

What Others Want To Reveal... But don't

THE CONFESSIONS OF A



COLLEGE PROFESSOR

Insider Secrets To Making Top Grades in
All Your Classes

Kamau Kenyatta

The Confessions Of A College Professor

**Insider Secrets To Making Top Grades
In All Your Classes**

by

Kamau Kenyatta

Songhai Publications
Albrightsville, PA 18210

**The Confessions of A College Professor: Insider Secrets To Making
Top Grades In All Your Classes**

Copyright ©2008 Kamau Kenyatta

All Rights Reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information retrieval system without the express written permission from the author and publisher, except for the inclusion of brief quotations in a review.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2007901908

10 Digit ISBN 0-9650653-4-0

13 Digit ISBN 978-0-9650653-4-4

Printed in the United States of America

Published by:

Songhai Publications
P. O. Box 193
Albrightsville, PA 18210

Cover Design by Beverly Morales

To All My Former Teachers

Contents

Introduction	7
1. How To Get Your Professors To Change Your Grades	13
2. Are You Making These Mistakes With Your Professors?	19
3. 7 Mistakes You Must Avoid Making With Your Professors	35
4. What To Do If You Mess Up	60
5. What You Must Know About Words, Words, & Words	75
6. How To Read A Book And Remember What You Read	84
7. Secrets Of Writing Papers To Get Top Grades	95
8. Other Secrets You Need To Know...	
9. Epilogue	101

Acknowledgements

In all actuality, no book is the work of any one person. This one is no exception.

I would like to thank those students who have helped me strive to be a better teacher and communicator. That includes students from Middlesex County College in Edison, NJ, Mercer County College in Trenton, NJ, St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, PA, Bloomfield College in Bloomfield, NJ, New Brunswick Seminary in New Brunswick, NJ, Nichols College (Annex) in Staten Island, NY and William Paterson University in Wayne, NJ.

Thanks to my fellow classmates throughout my academic career who unwittingly contributed to the ideas espoused in the following pages.

Thanks to Laverne Johnson and Rosemarie Sellari for their invaluable proofreading skills and Beverly Morales for her design and computer skills.

Thanks to my wife, Janice, for her continued encouragement and moral support. To my daughters, Aliya and Ayanna, for their patience while I monopolized the computer. To my son, Shaunte, for simply always being there.

To such unique souls always near, thank you.

Introduction

What's It All About...Really About?

I'll never forget my first experience at college. All the freshmen were hauled into a large auditorium where we were given packets of information and instructions on how to register for classes, given locations of important offices, scheduling, etc. When it was all over, I must admit, I thought the whole experience was very organized and informative. I had all the information I could possibly need to smoothly maneuver around the campus, except for one very important piece of knowledge.

I kept waiting for someone to say it, but they didn't. I asked other students if they knew. I got nothing but blank stares. So I waited...and then I waited some more, but no one was giving up the information! It got to the point where I really felt like yelling out at the top of my lungs...

...When do we have lunch and recess?

I mean, where did it fit into all this scheduling we were receiving? Does anybody know? Doesn't anybody care? I wanted to know. I needed to know. Of course I didn't yell it out. Frankly, I wasn't concerned about lunch or the food and eating that happens at lunch. What concerned me was the fact that I couldn't conceptualize how the schedule worked without lunch and recess being figured into the equation. I was looking for order and structure. The kind I was used to from high school.

Can you imagine a high school where they don't tell you the time for lunch and recess? Of course not! What was so strange in this new environment was the fact that no one in charge seemed to even care.

An Eye Opener

When I discovered that it was up to me to decide when I wanted lunch and when I could goof off, I felt a sense of freedom that every college student feels when they first realize that they are pretty much on their own and in control. With that freedom, however, comes much responsibility.

This sense of freedom is one of the central things that trips up most college students. They do not know how to organize their time effectively. It's an adjustment to go

from someone telling you where to go, when to go and the time to go, to figuring it out all on your own.

I've shared this short episode in my life to reveal to you that I have been exactly where you are now. Either you're on your way to college or you're already there. Either way, you like most college students, will rarely, if ever, have the chance to actually get direction and insight from a college professor about what you should do to make better grades. While your parents, teachers, counselors and well meaning friends can give you some insight, in no way will it compare to the knowledge you will gain from reading this book. It's not every day that a college professor is willing to reveal secrets of getting better grades to college students.

If you sincerely want to do better in college, this is the book for you because it will show you exactly how you can get top grades with very little effort. Not from your parents' point of view; not from your guidance counselors' point of view; nor from well-wishers and do-gooders, but from one of the people who will make *the* most difference in your college career — your professor's point of view. The bottom line is this: *that* view is the only one that really matters when it comes to making top grades. If you understand what that means, you will possess the ultimate key to success in college. That is what this book will offer you.

What I am about to reveal to you are secrets and tactics that will help you get higher grades in all of your classes every semester. This information can be used by any student at any school with any professor. You will be able to apply some of these tactics immediately and see the results. Others you will use as the need arises.

