

Higher Education. For Adults With Higher Expectations.®

A Different Breed of Course

THE BEHAVIOR AND BIOLOGY OF DOGS (BIO-310) AMONG NEW GENERAL EDUCATION OFFERINGS



No more excuses about the dog eating your homework. In a new course at the College, dogs will be your homework.

The Heavin School of Arts and Sciences at Thomas Edison State College (TESC) recently launched Man's Best Friend: The Behavior and Biology of Dogs. The course is among a new breed of offerings that satisfies general education requirements while focusing on relevancy for adult learners.

"The Behavior and Biology of Dogs (BIO-310) is among the new generation of undergraduate courses that students can take to fulfill requirements in the College's expanding general education curriculum," said Dr. John Woznicki, dean of Heavin School of Arts and Sciences. "Courses like BIO-310 augment traditional math, social sciences, natural sciences, humanities and English courses in that category, while connecting to students' real-world interests."

Woznicki noted that even if students play for 'team cat,' there is plenty to take away from the new course.

According to the syllabus, BIO-310 provides a comprehensive overview of the most critical components of productive human-animal interactions and canine behavior, anatomy,

biology, nutrition and health. The course is based on the renowned book, *The Dog: Its Behavior, Nutrition and Health,* by Linda P. Case, which also serves as the textbook.

According to the course's mentor, Dr. Ingrid Herrmann, the study material will also feature contemporary peer reviewed journal articles, discussion assignments and videos that build on the text.

The course is a good fit for Herrmann who developed it with the School and also mentors The Science of Nutrition (BIO-208), Anatomy and Physiology I (BIO-211), Anatomy and Physiology II (BIO-212) and Introduction to Biology (BIO-101) courses at the College. She admits to having a personal connection to BIO-310.

I thoroughly enjoy working with adult learners, especially the age group that Thomas Edison State College serves.

Dr. Ingrid Herrmann

"I belong to a network of volunteers working with area shelters to facilitate the rescue and placement of 'death row' dogs and cats into loving homes. The group, which includes private airplane pilots, relies heavily on emails and social media to match 11th hour rescues with potential owners across the U.S."

Herrmann, who is a proud owner of rescued Coonhounds, expects that it will help those taking the course to better understand their own canines. "Students will develop a deeper understanding of several common behavioral problems and possible solutions after taking the course." she said.



Dr. John Woznicki, dean, Heavin School of Arts

OURSE NEWS

Note: A complete listing of all undergraduate and graduate courses and their availability may be found on the College website at www.tesc.edu/courses.

NEW UNDERGRADUATE ONLINE COURSES:

NUC-238-OL Radiation Analysis Lab

NEW GRADUATE ONLINE COURSES:

MSI-501 Foundations of Information Technology

MSI-502 Telecommunication and Networking

MSP-621 Networking for Effective Community Development

NUC-502 Criticality Safety

NUC-503 Current Issues and Case Studies

NEW TECEP® EXAM:

MUS-221 Music History II

COLLEGE RECEIVES NRC SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING

MORE THAN \$194,000 WILL SUPPORT STUDENTS IN NUCLEAR ENERGY AND RADIATION-PROTECTION RELATED PROGRAMS

Undergraduate nuclear energy and nuclear protection-related degree programs recently received more than \$194,000 in scholarship funding from the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

"Being awarded the NRC scholarship grant is recognition of the quality of our programs and will remove the barrier of cost for many qualifying students," said Dr. John O. Aje, dean of the School of Applied Science and Technology. "This allows us to provide affordable educational opportunities that attract and retain students who otherwise might not be able to enroll in our programs."

Under the scholarship grant outline, the NRC is administering a two-year program that will award 25 \$2,000 scholarships and 10 \$4,000 scholarships per year, based on need and academic performance, to qualified students. If you are a student enrolled in the College's Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology nuclear energy-related programs, look for upcoming emails and announcements containing scholarship details, criteria and application instructions or visit www.tesc.edu/nrcscholarship to find out more. ■



Dr. John Aje, dean, School of Applied Science and Technology

Assessment of Professional and Workplace Learning

PUT IT TO WORK FOR YOU

Author Robert Fulghum is probably right. Everything you really need to know may have been learned in kindergarten, but Rachael Cooper would like to see that concept expanded for working adults.

