

# EXTRA CREDIT

## A SUMMER & WINTER SESSIONS PODCAST

### Episode 1 Transcript

#### **00:00:02 Introduction**

Welcome to Extra Credit, hosted by the Rutgers University Office of Summer and Winter Sessions. Listen to hear from students as they share their experiences at Rutgers and some tips on how to navigate a condensed semester. Also gain the perspective of professors and learn more about the courses they teach.

#### **00:00:18 Kylie**

Thank you for being with us today and can you introduce yourself? Tell us your name, your major.

#### **00:00:23 Carly McCrae**

My name is Carly. I'm a history and political science major.

#### **00:00:27 Carly McCrae**

But I'm applying to grad school this month for the Graduate School of Education's five-year Masters program. So, my major is history and political science. But realistically, in the future I'd like to go into higher education.

#### **00:00:41 Kylie**

So why are you passionate about this stuff? Is there like a particular reason?

#### **00:00:45 Carly McCrae**

Yeah, um, I've always just been very, a very outgoing person. I've always been like a natural born leader.

#### **00:00:52 Carly McCrae**

And so when I was in high school, I got involved in something called Princeton Model Congress which is...

#### **00:00:59 Carly McCrae**

It's basically what it sounds like. It's model Congress and you go in DC for a weekend and you debate certain bills and they pass or they fail.

#### **00:01:06 Carly McCrae**

And that's what got me interested in politics. And so in high school and even in college, I had some really strong bonds with a lot of my teachers, and by the time I got to college I kind of realized that, you know, it was time for me to actually pick something that I could envision myself doing, and I thought that teaching was something that I could actually see myself doing. I'm really passionate about, like helping other people.

**00:01:31 Carly McCrae**

I'm like a pretty big activist for certain things, so I feel like teaching combined with like politics is just perfect for me. Like that's exactly something that I would want to do in the future.

**00:01:43 Kylie**

That's really impressive. Good for you.

**00:01:46 Kylie**

Switching gears a little bit. I hear that you took a winter course, like a winter session course, can you tell me about it? Like the course title? How long it was?

**00:01:57 Carly McCrae**

Yeah, so it's called the culture of the 1950s - American culture of the 1950s.

**00:02:03 Carly McCrae**

And it was a four-week course, pretty much from the day before Christmas, right around until today (January 15, 2021), actually so.

**00:02:11 Carly McCrae**

A little less than four weeks. It's basically - we talk about what it sounds like, American culture in the 1950s.

**00:02:18 Carly McCrae**

But we talk a little bit about the decades beforehand, so we talk about the Great Depression and World, World War Two in the 30s and the 40s, and then the end of the course is more about the culture in the 1950s. So since the course ends today, right now we've been talking about the beat movement and the Civil Rights movement and how that started, started to take shape and stuff like that.

**00:02:45 Carly McCrae**

Uhm, so yeah, it's really interesting. I find it really interesting 'cause I'm a history major, but I know it might not be very interesting to some other people, but I like it.

**00:02:54 Kylie**

So why did you take this course?

**00:02:57 Carly McCrae**

I fell behind a couple credits. Actually I had to withdraw from a course last semester and then my freshman year I only took, I think 4 courses,

**00:03:07 Carly McCrae**

My first semester so I was behind a couple credits and I decided that in order to get ahead I would need to take a winter or summer course.

**00:03:16 Carly McCrae**

So, I decided this winter to take a course to try and get ahead. Also I needed to raise my GPA to get into grad school, so I wanted to try and dedicate all my time to one course in one section, in order to raise my GPA and I thought that winter session would be a perfect opportunity.

**00:03:34 Kylie**

Yeah, so how was it different than your other courses that you take in the spring or the fall?

**00:03:40 Carly McCrae**

Definitely more accelerated. I wouldn't say that it's more work than you would do in a normal semester, but if you think about it in a normal semester, you have five courses. So I found myself doing work every single day for this course, which was very new for me.

