



Welcome to COUN 705: Career Development for Human Resource Professionals

I am excited to begin this semester and I would firstly like to thank you for enrolling in this course. The purpose of this seminar is to assist you, the human resource professional, understand career and lifespan development as it applies to your fields and be exposed to the theories and skills that relate to this topic. We will emphasize how personal growth and life stages impact individuals and society and the application of strategies for career decision-making. I believe career development is not only an exciting academic topic, but one that has application in our personal development as well, and I have attempted to design a course that addressed those components.

As we enter the world of career development and you gain knowledge regarding the topic, my hope is that you will also be able to apply that knowledge to a number of case studies. In fact, the course activities have been designed to explore these topics as they apply to diverse populations. Through self-directed learning, collaborative learning with peers and the instructor and guided learning activities, you will be able to demonstrate and apply the principles on which we will focus each week.

Getting Started

This course will start on August 31, 2009. Our primary vehicle of communication and collaborative learning will be a course management software called Desire 2 Learn (D2L). Although you will not be able to access course materials prior to 08/31/2009, you **MUST** log into D2L on the first day to remain enrolled in the course. During the first two days of class, I would like you to introduce yourself to the class. I will post my instructions for this activity under the discussion board on D2L. If you have any problems logging into D2L on August 31st please contact the USD helpdesk at 605-677-5028 or email them at helpdesk@usd.edu. You might also benefit from reading the Step-by-Step Guide to Accessing Your Online Course at <http://www.usd.edu/ce/courselists/sp09onlinecourselist.cfm>

Course Requirements

Taking a course online offers many advantages. However, a loss of face-to-face interaction is something that I will ask you to be especially mindful of. Through conscious communication, a focus on group dynamics, and your feedback, my hope is that we can ameliorate this aspect of online learning. Also, I will be trying to arrange a time for a brief phone call with you in the first two weeks. I would like the opportunity to get to know you and give you the chance to ask me any questions prior to beginning the semester full force. I will strive to provide you with prompt and ongoing feedback throughout the course. However, you should not expect instantaneous feedback. On weekdays, please allow a 24-hour turnaround time; 48-hours over the weekend or holidays.

This course has been designed to be an online interactive discussion course. It is not an independent study course, and you will need to work on the course each week just as you would if you were taking the course on campus. Success in this type of instruction requires that you maintain a schedule of course completion and posting to the discussion board on a regular basis.

More information on each of these requirements is listed in the course syllabus posted on the D2L homepage under getting started. If you have any questions or concerns about the course, I usually prefer to be contacted via email at Gerta.Bardhoshi@usd.edu. You may also call me and leave a message at 605-290-1226. I look forward to our work together this semester.

Sincerely,
Gerta Bardhoshi