

Boise State University
College of Business and Economics
COBE Residential College Course Syllabus (TENTATIVE)
Spring 2010

Course: GENBUS 150 / 250: COBE RC

Meeting Time: Wednesday 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. (Keiser 103/104)

Facilitator: Zeynep Hansen

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Living Learning Community Mission: The Residential College enriches student learning through direct connection with live-in faculty who bridge academic and personal life and foster interdisciplinary inquiry.

Residential College Purpose: Colleges are the bridge between learning and living, offering opportunities for personal and academic enrichment beyond the classroom. This is achieved by clustering students who share similar interests and goals in a single residence hall or apartment complex.

Residential College Values:

1. Civic Engagement
2. Intellectual Curiosity
3. Life-long Learning
4. Academic Excellence

Course Description: This course is designed to provide opportunities for students to make connections between academic courses and real-life experiences and among themselves as students of similar interests/majors living in the residence halls together and learning together. We will learn through variety of activities and programs that are guided by the residential college values: academic excellence, intellectual curiosity, life-long learning and civic engagement. We will assess out learning through a series of written reflections and guided discussions.

Other Course Objectives: The course will expose you to the range of issues involved in managing and running a business. Your exposure will be firsthand through your work at the Dawson 4.0 Coffee Shop. Besides working behind the counter serving coffee, you will have

opportunities to help with marketing and operations planning at Dawson 4.0 We may have opportunities to work on a consulting basis with other local businesses. Also, you will have an opportunity to think about starting a new business through our collaboration with COBE Entrepreneurship Club

It is another of our goals that you will have opportunities to interact with COBE faculty and business leaders representing the range of business disciplines both inside and outside the classroom. Another very important objective is to help you develop good study habits and communication skills for academic success at Boise State and beyond. One specific aim is the successful completion of mathematics and business courses.

At the conclusion of the course, you will:

- have identified and utilized campus resources that support academic and personal success.
- have participated in many activities that enhance your college life and help you prepare you for success in future
- have developed better study skills and learnt how to work in groups and communities
- have made connections with other COBE students, faculty, and Boise business leaders.
- have firsthand knowledge of many of the issues involved in running a small business.
- understand the role and importance of the various business disciplines in supporting profitable, efficient and effective business operations.

Required Text: No textbooks but we will discuss parts of *Run*, the first year read program book, as it relates to our goals and values.

Course Format: We will formally meet as a class every Wednesday from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. The weekly class routine will be as follows: approximately 15-20 minutes will be devoted to reviewing coffee shop operations. The coffee shop supervisors will facilitate this portion of each class. The majority of the class time will be devoted to development and communication of upcoming events and activities; having discussions on our experiences as a member of COBE RC and reflections on the participated activities.

Grading: There are no exams in this course. Your grade will be determined based on your class attendance; participation in activities and projects; performance in these projects and reflections on activities. Your performance will be assessed through written reflections and in class discussions.

Making the Grade: You must earn a B in this course and a 2.5 GPA this semester if you wish to continue in the COBE RC program next year. You are all expected to receive a B- or better in ALL your MATH and BUSINESS classes. If any time you think you need help, please let Zeynep and Jorge know as soon as possible, and we'll try to help you as best we can.

Class Requirements:

Class Attendance / Participation in class activities	100
Participation in Activities	100
Reflections on Activities	50
Group Project—Business Activity and Assignment	100
Employment / Supervising at Dawson’s 4.0 (or participation in building new business)	50
Group meeting with FIR / PA	50
Completing a resume	50
TOTAL	500

Class attendance: The COBE RC is a community endeavor and your attendance (mind, body and spirit) is essential for you and others to get the most out of this experience. Make this experience your own! It is expected that you will attend ALL classes. To get full attendance points, you can miss no more than one Wednesday class. Second missed class can be made-up by participating in additional activities and programs as approved by FIR / PA if and only if the absence is due to an emergency. Please let FIR / PA know in advance if you know that you will need to miss a class. Missing more than two classes will initiate the process of termination of student participation from COBE RC.

Participation in Activities: You have made the choice to be a member of the COBE Residential Community. Social interaction is an important element of community building; we all have something to share, learn, and teach. It is expected that you will attend at least four COBE RC or other approved university / community events and activities. This portion of your grade will decrease in proportion with the number of missed community activities.

It is expected that you will attend and participate in at least one group community service activity. Giving to our community is an integral part of our community. Possibilities include: Boise River cleanup, Rake-up Boise, Service Saturday, serve a meal at the Veterans Home or other in-patient care facility. We will coordinate community service activities based on the majority interest of the class.

You may replace one of COBE RC activities with an activity that you organize among yourselves with the following rules: 1) The event must be Boise State event or activity; 2) The group must only consist of COBE RC students; 3) The group must be at least four students.

Reflections: An important element is assessing this impact of this living-learning experience on participants is individual reflection. You are expected to turn in a reflective writing assignment specific to community activities and community service activities. Reflections and this assignment are meant to address how the activities you participate in affect you as an individual.

Reflection assignment is expected to be no longer than 3 - 4 typed pages, single spaced and 12-point Times New Roman font. Examples of reflection questions are provided below.

You can choose from many activities and events that we will participate in. You are also welcome to help us develop and plan new activities during class and we will add these activities in our list. Activities should help us with community development and civic engagement and reflect the values of residential college with its emphasis on intellectual curiosity, life-long learning and academic excellence.