Cooper, an assistant director in the College's Office of Assessment of Professional and Workplace Learning (OAPWL) posits that if you have received professional training or possess licenses and professional certifications earned on the job, then degree completion may be much closer than you think.

"Workplace learning and academic achievement are far more connected than many people realize," said Cooper. "We help students and their employers expand access to higher education by creating pathways – from workplace learning and noncollegiate training already taking place – to degree completion."

She and fellow staff, led by OAPWL Director Jeanine Nagrod, have helped students finish their degrees faster and more efficiently by evaluating workplace training or educational programs for equivalent college credits. OAPWL's focus is on assessing prior learning on a programmatic basis in the workplace. In the process, the team evaluates courses, licenses, certifications, apprenticeships and exams offered by corporations, government agencies, labor unions, career schools and professional associations, to determine if college-level learning has taken place.



OAPWL staff pictured from left are Rachael Cooper, Jeanine Nagrod and Peggy Allan

The Academic Program Review that results, awards credits toward degree programs for employees of those organizations. This outcome helps organizations cultivate and retain a more educated workforce.

One company that is benefiting from the Academic Program Review process is UPS. To date, more than 100 UPS employees have earned credits toward degree programs at the College based on reviews conducted by OAPWL staff of the company's Hub Supervisor and Integrad training programs.

In addition to UPS, staff members have evaluated professional training programs across a number of sectors and continue to expand on evaluating workplace learning while fine-tuning their methods of outreach.

OAPWL recently piloted an Academic Program Review of the elevator constructor apprenticeship training conducted by the National Elevator Industry Educational Program (NEIEP). Industry representatives and videographers visited Thomas Edison State College to begin production on an audiovisual for their website spotlighting the College's options for earning credit.

Maggie Cleveland, a curriculum development and credentialing manager for NEIEP, noted "We are catering to a lot of visual and kinesthetic learners, so just pointing them to a lot of text about a school doesn't spark their interest as much as allowing them to imagine themselves completing a degree program in the way a video can."

To find out ways that evaluation of professional and workplace training can help you or your employer, visit the College's Center for the Assessment of Learning webpage: www.tesc.edu/cal or email apr@tesc.edu with questions.

From Application to Enrollment:

What You Need to Know

Senior Student Affairs Specialist

"I'VE JUST APPLIED TO THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE. NOW WHAT SHOULD I DO?"

It is a question we are often asked at the Learner Support Center, and we enjoy responding. Asking the question means that you have embarked on a very important academic journey, and chose our College with which to do it. Many of our graduates tell us that it was one of the most significant steps they have ever taken. Welcome to your future.

Now that you have taken the first step by applying to Thomas Edison State College, here are some helpful facts and tips about the process:

- Your application will be processed within seven to 10 business days.
- You will receive an emailed admission acceptance letter confirming you have been admitted to the College. The email will contain your College ID number. You should note the number as it will be needed when communicating with our staff.
- ► Access to Online Student Services (OSS) will be available 24 to 48 hours after you have been admitted to the College.
- If you are planning on utilizing financial aid. please complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) which can be accessed at www.fafsa.ed.gov. A few days after completing the FAFSA, you may receive an email from the Office of Financial Aid requesting documents to complete your
- file. Once all requested documents have been received, you will receive an award notification email within a couple of weeks. Be aware that you must have been admitted to the College to be awarded financial aid. You can accept your award through your OSS account.
- ► Make sure to submit your official transcripts from previous institutions for evaluation.
- Academic Evaluations are completed within 20 business days of your acceptance to the College, and you will receive email notification upon completion of yours. You can also log in to OSS and view our receipt of your transcripts and your evaluation when it is completed.
- Once you review your evaluation, you can contact the Advising Expressline at



Anna Krum, senior student affairs specialist, Learner Services Center

(888) 442-8372 Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., ET, and Fridays, 10 a.m. -4 p.m., ET, to receive guidance on selecting the first two courses to get you started. Once you are an enrolled student, you can arrange a longer academic advising appointment to go over your degree plan in detail.