These secrets will work for you if you're a male or female; Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Atheist or otherwise. They'll work for you if you're democratic, republican or independent. They'll work for you if you're African, European, Asian, Indian or a mixture. They will work if you're a senior in high school preparing to go to college or a freshman, sophomore, junior or senior already in college.

In other words, the information you're about to discover can be used by anyone who wants to make top grades in college.

Why Should You Listen To Me?

I can say these things with such confidence and conviction because I am a college professor. I know exactly what your college professors expect and how they grade. But more importantly, I'm going to give you rarely revealed strategies, tactics and tips that you can immediately use in order to start making top grades in all of your classes.

I have taught at community colleges, county colleges, private colleges, public colleges and major universities for over 14 years.

Additionally, I have also been a college student. I have been a student at a community college, a state college, an ivy league college and at a major university. I've had all types of professors; Black professors, White professors, male and female professors. I've had radical professors, racist professors, gay professors, republican and democratically oriented professors, published and unpublished professors, professors who were Christian, non-Christian, Muslim and atheists, professors who are world renowned and those you may never know. I've had tough professors, mean professors, easy-going professors, professors who cared deeply about their students and professors who were just there to collect a pay check.

And over the course of my 14 years of teaching at colleges, I've encountered professors of all the above types as colleagues.

Fortunately, that background and experience as both a student and later as a professor, along with what I've learned from it throughout the years, is going to be passed on to you in the pages of this book. But it's going to be passed to you in a manner that will enable you to use it to your benefit — namely to get top grades in all your classes.

A lot of what you're going to learn in these pages are things that I figured out along the way as a student in my early college career. But, as a professor, I've seen the mistakes made by students, which unknown to them, resulted in lower grades. What I refer to here is not rocket science. I'm talking about simple things that you can do immediately and see amazing results.

In short, the information contained in these pages will, without a doubt, help you make the kind of grades you want and deserve.

Chapter 1

How To Get Your Professors To Change Your Grades

*Students Who Show Interest In The Subject Matter Are Treated
Differently Than Students Who Don't.*

One of the most interesting things I discovered about making better grades is what I learned from a friend and fellow classmate while working on my master's degree.

This friend, whom I'll call John, had an uncanny ability of getting his grades changed if he thought he received the wrong grade on a paper or a test.

I recall that we were in a class with a very prominent professor in his field. In fact, this professor was known world wide for his particular expertise and, I might add, he was a rather eccentric fellow. He was known for flirting with the women on campus and was, in general, a party animal. Despite these drawbacks, when it came to his expertise, he was top notch.

Anyway, my friend, John, received a grade of either a B+ or an A- on this particular paper. He complained to me that he thought he should have received a better grade. I thought to myself “that’s a pretty good grade. Why complain?” But John saw it differently and felt he had to register his dissatisfaction to the professor.

After the class, he and I hung around waiting for the other students to leave so that John could talk with the professor. *(I simply waited because we had made plans earlier to eat lunch together. I was there just waiting for him to finish with, what I secretly thought, was a waste of time.)*

As it turned out, however, I was completely wrong! I learned something that day that forever changed the way I approached professors. Something that helped me get better grades on papers and tests from that point forward. If you apply it, you can use it in every one of your classes to get better grades.

What Did John Do That Can Help You?

John informed the professor that he thought he should have received an A + on the paper and stated his reasons to support that belief. In the midst of their conversation, he asked why he had received such a low

Epilogue

From the first day I entered college until now as a college professor for the past fifteen years, it has been a learning experience. But more than that, it has been a constant adaptation to change. Change is one of those things that people fear the most. If you can “flow with the changes,” not only will you survive but you will flourish. College is a process of change from semester to semester and year to year. Prepare yourself to do things in new ways; ways that are different but yet fit your overall personality.

Lastly, remember why you're in college. Yes, there will be parties and many other types of distractions. Don't let those things become your primary focus. That is not your purpose for being in college. Have fun but don't have it at the expense of your grades and your future. When you look back ten years from now, ask yourself what will be more important; going to all the parties that you can or getting the best grades you can. If you get the best grades, you'll be able to party long after leaving college because you will have the discipline to accomplish anything you wish. But if you party too much, you will pay for it for the rest of your life.

Good luck and much success to you!!

About the Author

Kamau Kenyatta is a professor of African World Studies at William Paterson University in Wayne, New Jersey. He is also the CEO of Done Deal Marketing, LLC a marketing and real estate investment firm. He resides in the Poconos of Pennsylvania.

To schedule Kenyatta for speaking, seminars and workshops, contact:

Done Deal Marketing, LLC

P. O. Box 1293

Albrightsville, PA 18210

info@yourcollegeprofessor.com

For more information, secrets and other goodies, visit:

www.yourcollegeprofessor.com

Other books by Kenyatta:

The Truth About Black Hairstyles: The Whole Story Revealed or visit: www.blackhairstylestruth.com