Evaluation of Courses

Use the format below to help you evaluate every course you are taking this quarter. This evaluation is a first step toward developing a strategy for achieving your desired goals in each course.

Look over the questions that follow. Then begin keeping informal notes as ideas come into mind concerning these questions or any other points that you feel are important. Finally, write up an evaluation for each course to be turned in on the date indicated in the syllabus.

Minimum Acceptable Level
Your evaluations should be complete enough to be useful in planning your strategy for the courses. Questions that can be answered should be answered, and “unknowns” should be listed.

I. General Information
   A. Course Title and Number
   B. Professor’s Name
   C. Approximate Class Enrollment
   D. Why are you taking the course? What are the general requirements? Is this course required in your major is it because you’re interested in the subject?
   E. What is your goal in terms of a letter grade? In terms of acquired knowledge?

II. Textbook(s): Give the title and the author of each text and answer the questions below for each one.
   A. Description and Evaluation
      1. How is the text used in the course? Is detailed reading required? Does the text duplicate what is covered in class or does it go beyond?
      2. Organization of the text: How well are the sections organized? Are there subheadings to help? Is the organization logical?
      3. Writing style: How well is the material written? Are concrete examples where they would help?
   B. Personal Considerations: Is the vocabulary generally at your level? Do you have any trouble grasping the concepts? How interesting is the material? Do you have any previous knowledge of the subject? Are the reading assignments short enough to keep up with?
   C. Unknowns: List questions that you need answers to.

III. Class Work
   A. Class Format
      1. Description and Evaluation: Is the emphasis on lectures, discussion, or lectures plus discussion? Are there in-class exercises? Is there anything unique about the format?
         a. How important is the class work? How important is the attendance?
      2. Personal considerations: How comfortable are you with the class format?
   B. Lectures
      1. Description and Evaluation: How well is the lecture organized? How well is it presented (e.g. pace, clarification of important or difficult points, etc.)?
      2. Personal considerations: How interesting is the material? Any problems with the vocabulary? Any special problems taking notes?
   C. Other class requirements such as speeches?
   D. Unknowns: List questions that you need answers to.
IV. Methods of Evaluating Your Work:
   A. Exams
      1. Description and Evaluation: How many exams are given? What relative weight?
         What kinds of exams (essay, objective, or other)?
         • What will be stressed on the exams (factual knowledge, problem-solving, critical
           thinking, application of knowledge to new situations, etc.)?
         • Are periodic quizzes also given?
      2. Personal Considerations: Any special problems with the kind(s) of exams you are
         expecting (e.g. weak background in skills or knowledge needed, difficulties with that
         particular kind of test, etc.)?
   B. Papers
      1. Description: What kind(s) of paper(s) is/are required (e.g. long research paper, short
         essay, etc.)? What weight do any papers carry in computing the final grade?
   C. Other things evaluated (e.g., speeches, special projects, laboratory work, etc.):
      • Describe these and indicate any personal considerations.
   D. Grading
      1. Will grading be on a “curve” or according to a predetermined level of proficiency?
      2. Any other important considerations?
   E. Unknowns: List questions that you need answers to.

V. Teachers
   A. Description and Evaluation: How sensitive is the teacher to the student’s needs and
      point-of-view? Does he/she allow for feedback from students? Is he/she available to
      answer your questions?
   B. Personal Considerations: Any negative mannerism (e.g. voice, gestures, movements, etc.)?
      Anything about her/him that tends to either encourage or discourage you?
   C. Unknowns: List questions that you need answers to.