Now you are ready to select your enrollment and tuition option and register for your first course!

"I'VE JUST **ENROLLED** AT THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE, NOW WHAT SHOULD LDO?"

Congratulations, you are one step closer to earning your degree. Here are some helpful tips regarding your enrollment:

- Your annual enrollment begins with your payment of the College's Annual Enrollment fees, and will be valid for 12 months from the time of payment.
- ► Annual enrollment fees are due every year, up until you fulfill your degree requirements and are approved for graduation.
- As an enrolled student you have access to a team of academic advisors through the Academic Expressline and/or a one-on-one appointment.
- Your Academic Evaluation will be updated within 20 business days, based on the evaluation of any incoming transcripts from any outside institutions attended, credits from testing or the completion of a course at the College.
- ► Familiarize yourself with our Academic Calendar so that you can register for your

courses on time. The Academic Calendars for both graduate-level and undergraduate course registration can be found by visiting the College's home page: www.tesc.edu and selecting the "Academics" dropdown from the main menu.

- ▶ Please note that late registration fees apply if you register during the late registration
- ▶ If you are a financial aid recipient, make sure to follow the award calendar so that you know for which terms you have been awarded and are allowed to register.
- ► Once you have completed your degree requirements, it is time to apply for graduation. Students must submit the Request for Graduation form and fees to the Office of the Bursar to be processed for graduation.
- ► A graduation degree audit will be completed by the Office of the Registrar, and you will be contacted regarding the

outcome of the audit. If the audit is successful, you will be certified for graduation.

Still have guestions regarding your application or enrollment? Learner Support Center student affairs specialists are here to help. Please contact us by emailing LSC@tesc.edu or calling (888) 442-8372, Monday through



A Different Breed of Course (continued from front cover)

On the subject of mentoring adult learners online, she is clearly committed to the endeavor. "I thoroughly enjoy working with adult learners, especially the age group that TESC serves," said Herrmann, who is also a professor of pathology for the University of Pikeville - Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine. "TESC's students exhibit a maturity level and independence



Dr. Ingrid Herrmann enjoys a brief respite with two of her Basset Hounds.

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In general, (TESC's students) strive much harder and are more focused than many of their traditional counterparts.

Dr. Ingrid Herrmann

that is invigorating and they know what they want. In general, they strive much harder and are more focused than many of their traditional counterparts."

As with most TESC online courses, students will need to log in often and keep up with their readings in order to manage BIO-310's densely packed syllabus.

"The course work covers anatomy, biology, diseases, nutrition and the evolution of dogs," noted Herrmann. "There is no doubt that

students will enjoy the course, but they should also be prepared to process complex subject matter along the way."

Herrmann urges those who are interested in making a difference in the life of a homeless animal, to contact their local chapter of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) or the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) or visit www.petfinder.org online.

Registration for the BIO-310 December 2014 term runs from Oct. 24 through Nov. 15, with late registration running from Nov. 16 through Nov. 20, 2014 (late fee applies). Registration for the January 2015 term runs from Nov. 21 through Dec. 16, 2014; with late registration running from Dec. 17 through Dec. 21. Stay tuned for upcoming announcements on new, relevant and innovative general education offerings through the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences. To learn more about the programs available at the School, visit www.tesc.edu/heavin.

Conveying Her Culture

LENNI-LENAPE TRIBAL MEMBER, TRINITY NORWOOD, IS DETERMINED TO KEEP HER CULTURE ALIVE

When she was a girl, Trinity Norwood read textbooks that referred to her culture in the past tense. Today, as a proud member of the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Indian Nation of New Jersey, she is determined that her people are not relegated to history.

"In many history books, the section devoted to Native Americans is only a few paragraphs long and speaks of us as if we are extinct," said Norwood, a BA degree in communications student, who promotes her culture's traditions in the community and educates others to do the same.

Over time, Norwood has become an important emissary for the Lenni-Lenape tribe. Her public presentations incorporate traditional dancing, music and vignettes that showcase the narratives and handcrafts of a thriving culture. Administratively, she serves as the director of the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation Royalty Program.

