

Supplemental Learning Expectations and Participant Agreement

- 1. SL is free.** This allows students from many different backgrounds to attend, which actually enhances SL. It helps to provide a variety of points of view to the discussion. Students pay fees that help fund SL, so since they are already paying for it, they should take advantage of the service.
- 2. You can bring your lunch/dinner if you want.** As mentioned before, SL isn't a lecture or a formal study session. Students should come to socialize a little, relax a little, and learn a lot. Eating and drinking doesn't inhibit thoughtful, productive discussion—and besides, it's harder to learn on an empty stomach!
- 3. SL is the place to make mistakes.** (It's okay.) Almost everyone knows that we can learn from our mistakes. An SL session is the perfect place to do that for a number of reasons. First, you're never graded on anything you do in SL, so making a mistake or coming up with a less than perfect answer won't bring down your GPA. Second, when you make a mistake in SL, it gives you and the other students a chance to work through the problem and come up with a better answer for the exam.
- 4. You will get a better grade no matter what grade you want.** There are some students who think that SL is only for "A" students, and there are some students who think that you should only go to SL if you are about to fail the class. SL is designed to help students at every knowledge level. It is a proven fact that SL helps all students get a higher grade at all levels.
- 5. Bring your books and notes.** Students will refer to their book(s) and notes throughout the SL session. Leaders plan activities such as note reviews and Divide and Conquer under the assumption that students will have these texts. Students' book(s) and notes provide a resource to check if there is a dispute about an answer during the session.
- 6. Your Leader is qualified because s/he has taken the same class or a higher level class and done well.** The instructor approved his/her content knowledge, and the Leader has been trained in group review strategies. Sometimes the Leader may not answer questions; that isn't because the Leader does not know, but because the Leader wants you to answer.
- 7. Don't expect a lecture.** The SL Leader should not re-lecture over material from class. The purpose of the SL session is not to "re-teach" students or to "tell them" the material again but rather to provide the students with the tools they need to understand and process the material themselves. Re-lecturing is not as effective as the strategies used in the SL session.
- 8. Expect the Leader to be prepared and plan something to organize the time.** Leaders come to the SL session with a plan to cover specific content from class. This gives the session structure and direction. Students often have questions about material not related to the Leader's plan, and it is up to the Leader's judgment whether or not to incorporate that material. Having a plan allows for the student to arrive at the session even if they don't have any particular questions or "problem areas." By having a plan, the Leader structures the session to maximize the student to student interactions during the session.
- 9. Be ready to talk to your classmates.** One of the key components of SL is the student to student interactions, or students teaching other students. However, students often come to SL sessions expecting to sit quietly and listen to the Leader. Students benefit the most when they talk to each other about the material in question.
- 10. We will work on large, complex problems in SL, not just yes/no questions.** In-depth problems allow for more discussion and for students to delve deeper into a subject. Instead of just memorizing answers, students will have a dialogue about the material, debate, trade ideas, understand the foundation underneath the subject matter, and obtain a thorough understanding of the material.
- 11. We will not complete graded homework.** Because the SL Leader has taken the course and has seen the answers to the homework, they are not permitted to share those answers with students. What they will do is choose questions using similar techniques to complete so that students can use those same techniques for their actual homework.
- 12. You don't have to have questions, be done with the homework, or have finished your reading to attend.** Although reading and being familiar with the class material does help a lot, students do not have to complete their studying before coming to SL. The SL Leader will have chosen a "difficult" part of the chapter to cover, using very helpful strategies. Students will need to be involved in a discussion during the session, but they will not need to prepare anything before coming to the SL session. Even if you have done all of your studying and don't have any questions, you can still benefit from the perspectives of other students who attend.
- 13. The SL Leader is there to make sure that the session is efficient.** The Leader knows which material is the most important and the most difficult. They are able to make plans to cover this material in sessions and leave the less important and less complex material for the student to cover on their own. The Leader is also there to make sure that sessions stay on track, instead of turning into a social hour, and to make sure that the group doesn't get stuck on one topic that is causing trouble.

As a participant, I will:

Attend class.
Bring my books and notes to all SL sessions.
Be ready to talk to my classmates.
Be ready to think critically.
Put forth my best effort to learn.

The SL Leader will:

Attend 3 hours of class per week and hold 4 sessions.
Help me learn course material more efficiently.
Prepare and have a plan to organize the time.
Ask me questions to encourage critical thinking.
Facilitate group work and discussion.

As a participant, I will NOT:

Talk negatively about the course instructor.
Expect the SL Leader to teach or re-teach the material.
Expect the SL Leader to be a subject expert.
Expect the SL Leader to help complete homework to be graded.
Behave in a manner that is distracting to other students.

The SL Leader will NOT:

Do **any** course work for me.
Take the place of the professor.
Replace my going to class.
Act as an "answer machine."
Allow the session to go "off-task."

Student Name: _____

Date: _____

SL Leader Name: _____

Date: _____