Week 12 - Monday

SLD 2600

What If Things Go Wrong?

This class hopes to give you tools for success

- But failures happen!
- I could inject an inspirational quote about how you have to fail before you can succeed
- But I hate that kind of stuff

What do you think can go wrong?

What can go wrong?

- Academic problems
- Athletics problems
- Mental health and relationship problems
- Practical problems

You're not alone

- Whatever bad things have happened, you're not the first person it's happened to
- People are here to help:
  - Friends
  - Family
  - Faculty
  - Staff

Academic Problems

Miss an assignment

- Let's say you forgot the deadline for an assignment
- Some professors will let you turn it in late with no penalty or a small penalty
- Some will give you a zero
- It always pays to talk to the professor
  - Sometimes they will make exceptions to their policy
  - If you were sick or had an emergency, they will usually cut you some slack
- The worst thing you can do is let one missed assignment make you lose hope in a class and then miss more assignments

Accused of cheating

- Especially with generative AI in the world, there's:
  - A lot of cheating
  - A lot of **accusations** of cheating
- A professor should always put you through the official process where you have a meeting with the Associate Provost for Teaching & Learning, Kathryn Plank
- The Associate Provost will consider the evidence and hear your side of the story
- Even if you're ruled against, you can appeal
- You might lose points on the assignment in question, but there is no disciplinary action for the **first offense**

Fail an exam

- Let's say you fail an exam
  - First, it's not the end of the world
  - Lots of people fail exams
- If lots of people in the class failed, the professor might let everyone retake the exam or do some makeup work
- Always make sure you understood what you missed so you can get it right on the final or on future classes
- Do the calculation: What do you need to get on the remaining work to pass the class?
- If it's impossible to pass the class, it's almost always better to drop the class than to get an F

Resources

- Academic Support Center
  - Math Lab: hours given here
  - Writing Center: schedule time for help here
  - Get a personal tutor for a course by scheduling here
- Office hours with your professor

Fail a class

- First of all, what does failing mean?
- At Otterbein, a D is "passing"
  - You can (usually) go on to the next course in the sequence
  - It counts towards graduation
  - Some majors require grades higher than a D to move on
  - You can request to retake a class where you got a D
- An F is failing
  - It doesn't count towards graduation
  - It averages into your GPA as a zero

More on failing a class

- If you fail a class that is required for your major, you have to retake it
- Talk to your advisor ASAP so you can see if your graduation will be slowed down
- Some classes can be retaken elsewhere (like at Columbus State)
- The good news: When you retake a class, the new grade overrides the old one
  - The F is still on your transcript, but it doesn't hurt your GPA

Dropping a class

- If you're failing a class, it's almost always better to drop it
- The downside of dropping a class is that it reduces your credit hours
- Technically, you need 12 credit hours to be considered a full-time student
  - And financial aid is dependent on full-time status
- However, you will typically not lose your full-time status if you drop in the middle of the semester
- Your financial aid can still be in jeopardy if you don't make a certain amount of progress per year

GPA

- GPA means **grade point average**
- Whenever you take a class, the grade you get is added into your GPA as a weighted average
  - A = 4, B = 3, C = 2, D = 1, and F = 0
  - The value is 0.3 higher or lower for a + or a –
  - Courses are weighted by credit hours so a 4-credit course (like Calculus I) is worth eight times as much as a 0.5-credit course (like this one)
- You have to have a 2.0 GPA overall to graduate
- You *also* have to have a 2.0 GPA in your major
- A low GPA can also trigger academic probation or suspension

Academic probation and suspension

- If your overall or semester GPA is lower than 2.0, you go on **academic probation**
- If you're already on academic probation and you get lower than a 2.0 for a semester, you go on **academic suspension**
  - The first time you're suspended, it's for a semester
  - The second time you're suspended, it's for a whole year
- If you're suspended for a third time, it's **academic dismissal**
  - You can't return to Otterbein for five years

More on suspension

- Suspension is tough
  - It means that you're almost certainly not graduating on time
  - But it's *still* not the end of the world
- I've seen students come back from a suspension and succeed
- The students who succeed come back from suspension like different people
  - They don't let anything get in the way of excelling
- Students who come back without a fundamentally different approach often fall back into their old ways