"The Royalty program was created to allow Native American youth to have an integral position in our community by preparing them to educate future generations," said Norwood. Young candidates in the program spend months completing tasks to prove their readiness for the position of tribal princess or tribal warrior. In modern parlance, the titles mean they will also become cultural ambassadors.

"Conveying an understanding of our race has become vital," said Norwood. "Many school districts and sports teams bear the names of our tribes, but a grasp of the spirit, customs and beliefs behind those names is lacking. As responsible tribal members, our job is to remedy that."

On the clock, Norwood works as an administrative accounting coordinator at the Virtua Center for Health and Wellness in Moorestown, N.J., where she handles finances, billing and receivables for the facility. Norwood said her degree in communications course



Trinity Norwood

work at Thomas Edison State College enhances her outreach skills.

"I customize fun, interactive presentations for small children's groups, while our performances for high school students or adults can be more complex. My online course work has helped me to structure my approach and made me more effective as a presenter. What I've learned has also helped me collaborate more effectively with fellow presenters."

Meet a Mentor: Leo-Felix M. Jurado, PhD

MENTOR DR. LEO-FELIX JURADO IS COMMITTED TO CHANGING THE FACE OF NURSING

Dr. Jurado feels that if he can help change the face of nursing education, he can alter the face of the profession.

"I thought that to steadily increase the number of successful minority and male nurses to the field of nursing, the profession would need more role models. That's why I enjoy being a mentor in Thomas Edison State College's W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing. It is always inspirational for minority nurses as well as men in nursing to see someone like them in higher education - whether it's face-to-face or online."

Jurado, who mentors Men's Health (HEA-306); Leadership and Management in Nursing (NUR-428); Seminar in Clinical Competence (NUR-500); and Advancing Nursing Practice (NUR-342) courses at the College is a member of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing Committee (SONC). He is a past president of the New Jersey Board of Nursing where he served for 10 years. He also served as president of the Philippine Nurses Association of America from 2008 – 2010 and currently is a member of its Advisory Board.

In spite of the fact that racial and ethnic minorities constitute about 37 percent of the U.S. population, only 19 percent of registered nurses are derived from this group. This dilemma is compounded by inaccessibility to nursing programs in general. According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, in 2012, U.S. nursing schools denied more than 79,000 qualified applicants due primarily to a shortage of nurse educators and classroom space.

With minority populations trending toward being the majority by 2043, a movement is underway to correct the disparity.

Jurado is a graduate of the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) founded effort that was led by Thomas Edison State College's nursing school to recruit and prepare minority nurse educators in online education. He and fellow academics that have completed the program are committed to increasing diversity and access to the profession – underpinnings of HRSA's mission.



Dr. Leo-Felix Jurado

Jurado holds a PhD from Rutgers University and New Jersey Institute of Technology; an MA in Delivery of Nursing Services from New York University, New York City, N.Y.; and a BA in English, a BS in nursing and an MA in education from St. Paul University, Tuguegarao City, Philippines. He is a Certified Nurse Executive with the American Nurses Association Credentialing Center; an Advanced Practice Nurse in Adult Health certified by the New Jersey Board of Nursing and a Certified Nurse Educator by the National League of Nursing. He is also a site visitor for the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing

"Dr. Jurado is a true asset to our School," said Lisa Whitfield-Harris, MSN, MBA, RN, diversity coordinator/undergraduate nursing advisor in the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing. "He has been a mentor for us for many years serving as a role model and a positive influence, especially for men in the nursing field who self-identify with a minority group."

To find out more about the programs offered through the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing, visit www.tesc.edu/nursing. ■

It is always inspirational for minority nurses as well as men in nursing to see someone like them in higher education - whether it's face-to-face or online.

Dr. Leo-Felix Jurado

Along with his role at Thomas Edison State College, Jurado is an assistant professor in the Department of Nursing at William Paterson University in Wayne, N.J., where he teaches at the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels. He also serves as a National Council Licensing Exam reviewer for registered nurses at the Center for Professional Development at Rutgers University in Newark and is an administrative nursing supervisor for St. Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick, N.J.

