

GETTING OFF TO A GOOD START

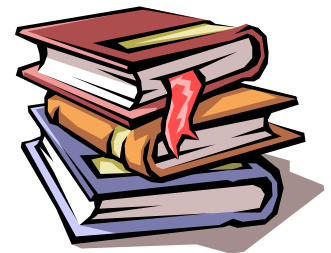
The first meeting of any course sets the tone for the entire semester. Don't assume that the first day of class will be a quick introduction and then you will be out of there; a lot of important information will be given to you at that first meeting.

You will probably be given:

- ✍ A course overview or outline (course disclosure)
- ✍ The number of tests to be given and some tentative test dates
- ✍ The projects or term papers expected for the semester
- ✍ The grading system
- ✍ Attendance requirements
- ✍ The instructor's office hours and phone number
- ✍ An introduction to the course material

After the first meeting of any class, you should ask yourself, and make sure you know the answers to, the following questions:

1. What books, equipment, or other materials must I purchase?
2. Have I purchased the books or materials or have I made arrangements to borrow the book until I can buy it?
3. What materials must I take to class?
4. Do I know in advance the topics for class meetings?
5. Will notes be given during class?
6. Will there be class discussions?
7. Must I attend a lab?
 - a. When is it?
 - b. Where is it?
8. Must I attend conferences with the instructor?
 - a. Where?
 - b. How often?
9. Must I write major papers?
 - a. How long must they be?
 - b. When are they due?
10. Will there be homework assignments?
11. How many tests must I take?
12. When is the first test?
13. What material will be covered on the first test?
14. Will tests be objective (multiple choice, true-false, etc.)?
15. Will there be essay questions on the tests?



In addition to knowing about the course, it is a good idea to get to know some of your fellow students and to exchange names and phone numbers with two other students in the class. In this way, you can call to get assignments and notes if you have to miss a class.