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Academic Support Center Newsletter

The Path To Academic Success

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Letter From the Director

“Gratitude is the inward feeling of kindness received. Thankfulness is the natural impulse to express that feeling. Thanksgiving is the following of that impulse.”

Henry Van Dyke



From the Tecun family to your family, Happy Thanksgiving!

Marianne Tecun,
Director, Academic Support Center



Finals Are Just Around The Corner: The Tutoring Center Will Help You Get Prepared



It's hard to believe that it's almost the end of November, and Thanksgiving is only days away. Next month is December, and December on a college calendar means **FINALS**. With finals around the corner, how well are you prepared? Are you stressed out and feeling anxious?

Don't be. Stressing out will not help you through finals. Anxiety will not help you either. However, tutoring will definitely help. So, stop cramming and start planning and preparing. The right place to start is at the Academic Support Center where we offer various tutoring services that can be of great help in preparing for the finals and getting better grades. In addition to academic tutoring in all subjects, we provide study groups, and help with writing essays and research papers at the Writing Across the Curriculum Center "WACC".

Tutoring at the ASC is free of charge and for registered courses only. It is available to all HCC students with a valid banner ID number. Tutoring is offered during the ASC working hours: Monday – Thursday from 9 AM till 7 Pm, and Friday from 9 AM till 4 PM. In addition, tutoring is offered in three different ways-- one-on-one tutoring, Drop-in Math & Mega Chemistry, and online tutoring.

One-on-one tutoring is available in most subjects, including Accounting, Computer Science, all Sciences, English, ESL, Spanish, French, and Arabic. An appointment is needed for this type of tutoring, so bring your banner ID number to the ASC, Lafayette Hall, room B116 and make an appointment.

Drop-in Math is now available at the tutoring center. With Drop-in math, students can get immediate math help all day, every day, for an unlimited number of sessions or length of sessions. No appointments are needed for Drop-in math, just walk in to room B120, LH, and bring your books and/or homework. All

math tutors will be available during their scheduled hours. You can also walk in for **Mega Chemistry**, which is group tutoring, and is offered for Chem 111. Mega Chemistry is available Thursday, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM, in LH, room B120.

Online tutoring or etutoring is another way for students to receive the help they need 24/7. Online tutoring is a convenient tool that gives you access to a number of tutoring resources in almost all subjects—anywhere, anytime, when you need them. Through eTutoring platform (www.etutoring.org), you can access various tutoring features:

- * eWriting: an Online writing lab
- * eQuestions: An eQuestion drop box
- * eChat: live one-to-one help from expert tutors in a virtual meeting space

Early preparation before finals is a significant factor for academic success. Be in charge, avoid cramming, and use all the resources available to you.

Happy Thanksgiving to all of you and your families.

Alliss Obeid
Tutoring Coordinator



Save Time. Save Money. Graduate Sooner

CLEP: College-Level Examination



Most students strive to save money and time and graduate early! Just think that you can get 3 college credits simply by taking a test and paying the exam fee, that is \$80 and a \$15 non-refundable administration fee, without stepping a foot in a classroom! Well, CLEP exams provide the opportunity to achieve this goal. Through CLEP exams, students with knowledge of a subject area can obtain college credits outside the traditional classroom setting.

Now it is a good time to register for a CLEP exam!! Here at HCC, the testing center at the Academic Support Center offers 33 computerized CLEP exams. The exams are available around the year except in January, July and August. This service is available to both HCC students and students from other colleges.

HCC Students:

In order for **HCC students** to be awarded CLEP credits, they need to:

- ◇ be matriculated students
- ◇ use the credits towards degree requirements
- ◇ meet with their academic advisors prior to scheduling an exam to make sure the CLEP credits will fit into the requirements and/or electives of their selected major.

Visit <http://www.hcc.commnet.edu/resources/studentSupport/ASC/CLEP-DSST/index.asp> to see a list of CLEP exams and how the credits can apply towards a program or a degree.

Students from other colleges

Qualifying tests and acceptable scores are determined by each individual college. Therefore, you need to check with your school to determine what their policy is regarding awarding CLEP credits.

