Eastern Connecticut State University  
Academic Services Center (ASC)  

First-Year Students’ Parent’s Course (PARENT 101)  
Syllabus, Fall 2016

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“For God Sake make your Children, hardy, active and industrious, for Strength, Activity and Industry will be their only Resource and Dependance.”

- John Adams

COURSE DESCRIPTION and OBJECTIVES
Welcome to your student’s first year at Eastern! The purpose of this syllabus and the online lessons are to assist parents of first-year Eastern students in understanding how their students experience their first semester in college and how students traverse the wide array of academic requirements any college student may face when starting school.

Please note these lessons are geared mainly toward the academic side of student lives, and I’ve not included much in the way of resident housing, jobs outside school, clubs & activities, etc. While the syllabus and lessons are geared toward a parent perspective, it’s based on models used in college. Does the syllabus seem like a lot? Too many rules? Remember this: Your students have four to five syllabi and classes each semester. Does the syllabus seem too inclusive? It should, much like the syllabi your student receives from his or her professors.

As the father of two children, and with love in my heart, I urge you to experience college through your student. If you’ve tended to direct their lives, begin to back off now in some regards. Give them space to make mistakes, but teach them how to best react to being told “no” when it inevitably comes… or to write twice and send once when emailing faculty and administrators. They will be told no, some will earn their first “C” grades, and they’ll each find themselves in some sort of a quandary eventually. Encourage them to become their own agent and champion of gathering knowledge, navigating the hallowed halls of higher education and learn how to negotiate the balance of school, possibly work, and a social life—on top of normal day-to-day chores we all face. The intention of this syllabus and included lessons is to give you understanding of what your student may be going through week-to-week and how to ask the right questions when you speak with him or her.

TEXTBOOKS
There are no required textbooks for this course; however, I encourage you to research several topics. Using the web, look up and read articles on adjusting to college, “Millennial” versus “iGeneration” students, Liberal Arts Education and how to select majors and careers. Finally, some links to interesting readings will be shared in the lesson portions of the course.

ATTENDANCE and CLASS PARTICIPATION
For this class to be successful, everyone must participate. To participate, it’s expected you communicate with your student on a regular basis about his or her progress in school, without being “too” involved. It is my expectation parents will read and understand this syllabus, follow the weekly lessons, and research a bit on suggested text materials. Finally, give your student timely input when encouraged to do so by the syllabus; there are some weeks you’ll be asked to pry a bit for your student’s own good. There is one assignment which may alter your student’s direction in life! Stay involved through your
student; but, at the same time, allow he or she to “be” students on campus. When there are times it would be beneficial to push your student a bit, those interactions will count as participation.

As for attendance, the course requires you “don’t” attend Eastern. Don’t call, don’t write, and don’t come to campus aside from picking up your child, attending cultural events or for parent activities. In other words, encourage—to the extent that you can—your student to become a responsible adult. With all candor, acting as a representative of your student when it’s not absolutely required or logical, might hurt your student on their journey. 15 points are lost each time you intercede with the campus community about issues for which your student should be responsible.

**CELL PHONES**

This course has no policy on cellphones; however, each of your student’s professors probably have a policy, and that rule most likely states “turn off your cellphone during class.” In speaking with your student, remind them to check the policies. It may save your student points off their final grade if his or her cellphone interrupts a class.

**STUDENT EVALUATION**

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<th>Possible Points</th>
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**Total Points** 150

Grades:  
A (135-150 points)  
B (120-134 points)  
C (105-119 points)  
D (95-104 points)  
F (00-94 points)
UNIVERSITY POLICIES

The following has been modeled from professors’ syllabi and are listed here to demonstrate what is most likely included in informing students about campus rules, what to do when classes are cancelled, how to get help and where to get special assistance. Professors will also list any of their “classroom policies and procedures” including items like late assignments, make-up work (if applicable), etc.

✓ **Plagiarism:**
  - Plagiarism, that is, presenting someone else's work as your own, will result in an automatic F for the response portion of your grade (i.e. 25%). I would rather see your original thought in these brief responses, but if you choose to incorporate another writer’s ideas you must cite his or her name.

✓ **Note on Weather:**
  - Eastern has a weather hotline service so that you can obtain information on delays changes or class cancellations due to inclement weather or emergencies. Unless specifically stated, assume that Eastern is open. The hotline numbers are 1-860-465-4444 or 1-800-578-1449.

✓ **Special Assistance:**
  - If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact the Office of AccessAbility Services at 465-0189. To avoid any delay in the receipt of accommodations, you should contact the Office of AccessAbility Services as soon as possible. Please note that I cannot provide accommodations until I receive an accommodation letter from the Office of AccessAbility Services.

✓ **Academic Misconduct:**
  - Students should read and understand Eastern's Academic Misconduct Policy, which can be found in the student handbook or at: [http://kb.easternct.edu/article.aspx?article=1522&p=11](http://kb.easternct.edu/article.aspx?article=1522&p=11) All violations will be handled under the procedures established in this policy.

**Academic Services Center:**

Students are encouraged to use the support offered by the Academic Services Center (ASC) located on the ground floor of the Library. Advising Services and tutoring in math, writing, and other subjects, including supplementary instruction, are available. The ASC also offers assistance in study techniques, time management and understanding learning styles. Fall 2016 hours: Sun. 2-9; M.-Th. 9-9, Fri. 9-5. (Closed Saturdays.) Advising Center hours: Sat-Sun: Closed. M.-Th. 9-7, Fri. 9-5. For further information call 465-4310 or check the ASC website at [http://www.easternct.edu/asc/](http://www.easternct.edu/asc/)