



How to Succeed in U.S. Academics



What you can expect!

- Classroom Culture in the U.S.
- SCU's Academic System
- Your Responsibilities
- Academic Resources
- Tips for Success



The U.S. Classroom*

- Influenced by U.S. Cultural Values
 - Individualism
 - Personal Responsibility
 - Equality
 - Importance of Time
 - Informality
- Teacher-Centered / Learner-Centered Continuum



*Adapted from U.S. Culture Series: *U.S. Classroom Culture*. Alisa Eland, Michael Smithee, and Sidney L. Greenblatt.



U.S. Classroom*: Learner-Centered Teaching Style

	Teacher-Centered Approach	Learner-Centered Approach
Preferred Teaching Methods	Lecture	Lecture, small & large group discussions
Instructor's Role	Direct learning process, source of knowledge, clarify and interpret text	Present content, facilitate dialogue, demonstrate analytic skills
Learner's Role	Listen, take notes, read, memorize → demonstrate memorization via tests and papers	Listen, take notes, read, think critically, express perspectives in class → demonstrate understanding
Evaluation Methods	Written and oral exams	Written and oral exams, presentations, class participation, papers, quizzes, group projects, peer assessments

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Santa Clara University's Academic System

- **Quarter system (except Law) – 10 weeks!**
- **Curriculum**
 - Varies by Program
 - May include Foundation, Core, Specialization, and Elective courses
 - Understand your specific Degree Requirements
- **Academic Advising**



Course Syllabus

- Your Guide to the Course
- Usually Reviewed During First Class Meeting
- Course Description
- Faculty Information
- Course Goals
- Expectations for Attendance, Class Participation, and Grading
- Dates and Deadlines



Students Are Expected To...

- Read the Syllabus
- Attend Class / Actively Participate
- Take Initiative / Use Resources
- Ask if You Don't Understand
- Work Independently When Asked
- Work with Small Groups When Asked
- Use Proper Citations
- Respect Faculty and Other Students



Academic Resources

- Faculty Office Hours
- [The HUB Writing Center](#)
 - Drop-in or by Appointment
 - Downstairs Benson Center or in the Library
- [University Library](#)
 - Personal Librarian Program
 - Online: [Library Guide for International Students](#)
- Undergraduate only: [Drahmann Advising and Learning Resources Center](#)
 - Advising, Tutoring, Workshops
- [Global Engagement Office](#)



Helpful Tips

- Class participation is important
- Attend office hours to meet your professor, ask questions, and get advice
- Use the academic support resources available to you
- Refer back to the syllabus; it is your guide to the course
- Ask if you don't understand



Questions?