For more information about CLEP visit: <http://www.collegeboard.com/highered/clep/index.html>

CLEP: Interesting Benefits and Facts

According to *The College Board*, the benefits of CLEP include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ◆ 70% of CLEP test-takers said their CLEP credits made a difference in their ability to finance tuition and other fees.
- ◆ 91% of CLEP test-takers said CLEP made a difference in helping them complete their degrees.
- ◆ Students who receive credit-by-examination through CLEP for an introductory course are much more likely to earn an A or B in subsequent courses than students who complete the introductory course.
- ◆ Persistence: Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) students earned more institutional credits, on average, than non-PLA students.
- ◆ Time to degree: PLA students earning bachelor's degrees saved an average of 2.5 to 10.1 months of time in earning their degrees. PLA students earning associate's degrees saved an average of 1.5 to 4.5 months.
- ◆ Graduation rates: More than half of PLA students earned a degree in seven years; only 21 percent of non-PLA students did so.

Aliss Obeid

Sources: clep.collegeboard.org, getcollegecredit.com, hcc.commnet.edu



Thanksgiving: An American Tradition and Heritage

By Aliss Obeid

Thanksgiving Day is an exclusively American holiday. It's celebrated only in the United States and Canada, but on different dates. Americans all over the nation, even those who live in a different country, celebrate Thanksgiving Day every year on the fourth Thursday of November. Americans from different religious and ethnic backgrounds cherish all the traditional elements of this unique holiday: family reunions, football, roasted turkey with stuffing, pumpkin pie and, of course, the Pilgrims and Wampanoag. Thanksgiving Day was officially acknowledged in 1863 when President Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving Day as a national holiday.

The importance of Thanksgiving goes back to the historical significance of the happy feast of thanks that the Pilgrims and the Indians (the Wampanoag) shared in 1621. It was a celebration of giving thanks for the blessings of life, prosperity, peace and sharing. The Pilgrims, 102 English Separatists, arrived in America in December, 1620, on board the *Mayflower*. They escaped religious persecution in Europe and fled to the New World in hope of freedom and a better life. Their first winter in Plymouth Plantation (Massachusetts Bay area) was devastating, and by the fall of 1621, they had lost 46 people due to the harsh weather, starvation, and diseases.

The Wampanoag people, who lived in the area for over 12,000 years, helped the Pilgrims survive the brutality of the natural elements in the area including the bitter cold and severe snow storms. The Indians also taught the Pilgrims how to cultivate the land, grow crops and find food, as well as how to build houses and shelters. With the help of the Wampanoag people and the knowledge that was obtained from them, the pilgrims were able to survive the

brutal winter and have a successful and bountiful harvest the following fall.

"*Giving thanks to the Creator for His blessings*" had been an essential aspect of ancient Native American faith and religions. Often, this would be through ritual ceremonies where prayers were accompanied with feasts and festivity. In a similar fashion, giving thanks to God for the many blessings, such as good health and prosperity, has always been an indispensable part of the Pilgrims Puritan faith. Therefore, in the fall of 1621, the Pilgrim leader, Governor Wil-

liam Bradford, organized a feast to celebrate the good harvest and to give thanks to God for His blessings. Bradford invited the neighboring Wampanoag Indians and their leader to join the celebration as a way of showing gratitude for their help.



The first Thanksgiving was a three-day celebration that included food, drinks, sports and games. Chicken, rabbit, fish, lobster, squashes, beans, chestnuts, dried fruits, maple syrup and honey, and goat cheese are believed to be present at the first Thanksgiving feast. However, turkey, mashed potatoes, corn, pumpkin pies, and cranberries were not foods that were on the table of the first Thanksgiving feast.

Today's Thanksgiving celebration is the marriage of two old and distinct cultures, the English Pilgrims and the Native Americans, mixed with modern American spirit and tradition. It is celebrated with enthusiasm and tradition: bountiful feasts, parades, and football games. Most of all, Thanksgiving is about the gathering of family and friends and being thankful for all the blessings that each one of us has.

Sources: nationalgeographic.com, en.wikipedia.org, www.plimoth.org

Aristotle's Turkey Trivia Quiz



1. When was the first Thanksgiving celebration?

- a. 1492 c. 1567
b. 1621 d. 1777

2. Where was the turkey first domesticated?

- a. Canada
b. Mexico and Central America
c. New Zealand
d. India

3. What is a female turkey called?

- a. a rooster c. a cuckoo
b. a chick d. a hen
c.