Possible reflections questions include and are not limited to:

1. What was the experience?
2. What do you think purpose of this activity was?
3. Did this activity help with community building? Did you get to know a member of COBE RC better during and just after this activity? Explain and give examples.
4. How did this impact you and others in the community on an intellectual level?
5. What value does this have to *real world* applications?
6. How did you feel emotionally during this experience?
7. What is the social impact of this experience?
8. How would you improve this experience?
9. If you could share your experience with anyone in the world, who would it be? Why?
10. How does this activity reinforce the mission and values of living and learning communities? Explain.

Group Project—Business Activity and Assignment:

Each of you in teams will participate in one business related project this semester. Depending on your interest, this project can be one of the following:

1. Work with Entrepreneurship Club on starting a new business in Capitol Village. Provide a marketing analysis and a feasibility study. Interview Delsa's and / or Goody's for a possibility of business partnership.
2. Interview a local business person; find out about their business model and brainstorm with them and class members if there is any way we can help improve their business model (e.g. come up with a better marketing plan, offer ways to cut costs etc.)

You will be expected to write a 2-page description of the activity and how it benefited the business you worked with. You will also be expected to present your work in class during the last week of classes. The written description is due in the end of class.

Employment and Supervising at Dawson's 4.0: Dawson's 4.0 is a real business and you are a real employee. As is customary in the business world, your performance at the coffee shop will be evaluated in periodic performance reviews by the supervisory team. Supervisory team will be evaluated similarly by student-workers. Expectations for your performance include 1) timely arrival for your shifts; 2) putting forth good effort; 3) acting with professionalism; and 4) providing the best customer service. You are all expected to contribute comments / suggestions on how to run our business in the best way possible. We will work together to provide the best quality coffee and service on campus.

Group Meeting with FIR / PA: It is expected that you will meet with the facilitators (Instructor/FiR and PA/TA) for about 30 minutes at mid-semester. It is intended that this informal meeting be used as a "check-in" with each member of the community. A sign-up sheet of times will be provided. We will meet in groups of 3 – 4.

Resume: We will work on building each of your resume throughout the semester with help from Career Center. In the end of the semester each of you is expected to turn in a resume that you plan to submit for an internship and / or a job application that includes your experience as a COBE member.

Other Important Information

Course Web Page: Your reflections and assignments will be submitted *electronically on the course web page*. A web page for this course has been set up at <http://blackboard.boisestate.edu>. Your Blackboard username and password are the same as your BrocoWeb username and password. After logging into Blackboard for the first time, all students should ensure that they have a valid e-mail address associated with their account. To access you course(s),

1. From your computers web browser, go to: <http://blackboard.boisestate.edu>
2. Click the **Login** button.
3. Enter your username and password.
4. Click on the **Course Title** displayed under the **My Courses** area.

Funded Activity Policy: It is expected that you will honor your commitments. When committing to participate in activities funded by any of the Residential College communities, you are expected to attend that activity or reimburse the responsible Residential College for non-attendance.

Student Conduct: Students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner in accordance with the Boise State University student code of conduct. Standards of academic integrity will be enforced in this course. Students are expected to report cases of academic dishonesty to the instructor, which will then be referred to the appropriate University board for disciplinary action.

Students are also expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the Boise State University Statement of Shared Values (<http://www.boisestate.edu/osrr/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct/StatementofSharedValues.pdf>), “Boise State University upholds the following values as the foundation for a civil and nurturing environment. Campus community members are expected to adhere to these common values (Josephson, 2002). Academic Excellence, Caring, Citizenship, Fairness, Respect, Responsibility, Trustworthiness.”

PLEASE TURN OFF ANY AND ALL MOBILE COMMUNICATION DEVICES WHILE IN CLASS AND DURING ALL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES.

Tips for Surviving This “CLASS”

- This is NOT a normal “class”
- Voice your opinion
- Be a part of the community
- Work in a team: Listen to each other and also keep each other accountable

COBE Living-Learning Community Tentative Class Activities:

1. Welcome back. Creating syllabus and choosing activities.
2. Finalizing new Dawson's 4.0 management team. Responsibilities are revisited.
3. Guest speakers and lecturers:
 - a) COBE professors
 - b) COBE executive residents
 - c) Financial aid
 - d) Career Center and resume building
4. Super Bowl commercial discussion
5. Working on a feasibility study
6. Identifying local businesses to interview and offer help / analysis
7. Working on Dawson's 4.0 finances.
8. Concepts of business with conscience / green business ideas

COBE Living-Learning Community OTHER Activities:

Sunday, January 31: Hot Springs Day Trip. Welcome back activity and Idaho's tourism

Sunday, February 6: Watching Super Bowl in groups and identifying best commercials

Thursday, February 11: Bogus Basin Ski Night (5 - 10 p.m.) with Dr. Paul Bahnson

Sunday, March 6: Snowshoeing in Idaho City (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

Tuesday, April 27: Ridge to Rivers Evening Hike (5 - 8 p.m.)

Other:

Cookie baking competition for Valentine's Day

Joining activities at the REC (dancing etc.)

Movie Nights

Mountain biking with COBE faculty (in April)

Birthday parties