Fall 2016
Course 01:090:220: Section 45
Thursdays 1:40 pm – 3:00 pm, ARC 204

Instructor: Dr. Kathleen Scott
Office Hours: TBA, or by appointment

ARC, Room 312

Course Description:
This course is an in-depth introduction to Rutgers University and the School of Arts and Sciences that will introduce students to the skills necessary to be successful inside and outside the classroom. Topics in this course are specially designed to assist students majoring in STEM disciplines as they adjust to the University and to facilitate successful first term academic performance during this transition. Additionally several course segments will focus on introducing students to various professional and academic developmental opportunities including research prospects.

Course goals:
- To help new transfer students connect to Rutgers University and to encourage them to become active and responsible members of the Rutgers University community.
- To provide information and skills that will help students perform well academically; this section will concentrate on helping students succeed in the sciences.
- To help transfer students navigate the complexities and resources of a large research university, so that they can find the resources they need to do well.
- To establish connections between transfer students, transfer mentors, staff, and faculty from across the university.
- To develop a sense of community among transfer students who are interested in pursuing careers in the sciences or mathematics.

Course Requirements and Grading:
This course is graded on a pass/no credit basis. In order to pass, you must 1) complete all of the mandatory assignments listed below, and 2) attend all classes. Please remember that although this is a pass/no credit course, a “no credit” on a one-credit seminar will not look good on your record!

Mandatory Course Assignments:

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1 First Day Focused Writing Assignment 1</td>
<td>September 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>#2 My Professor</td>
<td>September 22</td>
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<td>#3 Library Assignment</td>
<td>September 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>#4 Exploring Research Interests</td>
<td>October 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>#5 Course Planning Assignment</td>
<td>October 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>#6 Last Day Focused Writing Assignment</td>
<td>November 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>#7 Transfer Passport</td>
<td>November 17</td>
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Participation and Attendance
This course is taught as a seminar; it will only succeed if everyone fully participates. You should come to class ready to fully participate in discussions. Attendance is expected in all classes for credit. If you must miss class you must have a legitimate and documented medical/personal excuse and must communicate this information to me prior to the class meeting using the Absence Reporting System. Completion of class/home work is still required. Note that more than one absence will result in an automatic failure to pass this course, unless you have some serious and compelling reason (for example, you were hospitalized) for missing every class you did not attend. Arriving at class more than 15 minutes late or leaving more than 15 minutes early constitutes an absence. If you are using any electronic device during class, you will not be
considered to be participating. The same goes for doing homework from other classes, reading the Targum, or chatting with your neighbors.

**Transfer Passport:**
You must complete seven passport events, one of which **MUST** be a Wellness event. The other six events should include one academic event, plus any other five events. In addition to the events listed in the passport, events organized as part of the SSFT Learning Community will count as passport events. Other campus events such as research seminars or talks can be counted as passport events, but you must have the event approved by Dr. Scott in advance and write a one paragraph summary of the event afterward.

**Syllabus:**

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<tr>
<th>Course Week</th>
<th>Topic of Discussion</th>
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| Week 1: September 8, 2016 | Introduction to STS Seminar and Science Success Fast Track  
Assignment #1: Focused Writing Assignment 1                      |
| Week 2: September 15, 2016 | **How to Succeed in the Sciences: An Introduction to Resources Relevant to STEM Students**  
Assignment #1 Due  
Assignment #2: My Professor                                        |
| Week 3: September 22, 2016 | **Library Field Trip** (LSM Conference Room)  
Assignment #2: Due  
Assignment #3: Library Assignment (part of Library presentation) |
| Week 4: September 29, 2016 | **Introduction to a Research University and Scientific Academic Integrity**  
Assignment #3 :Due                                    |
| Week 5: October 6, 2016 | **Lab Tour (Nelson Biological Laboratories)**                                        |
| Week 6: October 13, 2016 | **Research Perspectives: Getting Involved**  
Assignment #4: Exploring Research Interests                  |
| Week 7: October 20, 2016 | **Getting it all done: time management**  
Assignments # 4 Due  
Assignment # 5: Course Planning Assignment                        |
| Week 8: October 27, 2016 | **Academic Advising and Scheduling in STEM**  
Assignment #5 Due  
Assigned Reading for week 9: Transfer articles                  |
| Week 9: November 3, 2016 | **Transfer Shock and Transition Issues**  
Assignment #6: Focused Writing Assignment 2                          |
| Week 10: November 10, 2016 | **Careers in the Sciences: Career Services, Internships, Graduate School**  
Assignment #6 Due                                                     |
| Week 11: November 17, 2014 | **Focus Group and Course Evaluations**  
Passports Due                                                          |
| Week 12: November 24, 2014 | **NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**                                                 |

**Note:** Syllabus is subject to change, and some due dates may be rescheduled as a result. Any changes will be posted in the announcements section of the course website.