Jurado continues to work in tandem with his colleagues to reverse the surge of competent students being turned away from nursing schools – a shortfall felt most acutely in minority populations.

"A few years ago, I was one of 15 minority nurse educators to take part in the first year of the HRSA program. It was a tremendous experience," he said. "I learned so much from fellow students and enjoyed the community atmosphere we established online. We were required to learn online instructional strategies and many of us increased our familiarity with the field's emerging technologies."



ASK A NURSE

ON HIGHER EDUCATION, BSN STUDENTS ARE CLEAR ABOUT THEIR PROGNOSIS

You might need track shoes to catch up with Malika Ibrokhimova, RN. Fresh from a 12-hour shift in the emergency room of a Princeton, N.J., hospital, the exhausted but focused BSN student described the ways that Thomas Edison State College fits with her fast-forward career

Q: WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE'S W. CARY EDWARDS SCHOOL OF NURSING OVER OTHER SCHOOLS TO COMPLETE YOUR BSN EDUCATION?

co-workers and fellow nursing students as well as my nursing education instructors at Mercer County Community College where I earned my associate degree. When I researched the multitude of online bachelor's degree programs for nurses, TESC stood out because of its convenience and affordability.

Q: WHAT MAKES THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE CONTINUE TO STAND OUT FOR YOU?

Many of my co-workers are burdened with student loan debt as a result of continuing their nursing education. Comparatively, I've assumed zero debt as a result of my degree pursuit, so I view the program as a great value. I also appreciate that I do not have to commute to take courses or exams. However, I am grateful that I can see an advisor face-to-face or reach them immediately if I need to.



Malika Ibrokhimova

As a full-time emergency room nurse working 12-hour shifts, it is not easy to assume a heavy course load. However, the mentors are always accessible, approachable and understand our journey. For me, the key was limiting myself to one nursing course per term – though two are doable as long as one is an elective or general education course – so I don't become overwhelmed. I've recommended the College to many people. TESC works with my life.

Q: HAS YOUR BSN COURSE WORK ENHANCED YOUR CAREER AS AN RN?

I've learned so much through the input of our mentors and students, and in the online course Discussion Boards. Our mentors and students are often experienced nurses and directors or managers.

I've benefitted greatly from hearing their viewpoints on handling administrative and staffing issues or dealing with the complexities of patient care within the framework of different healthcare systems. It's been great exposure.

Q: WHAT OTHER POSITIVE THINGS HAVE IMPACTED YOUR PROGRESSION THROUGH THE PROGRAM?

MI: When I first enrolled, I spoke with a nursing advisor and I've been thankful I did so ever since! I transferred 80 credits from Mercer County Community College and was discussing how I would be fulfilling the balance of my degree requirements with my advisor. I knew that I would need to take a few elective courses to bridge the gap. During the conversation, the fact that I am fluent in two other languages came up. The advisor immediately recommended that I look into New York University's Foreign Language Proficiency Testing program. I took the beginning and intermediate-level Russian language fluency exams and earned 12 elective credits by doing so. The best part was I did not have to drive to New York City to take them. The tests were administered at Thomas Edison State College and the credits transferred directly into my degree program. This saved me lots of time and course work. I cross paths with many co-workers, friends and acquaintances that were raised in homes where English is a second language and I tell everyone about this option.

[Note: Students may also test at NYU or make arrangements to test at other locations by calling (212) 998-7030.] ■



1 Free Open Online Course + 1 Exam = 3 Credits

FREE OPEN ONLINE COURSES ARE ADDING UP FOR ENROLLED STUDENTS

Even though Rodney Morris McCoy is part of a seismic shift in higher education, he is not feeling the strain.

The Associate in Science in Business Administration (ASBA) program student is finding that degree completion is more accessible and affordable than he anticipated.

"Using the Open Course Option prepared me to take one of the College's TECEP® exams and earn credit toward my degree," said McCoy. "The content in the exam matched the material I had already studied in the free open online course I took through Saylor Academy."

As an enrolled out-of-state student, it cost McCoy less than \$120 using the option.

