FYS and SYS Academic Success

In order to succeed in FYS/EC and SYS you MUST do the following – ALL of them….

1. **FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS**

Know *where* the instructions are and know *what* they say.

For example, the **syllabus** gives very general instructions on attendance and the schedule of readings, etc, but each essay **prompt** has more specific information such as required word count, due dates, etc.

2. **WORK** – actually **DO** the readings, the writings, and the discussions…. This is a matter of CONTENT.

The required readings are written in the syllabus – FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS….

The required writings are there too, with specific additional information on each essay prompt.

ANNOTATIONS are essential to understanding the text – and required and part of your grade.

One **MUST** read and annotate and write AND only of one at least reads and annotates the text, can one participate in discussion, which will make the writing of essays much easier.

3. **THINK –** understanding, argumentation, and reason

The university is a place of thinking, and if you are unwilling to do this, find another place.

Thinking means critical thinking

– **not** just rerepeating what others have said or written.

Critical thinking is courageous and creative thinking.

Thinking means linking ideas together.

This is also the area of **argumentation** – a skill you will practice in class through discussion and especially in essays – and it’s something useful far beyond FYS and AUCA – it is useful in the real world outside of and after university.

4. **CHECK**

It’s not enough to have read the readings and made a good argument... you need to CHECK your work.

You need to check your understanding of the texts through in-class-discussion.

You need to check the logic of your argument and how well you have supported it in your essays through critical thinking.

You need to check your English for errors (editing)