



# SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION (SI)

## INTERNATIONAL DEFINITION OF SI

“SI is a non-remedial approach to learning that supports students toward academic success by integrating ‘what to learn’ with ‘how to learn.’ SI consists of regularly scheduled; voluntary, out-of-class group study sessions driven by students’ needs. Sessions are facilitated by trained peer leaders who utilise collaborative activities to ensure peer-to-peer interaction in small groups. SI is implemented in high-risk courses in consultation with academic staff and is supported and evaluated by a trained supervisor (coordinator)” ([www.umkc.edu/si](http://www.umkc.edu/si))

## WHAT IS SI?

- SI is designed to support historically difficult modules, i.e. modules where many students fail, drop out, or get low marks.
- SI identifies “high risk modules” not “high risk students”.
- SI supplements formal in-class modules—SI never replaces lectures. There are regular scheduled out-of-class SI sessions weekly.
- SI is attached to a specific module. There are different SI sessions in Law, Economics, Business Management, Chemistry, etc.
- SI sessions are led by especially trained students call SI leaders or facilitators. These students have successfully completed the same module. They are friends not lecturers.
- SI sessions are informal discussions. SI Leaders do not teach but help the group towards understanding the module material. Bring your own lecture notes, your textbook, your questions.
- SI enables students to master the module content (What to learn) while developing and integrating effective learning and study strategies (How to learn).
- SI is not remedial. The sessions are proactive, to enable you to help yourself.
- Attendance is free.

## SI SESSIONS

- SI sessions supplement, but never replace lectures. SI Leaders rely on you to bring questions after you have attended the lectures.
- SI sessions involve students helping each other.
- SI sessions are facilitated by highly skilled SI Leaders who have passed the module and will help you during the SI sessions.
- SI sessions give you a chance to ask what you did not understand in the lectures.
- SI sessions may be offered in several formats depending on circumstances. During Covid SI sessions are offered online, however session can also take place face-to-face or mask-to-mask. Your SI Leader and lecturer will inform you of the format.
- Any activities that you do in SI sessions (for example quizzes or worksheets) will not in any way contribute to your class mark. It is for practice and/or revision purposes only.
- SI Leaders are not there to re-lecture all the work to you.
- SI sessions do not replace the personal study time and effort you need to put into the module.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND SI?

- Everyone may attend.
- SI is for all registered students in a module where SI is offered.
- Attendance is voluntary
- Attendance is confidential and in no way influences the evaluation of performance in any module.
- Statistics show that students attending SI sessions consistently tend to get higher marks than expected, whether they are at the top or bottom of the ability range.
- Improvement comes after attending several sessions rather than one or two.
- Don't wait until you fail to attend SI. Anyone is welcome to attend from the first session to stay up to date with the work.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Liesl Smith  
10 -01 17, South Campus (Music Building, Lower Ground)  
liesl.smith@mandela.ac.za

Philip Kitching  
10 -01 15, South Campus (Music Building, Lower Ground)  
philip.kitching@mandela.ac.za