He is among the first wave of Thomas Edison State College students to complete course requirements through TESC's collaboration with Saylor Academy. Through the agreement, the College has become the first senior public institution of higher education in New Jersey to partner with a major provider of free open online courses.

Completing Saylor's Computer Communication and Networks (CS402) open course prepared McCoy for TESC's Network Technology (CMP-354) TECEP® exam. What's more, he has the option to tackle most of the remaining credits toward his ASBA degree program through the same pathway.

Saylor's open online courses are entirely selfdirected and students are free to take as little or as long as they need to complete the courses. The open course components do not count toward a final grade. Rather, it is through graded assessments – among them, the College's TECEP® exams, portfolio development options or other exam options like CLEP®, DSST or Saylor's own NCCRS reviewed exams – that students can officially earn course credits for what they have learned.

The flexibility was an advantage for McCoy who found that setting a date for his exam in advance helped him to establish a timeframe for course completion.

"The Saylor Open Course was laid out in units. Some of the units featured online videos, Khan Academy tutorials, lecture documents and various online references. The end of each unit featured a practice test, and the last unit had a final practice test that helped me prepare for the College's TECEP® exam," he said.



fellow employees to take advantage of flexible degree opportunities while UPS reaps positive outcomes in its staff development, recruitment and retention efforts.

"I already transferred 35 credits from community college into my degree program at TESC and I am taking advantage of UPS' education assistance program and free, open online courses to achieve my goal of earning my bachelor's degree," he said.

McCoy plans on tackling a statistics course next. "Like most people, my schedule is filled with

The content in the (TECEP®) exam matched the material I had already studied in the free open online course I took through Saylor Academy.

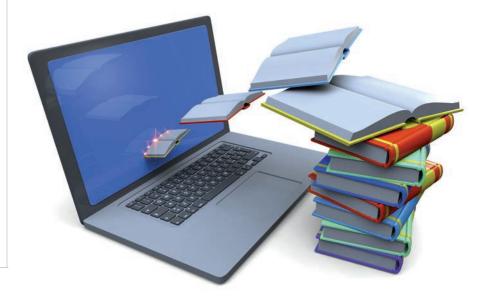
Rodney Morris McCoy

The structure appeals to the School of Business and Management student who is accustomed to seeking efficiencies in operation.

A part-time supervisor for UPS, McCoy is enrolled in his company's Corporate Choice® agreement with the College. The program enables him and multiple responsibilities from work and family. Just finding time to study can be a challenge in itself. I enjoyed the freedom that the Open Course Option gave me in completing the course."

As a student, McCoy describes himself as a reasonably good test-taker and finds that working independently suits him best. However, he stresses that capping off an open online course with a single high-stakes exam may not be for everyone. "This method of course completion may not be for someone who needs interaction and multiple opportunities to maintain their grades."

Considering an open online course? Visit www.tesc.edu/opencourse to find out how open online courses and credit-by-exam can work in your degree program. To find out more about the programs offered through the College's School of Business and Management, visit www.tesc.edu/business.



Academic Calendar	December 2014	January 2015	February 2015
Registration Dates Late Registration	Oct. 24 - Nov. 15, 2014 Nov. 16 - 20, 2014	Nov. 21 - Dec. 16, 2014 Dec. 17 - 21, 2014	Dec. 22, 2014 - Jan. 17, 2015 Jan. 18 - 22, 2015
Course Transfer Period	Oct. 24 - Dec. 5, 2014	Nov. 21, 2014 - Jan. 9, 2015	Dec. 22, 2014 - Feb. 6, 2015
Term Start Date Midterm Exam Week **	Dec. 1, 2014 Jan. 12 - 18, 2015	*Jan. 5, 2015 Feb. 16 - 22, 2015	Feb. 2, 2015 March 16 - 22, 2015
Final Exam Week** Term Ends	Feb. 16 - 22, 2015 Feb. 22, 2015	March 23 - 29, 2015 March 29, 2015	April 20 - 26, 2015 April 26, 2015

^{*}Term start date applies to both graduate and undergraduate courses.

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^{**}Select courses have midterm examinations or online proctored midterm and final examinations; please refer to your course materials for details.