4. What is a male turkey called?

- a. a larry c. clark
b. a harry d. a tom

5. What great American statesman lobbied to make the turkey the national symbol?

- a. Benjamin Franklin
b. Thomas Jefferson
c. John Adams
d. Andrew Jackson

6. What sound does a female turkey make?

- a. gobble c. cluck
b. chirp d. peep

7. What sound does a male turkey make?

- a. gobble c. click
b. chirp d. peep

8. About how many feathers does a mature turkey have?

- a. 1,500 c. 2,000
b. 3,500 d. 5,000

9. Which state produces the most turkeys annually?

- a. Kansas
b. Ohio
c. Arkansas
d. Minnesota

10. How fast can wild turkeys run?

- a. 5 mph c. 15 mph
b. 25 mph d. 45 mph

11. How does Arkansas rank among the other states in turkey production?

- a. first c. third
b. eighth d. fourteenth

12. What Native American tribe celebrated the first Thanksgiving with the colonists?

- a. the Wampanoag tribe
b. the Sioux tribe
c. the Choctaw tribe
d. the Arapaho tribe

13. Can wild turkeys fly? If so, how fast?

- a. No.
b. Yes, up to 25 mph
c. Yes, up to 40 mph
d. Yes, up to 55 mph

14. Approximately what percentage of American homes eats turkey on Thanksgiving?

- a. 49% c. 67%
b. 82% d. 90%

15. Approximately what percentage of American homes eat turkey on Christmas?

- a. 34% c. 50%
b. 67% d. 89%

16. What is the name of the skin that hangs from a turkey's neck?

- a. snark c. wattle
b. garble d. swag

17. Which U.S. president specified that Thanksgiving would fall on the last Thursday of November?

- a. Martin Van Buren
b. Andrew Jackson
c. William H. Taft
d. Abraham Lincoln

18. Which president attempted to move the Thanksgiving holiday to the fourth Thursday in November to create a longer Christmas shopping season?

- a. Franklin D. Roosevelt
b. Dwight D. Eisenhower
c. Harry S. Truman
d. Gerald R. Ford

19. Which country consumes the most turkey per year per capita?

- a. The United States
b. Israel
c. Spain
d. The United Kingdom

20. What is the best way to defrost a turkey?

- a. with a hair dryer
b. in the refrigerator
c. in cold water
d. in the microwave oven

Source: aristotle.net/Thanksgiving/trivia

Fun Thanksgiving Trivia

- ◇ In 2013 it is reckoned that nearly 320 million turkeys have been reared for Thanksgiving celebrations. In the UK approximately 13 million turkeys are reared for Christmas Day.
- ◇ There appear to be three places in the USA named after this traditional meal: Turkey in Texas [population 491]; Turkey Creek, Louisiana [population 364]; and Turkey, North Carolina [population 267]. Three towns in Kansas also have the name Turkey. Do you know of any others?
- ◇ Following this discovery we have found that there are a number of places named Cranberry - perhaps after the sauce often eaten with turkey. The biggest appears to be Cranberry in Butler County, Pennsylvania with 28,000 inhabitants.
- ◇ Plymouth Rock, where the Pilgrim Father's landed, is celebrated by 28 sites in the US. Of course, England has the original Plymouth in Devon City, and this is where the Pilgrims set sail. Minnesota and Massachusetts have the biggest conurbations of Plymouth. There is also a Pilgrim in Dade County, Missouri with a population of some 133 good folk.
- ◇ The first department store that held a Thanksgiving parade was Gimbel's Department Store in 1920, Philadelphia.
- ◇ The wishbone of the turkey is used as a good luck charm on Thanksgiving Day.
- ◇ Thanksgiving is also considered the busiest travel day in the United States.

Sources: www.guy-sports.com, www.buzzle.com

Important News

- ⇒ **There will be no classes Wednesday November 26.**
- ⇒ **The Academic Support Center is open Wednesday November 26 from 9 AM - 5 Pm**
- ⇒ **Last day of classes is Monday December 8.**
- ⇒ **Final Exams: December 9 – 15**