Athletics Problems

Lose a game

- If you lose a game or a match, that's to be expected
- No one wins all the time
- Losing is a big part of getting better

Injury

- Injuries in athletics are difficult to deal with
- Be sure you get the support you need from your coach

Below the requirements needed to compete

- If you can't travel with the team because you're underperforming, it's time to reevaluate
- How important is athletics for you at Otterbein?
- It's never tied to scholarships
- It's always a demand on your time

Mental Health and Relationship Problems

Depressed

- A lot of students struggle with occasional depression or more pervasive mental illness
- If you feel it would help you, reach out to the **Counseling Center**:
  - **Location:** 146 W. Home St.
  - **Hours:** Monday - Friday (8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)
  - **Phone:** 614-823-1333
  - **Email:** counseling@otterbein.edu
  - **Urgent/crisis walk-in available Monday through Friday during fall and spring semester. Arrive at 11 a.m.**
- Or you can call **Cardinal Connect** at 833-434-1217 anytime

Accommodations

- If you have a mental health diagnosis, you can register with the office of **Disability Services**:
  - **Location:** Courtright Memorial Library, Second Floor in the Back
  - **Office Hours:** Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
  - **Phone:** 614-823-1610
- You *might* qualify for accommodations like:
  - Extra time on exams
  - Distraction-reduced testing environment
  - Deadline modifications for assignments

Fighting with your roommate

- If you live on campus, you might have a roommate
- Sometimes, those situations can be difficult
- Talk to your Resident Assistant
- Bad situations only fester
- Do the hard job of talking about it

Relationship drama

- Friendships and romantic relationships often have drama
  - Some friendships don't last
  - Most people break up
- It's okay to be sad when things don't work out
- Make sure you prioritize your own health and academic success
- I've seen people destroying their own grades trying to dig their friend or romantic partner out of a hole

Practical Problems

Practical problems are really important

- Students who don't get enough food or sleep often face serious academic problems
- Family, friend, and relationship problems affect students deeply
- There's no magic solution for tough problems, but Otterbein offers many resources

Can't pay bills

- What if you can't afford:
  - Tuition
  - Residence hall fees
  - Meal plan
- Talk to the Office of Student Financial Aid
  - **Location:** 88 Cochran Alley
  - **Hours:** Monday – Friday (8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)
  - **Phone:** 614-823-1502
  - **Email:** Financialaid@otterbein.edu
- Sometimes they can help!

Other financial issues

- You might have an emergency where you need a small amount of money for something to help your academic life
  - Car repairs
  - Textbooks
  - Clothes
  - Healthcare
- The Promise House has emergency mini-grants you can apply for:
  - Apply here

Can't get enough to eat

- The Promise House has a food pantry where students can get staples if they have issues getting enough to eat
- The Promise House also has resources for students who need clothing, in general or for a job interview
- They can also help students make budgets and refer them to other resources
- Promise House
  - **Location:** Home Street Commons Apartment Complex Lounge, 86 W. Home St.
  - **Hours:** https://www.instagram.com/promise_house/
  - **Phone:** 614-823-2074
  - **Email:** promisehouse@otterbein.edu

Can't sleep

- I'm a huge advocate for the value of sleep
- Few things have more impact on student success
- If you can't get enough sleep, what factors are the problems?
  - Noisy roommates?
  - Can't stop worrying?
  - Too much caffeine?
  - Playing video games or scrolling on your phone too late at night?
  - Undiagnosed sleep disorder?

Assignment for this class

- Write 250-500 words addressing the following question:
  - Has anything gone seriously wrong, academically or personally, since you've come to Otterbein?
  - If it has, what have you done to recover from the situation?
  - If not, what do you think is the biggest problem you're likely to face at Otterbein, and how do you plan to avoid it or manage it?

Upcoming

Next time…

- Second-year students will meet next week, on November 9, for a session on internships
- Both years of students will meet in two weeks, on November 16, for a crash course in Python

Reminders

- Assignment 5 or 6 (depending on which year you're on) is due next Monday