



## **GENERAL COURSE** **INDUCTION**

Welcome!



### **The GC Student Body**

- 300 General Course students
- From 40+ countries
- From 119 universities
- Part of the group of 5,000+ new students at the LSE
- So...GC not alone in being new, except you are not constrained in your course selection



## LSE: What's on Offer?

- 29 teaching departments and institutes
- 35 undergraduate degrees
- 250 undergraduate courses (available to GCs)
- Research-led teaching
- Only 1/3 economic, accounting and finance or management and related courses
- So...most teaching is in wider social sciences



## Who's Who at the School

- Associate Dean for the General Course
- Student Services Centre
- Departmental Manager
- Departmental Tutor
- **Personal Tutor**
- **Lecturer**
- **Class Teacher**



**Who's Who:**  
**Associate Dean for the General**  
**Course**

- academic and personal matters
- advise on course selections
- change of course, class
- department transfers
- advise on transfers to LSE
- accommodation issues
- exam arrangements
- point of reference for other support services



**Who's Who:**  
**Associate Dean for the General**  
**Course**

- Dr Rafael Gomez
- Office A201 (Old Building)
- We'll try to meet once a term
- Appointments via email throughout term(s)
  - [gc.dean@lse.ac.uk](mailto:gc.dean@lse.ac.uk)



**Who's Who:**  
**Student Services Centre**

- **Where?**
  - Ground Floor, Old Building
- **When?**
  - Open: Monday to Friday  
9.30 – 17.15 (Wed till 15.45)



**Who's Who:**  
**Student Services Centre**

- **What for?**
  - Degree & School Regulations
  - Certification/transcripts
  - Course choice
  - Exam arrangements
  - Financial support
  - Further information and advice
- Much of this now done on-line



## Who's Who: Departmental Tutor

- academic and personal matters
- advise on course selections
- change of course, class
- *approves* department transfers
- *approves* transfers to LSE
- point of reference for other support services



## Who's Who: Personal Tutor

- academic and personal matters
- advise on course selections
- monitors your work
- point of reference for other support services
  - but not a counsellor
- *Will meet at least twice a term*



## Who's Who at the School

- Associate Dean for the General Course
- Student Services Centre
- Departmental Manager
- Departmental Tutor
- Personal Tutor
- Lecturer – delivers the weekly lecture, and may also be
- **Class Teacher (very important)**



## Who's Who: Class Teacher

- weekly point of contact
- will mark your coursework
- will mark attendance each week
- will mark your participation
- *based on these will provide overall class grade that goes on your transcript*
- *Don't be shy...make yourself known as a GC student.*



## Structure of the Academic year

- Three terms of 10 weeks each:
  - Michaelmas Term (Fall – Oct-Dec)
  - Lent Term (Winter – Jan – Mar)
  - Summer Term (Spring Apr/May – June)
- Two long breaks:
  - Christmas (4 weeks)
  - Easter (5 weeks)



## Structure of the Academic year

- Teaching in Michaelmas and Lent terms
- Revision and exam in Summer Term
- Four full unit courses (or equivalent)
- Usually one 1 hour lecture and one 1 hour class per week
- *Classes are compulsory*
- Expectation of independently managed study time: 6 – 8 hours per course/week



## Structure of the Academic year

- Exams in the Summer Term
  - will run through until end of June
  - you must sit all of them
  - you must sit them here
  - will show up on your LSE transcript
- **DO NOT MAKE ANY ARRANGEMENTS TO LEAVE LSE BEFORE YOUR EXAMS END**



## Teaching Timetable

- Course selection on line via LSE for YOU
- Changes allowed up to end of week 4 of Michaelmas Term
- Audit range of courses in first few weeks
  - Allows informed decision on appropriate course
  - Ensures that there is no gap if you make any changes
  - Broadens your horizons !