**00:03:57 Carly McCrae**

But like I said, it wasn't more work than it would be in a regular fall or summer or fall or spring semester. It was just the same amount of work, but only for one course, if that makes sense.

**00:04:10 Kylie**

So is this your first course that you took this over the winter?

**00:04:13 Kylie**

Have you taken anything before this?

**00:04:15 Carly McCrae**

Yes, this is my first accelerated term course.

**00:04:19 Kylie**

So then did you do anything special to prepare since it was accelerated?

**00:04:23 Carly McCrae**

Yeah, I definitely before the class made sure that I did a little bit of research on the topic.

**00:04:29 Carly McCrae**

Since it was accelerated, I naturally assumed that obviously things would go a little bit faster. So I wanted to make sure that I had a little bit of prior knowledge about the course and what it was really about, which I think helped me a lot.

**00:04:43 Carly McCrae**

He also sent the syllabus out well ahead of time. I think 2 weeks ahead of time. So yeah, I had a lot of time to be able to write everything in my planner, make sure I knew when our meetings were, what the questions that we had to do were, and things like that. So it was really helpful to get myself organized ahead of time for the course.

**00:05:01 Kylie**

That's awesome.

**00:05:01 Kylie**

Exactly overall, in general, what do you think the most challenging obstacle to overcome has been for online learning or for winter session in general?

**00:05:13 Carly McCrae**

For online learning, I just really miss social interaction. As I noted before, I'm so outgoing and I love -

**00:05:20 Carly McCrae**

I could talk to a wall. I could literally talk to anybody so.

**00:05:24 Carly McCrae**

It's so hard for me to just be all cooped up all the time and you know, you have to talk to your friends virtually, which is fine, but I'm really adventurous.

**00:05:33 Carly McCrae**

I like to go out and I like to do things and it's just weird.

**00:05:35 Kylie**

Yeah, it's different.

**00:05:45 Carly McCrae**

It's so weird not being able to do that anymore, so I think that's definitely my biggest challenge when it comes to virtual learning because I liked being in a classroom setting and I liked being able to interact with people and do group work together and stuff like that.

**00:05:50 Rosie**

Do you think it was beneficial to have those times where you all met together as a class so you could interact with other students? Or like what was your take on the on the format overall?

**00:05:58 Carly McCrae**

Definitely, I think it was really helpful.

**00:06:00 Carly McCrae**

Uhm, obviously if we were in person, you know you would be interacting with your peers and you'd be able to make friends and build connections and stuff like that.

**00:06:08 Carly McCrae**

So I was really grateful for the times that we were able to come together and all be kind of one class, even if it was virtually, just because I was able to form connections. I was able to make a friend in the class, which is really cool, so that's something that's very unheard of. You know, in times like this, when everything is all virtual and stuff like that.

**00:06:27 Carly McCrae**

So I think if the course was just asynchronous... just sit down and watch the lectures and that's it, I would have been very bored and I think it would have been a lot harder for me to stay with the course and stay engaged if I didn't have those times where we all met together and were synchronously talking to one another.

**00:06:44 Kylie**

Yeah, it's like you need a balance now, so I think like having it half and half.

**00:06:49 Kylie**

Like, OK, yeah, like the work you can do it on your own. You can do at your own pace, but then it's like this- I need this human contact now, whether it's like whatever it is you know.

**00:07:00 Kylie**

So, what's your biggest takeaway? Would you say from winter session?

**00:07:05 Carly McCrae**

Yeah, I think overall it was a really big help and it definitely wasn't too challenging to manage. I would definitely recommend taking a winter course to other people, and honestly, I'll probably be taking one again or even in the summer. I'll be taking one just 'cause I have a couple more credits to make up. So yeah, I would definitely take one again.

**00:07:23 Conclusion**

Thanks for listening and we'll catch you next time on Extra Credit.