Instructor: A. Potasznik
potasznik@cs.umb.edu
Office hours:
Th 3-6pm by appt.
5-3-130, ext 7-6490

Site: http://blogs.umb.edu/cs-intr-d120/

Notable dates:
9/10: end add/drop period
10/14: No class (Columbus Day)
11/11: No class (Veteran’s Day)
10/9: Last day of class, DCSMF due

1. Textbook – none. You may need to download/print/bring readings for certain classes.

2. Course Description
The CSM Freshman Student Success Seminar is an important component of the Freshman Success Community (FSC) Program. Both the seminar and the FSC are important programs to enhance the experience and academic success of new students entering the College of Science and Mathematics. As a participant in the FSC program, you will have the opportunity to become more familiar with your fellow students, your faculty, student success staff, and the resources available to you at Umass Boston. The FSC program allows you to form a partnership, with us and your fellow students, to help you succeed as university science majors.

The seminar is the first course in a two-semester sequence, one credit each semester. This course was designed to contribute to your personal, academic, and social development while assisting you in the transition to Umass Boston and in becoming engaged members of the community. Through class activities, assignments, guest speakers, and discussions you will be introduced to the various strategies and campus resources that can assist you in developing the academic and personal skills necessary to be a successful student and an emerging professional. This course will maximize your potential for success in the university.

3. Student Goals
• Develop a sense of belonging and community among STEM students within major
• Establish positive relationships with peers, staff, and faculty
• Identify and apply strategies and skills to become active and engaged learners
• Develop and articulate personal, professional, and academic goals
• Develop an awareness of the Umass Boston resources and opportunities that contribute to their educational experience and support academic and personal success
• Demonstrate an awareness and understanding of degree curriculum and University policies and procedures
• Become aware of enrichment opportunities (undergraduate research, fellowships, internships, etc.,) available to STEM students
• Explore educational and career opportunities available post-graduation

4. Detailed rubric
This is a Pass/Fail (“F” fail grade to be calculated in G.P.A.) course. You must earn a minimum of a “C” average to pass this course. Your grade will be based on class participation and completion of assignments.

In class attendance and participation: 60%
You are expected to attend every class, arrive on time, remain for the entire class, and be an active participant by sharing your opinions, experiences, and reflections. Attendance includes all class meetings, outside events, and community building events. The instructor should be informed ahead of the class meeting about any absence. Some time may be set aside in class to work on your final assignment.

Final Assignment: 40%
Dear CSM Freshman. Your final assignment will be a booklet with 13 entries. Each entry is composed of a reflection of your week at Umass Boston, and advice for others who will eventually be in your shoes. Think: what worked for
you this week, what didn't work, what can you do to improve or what should you have done? It is essentially a blend of a journal, scrapbook, and how-to manual. There should be at least one page dedicated to each week, and at least one visual element (hand drawn or affixed to page, images from the internet must be cited on the same page as they appear) on each page. This project may be hand written or typed, but it must be submitted in physical form on the expected date (see important dates section of syllabus for due date). No digital or emailed versions will be accepted, no exceptions. There will be 13 total entries (despite this class only meeting 11 times due to holidays).

5. Attendance
Attendance is mandatory and factored into the student’s grades in the form of class participation. Students should email the teacher in advance if they plan to miss a day of class. There will be no make-up for any missed activities or assignments due to the absence of the student. Two or more unexcused absences will result in automatic failure.

6. Academic Integrity
Any student submitting somebody else’s work as their own, or copying their own old work (whole or in part) to a new submission, will receive a grade of 0 for the assignment and potentially the entire course. In particularly drastic cases, plagiarism can lead to expulsion from the University. The instructor will not tolerate dishonesty and make no exceptions to this policy. Please protect yourself and the instructor from this unpleasant business by being honest and submitting only your own work. It is perfectly acceptable to cite and quote other authors, but you must clearly identify these parts as citations or quotes. If you do use quotes, you will be graded on your own synthesis, not on the quality of the work you are citing or quoting. Assignments with evidence of plagiarism cannot be resubmitted.

7. Student conduct
Students are required to adhere to the University Policy on Academic Standards and Cheating, to the University Statement on Plagiarism and the Documentation of Written Work, and to the Code of Student Conduct which is available online at: http://www.umb.edu/student_affairs/programs/judicial/csc.html

8. Disabilities
Section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 offers guidelines for curriculum modifications and adaptations for students with documented disabilities. If applicable, students may obtain adaptation recommendations from the Ross Center for Disability Services, M1401 (617-287-7430). The student must present these recommendations and discuss them with each professor within a reasonable period, preferably by the end of Drop/Add period.