## Teaching Timetable

- Accessible via the Web
  - via PCs or kiosks
- Lists by Modules
- Personal Timetable via LSE for YOU
  - **NOTE: cannot** change assigned classes to suit your personal schedule
- Personal Exam Timetable via LSE for YOU from end of Lent Term



## LSE Grading System

- Very different from US system
- Up until 2007-08 there were Six broad categories of achievement with 34% as fail mark:
- **NO** grade inflation at LSE



## LSE Grading System

Degree Class equivalent	% mark equivalent	Written Work	Class Contribution	Summary Class Grade
First	79-100	A+	A+	A+
First	74 - 78	A	A	A
First	70-73	A-	A-	A-
Upper Second	60-69	B+	B+	B+
Lower Second	55-59	B	B	B
Lower Second	50-54	B-	B-	B-
Third	45-49	C+	C+	C+
Third	40-44	C	C	C
Fail	0-39	F	F	F



## A Good GC Transcript

- Lists two letter grades for each course:
  - exam and coursework

	Exam	Coursework
EC220 Econometrics	A-	A-
EC210 Macroeconomics	B-	B+
EC315 International Economics	B	A-
EH315 Africa and World Economy	B+	A-

- home university makes decisions on credit transfers



## A Poor GC Transcript

- Lists two letter grades for each course:
  - exam and coursework

	Exam	Coursework
EC220 Econometrics	F	Inc
EC210 Macroeconomics	C-	B-
EC315 International Economics	D	C+
EH315 Africa and World Economy	D	C



## Change of Department

- Possible but ***not likely*** and you need to see Associate Dean first
- Requires approval of department concerned
- Most departments oversubscribed, especially Accounting & Finance, International History, International Relations, Management
- *Change usually only possible if students already assigned to department move or other departments willing to be flexible*



## **Student Support Resources**

- **Language Centre**
  - Foreign language teaching; certificate courses
  - English for Academic Purposes
- **IT Skills**
  - LSE emails and login details
  - Computer rooms
  - Word; Excel; Outlook and others
  - Supervised tutorials; independent learning
- **Library**
  - Largest Social Science library in world
  - Teaching collection and main collection



## **Student Support Resources**

- **Students' Union**
- **'Mentoring'**
- **Teaching and Learning Development Office**
  - Advisor to Students with Disabilities/Dyslexia
    - Register with advisor to receive support
  - Study skills support
    - Strongly recommended to help acclimatise to UK higher education system



## **Study Skills Programme**

- Lectures in Old Theatre; workshops in D209
- Wednesdays: 14.15-15.15 (or 16.00)
- reading and note-taking
- analysing concepts, critical reasoning, creative thinking
- **essay writing**
- making the most of lectures, developing reading techniques



## **Study Skills Programme**

- "Manage your studies" advice sessions
- One-to-one sessions
- Dr P Levin
- Tuesday afternoons or Wednesday mornings, H417B
- Email [studentsupport@lse.ac.uk](mailto:studentsupport@lse.ac.uk) to book



## **Paid Employment & Internships**

- Legally allowed to work up to 20hrs/week
- School recommends 15hrs/week max
  - Not to interfere with your studies
- For details on internships, speak to the LSE Careers Service
  - For summer internships: make sure you start *after* the end of the exam period



## **Things to Do**

- Select courses on-line
- Departmental induction meetings this week and some early next.
- 1<sup>st</sup> meeting with personal tutor to be arranged in coming week(s).
- Personal teaching timetable via LSE for YOU
- Teaching starts Monday 6th October 2008



## **‘Meet your Dean’ Drop in Sessions**

- Sessions to run from Dean’s office – A201 all month of October.
- Information also on New Arrivals website:  
<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/studentServicesCentre/InductionUg/generalCourseWelcome.htm>



## **Other GC Induction Events**

- **Look at your social calendar**
- <http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/generalCourse/PDF/SocialCalendarAutumn2008.pdf>
- **GC Orientation session starting October 8<sup>th</sup>.**
- **Cumberland Lodge – October 17-19<sup>th</sup>, 2008**
  - Still a few spots available.
- **Welcome Boat Party: Tuesday 30 September 2008**
  - Meet at the Tower Hill Tube at 7.00pm {TBC}
  - 4-hour boat cruise, complimentary food, beverages and drinks (2 drink tickets).