SFA 101 – Freshman Seminar
SFA 101.008
FALL, 2011
COURSE SYLLABUS

Professor: Matthew McBroom, Ph.D, C.F.
Office: 111 Forest Laboratory Building
Phone: 468-2469
Email: mcbroommatth@sfasu.edu
Office Hours: MW 10:30-11:30; T TR 9:00-11:00 R 1:00-4:00 (Barring Storm Events)
Others by Appointment
Class Schedule: MW 9:00-9:50 – Lecture, Forest Hydrology
M 1:00-3:50 – Lab, Forest Hydrology
TTH 11:00-11:50 – Lecture, Environmental Hydrology
T 2:00-4:45 – Lab, Environmental Hydrology
MW 10:00-10:50 – SFA 101

Class Meeting Place: FL 103

Student Instructor: Laura Bobbitt
Email: bobbittlp@titan.sfasu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

SFA 101: Freshman Seminar. 1 semester hour, 2 hours lecture per week. This course provides study and practice in methods for success in college. Topics include critical thinking skills, study skill, time and money management, goal setting, career planning, and a review of university resources and regulations.

CLASS READINGS AND MATERIALS: All students will receive a Keys to College Success pamphlet and a SFA 101 Freshman Success Handbook at the beginning of the semester. Information in the study sheet and handbook will be used for class discussions. Make sure you get them, read them, and understand them. You will also need a class notebook of some type.

Other readings will be assigned.

Program/Student Learning Outcomes:

• Evaluate the significance of academic integrity.
• Construct a strategy for accessing and evaluating information through Steen Library.
• Select campus and community service opportunities in which he/she is interested.
• Apply college classroom learning strategies within this class and others.
• Investigate an overview university resources.
• Develop personal survival skills.
• Examine SFA history, traditions, and pride.
• Argue the true value of a college education.
• Relate university rules and procedures to his/her personal behavior at SFA.
• Demonstrate working successfully with peers, faculty, and staff

COURSE METHODS AND ACTIVITIES: You will participate in the class in the following ways:

★ Small group discussion
★ Whole class discussion
★ Guest speakers
★ Visits to campus locations
★ Videos
★ Games and exercises
★ Illustrated lecture
★ Individual conferences

CLASS RULES: Following these few rules will help to maximize the SFA 101 experience for you and your classmates:

1. Attend every class.
2. Read the assigned material, and turn in all required work on the day it is due. (This is because your other professors will likely not be flexible.)
3. Participate in individual and group activities and discussions.
4. Treat everyone in the class with respect and courtesy.
5. All students are expected demonstrate professional behavior and use language appropriate for the classroom learning experience.
6. PDAs, cell phones, and other electronic devices should be turned off and put away during class time.
7. Ask questions!

_Tentative SFA 101 Schedule, Fall 2011._

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/29</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Course Syllabus, Introduction</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8/31</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No Morning Lecture – Convocation Meet at Coliseum at 4:15. Last day to change schedule or late register</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>No Class - Labor Day Holiday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9/7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>College and Classroom Learning Strategies – Learning Styles, Note Taking</td>
<td>65-67</td>
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Teaching Philosophy: Learning is a two-way street, requiring interaction between teacher and student. We tend to learn in three distinct phases:

1. Accumulation of information or knowledge.
2. Assimilation of that knowledge into what we already know.
3. Application of new knowledge to various circumstances.

Learning occurs instinctively by observing, imitating, then understanding. Assimilation and application are integral to accumulating knowledge that can be used throughout one’s life. Each phase of learning will be incorporated into the topics covered in this course.

COURSE EVALUATION

Course Grades: Final course grades will be assigned as follows:
**Attendance** – “*The World is Run by Those Who Show Up*”  (50 Pts)

1. **Instructor/Student Instructor Meetings:** Two individual meetings with the instructor and the student instructor will be scheduled. The purpose of these meetings is to allow you to ask questions, get clarification about college life or just chat about whatever is on your mind. They count for a total of **20 points** of your attendance grade.

2. **Outside Events** – You are required to attend three (3) outside events provided by SFA. You must provide documentation of that event. These include Freshman Convocation (8/31), SFA Observatory (11/14), and an SFA Fine Arts Event. I recommend Percussion in the Pines (12/5) as a great dead week stress relief. Attendance is **10 points** for each event for a total of **30 points**.

3. **Class Attendance** – Class attendance is mandatory. Please plan to attend all class sessions. Attendance will be taken daily. **Every unexcused absence that you incur will result in a deduction of 3 points from your final grade.**

**Exam** – Only **1** exam will be given during the semester, worth **100 points**, tentatively scheduled for 10/10. It will include true/false, matching, multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short essay questions. The exam will be based on material covered in class, assigned readings, and class discussion. It will not be difficult if you have done the readings and participated in class. This exam will indicate how you perform with different types of test questions and allow the instructor to make suggestions to improve your test taking skills in other classes. There will be no final exam. 😊

**Assignments** – Three (3) assignments worth **50 points** each (150 points), will be given during the semester. These assignments will provide you with an opportunity to reflect on and benefit from what is happening in college. The two (2) written papers will be around 3 pages, typed double spaced with 12 pt Times New Roman Font and 1” margins. The note taking assignment will consist of your notes taken during the class and can be hand written. The due dates are indicated on the above class schedule. **NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED. LATE WORK WILL RECEIVE A 0 GRADE.**

Total Points for the Course – 300 Points

Final course grades will be assigned as follows:
- A – Student earns 300- 269 points.
- B – Student earns 268-239 points.
- C – Student earns 238-209 points.
- D – Student earns 208-179 points.
- F – Student earns 178 or fewer points.

No curves will be given.

**Mail:** Please check your SFA Titan email account regularly. Email will be an official tool for communicating the important reminders, announcements, and further assignment directions. You can forward your Titan account to your preferred email address.
Assignments: Each student must work faithfully on his/her assignments. Copying from someone else (even from an earlier semester) will result in a zero grade on that assignment. All assignments should be handed in on or before the deadline, no excuses.

Attendance: Course attendance is required. Three (3) points will be deducted from the final course grade for each unexcused absence. Excused absences include participation in University-sponsored events, health problems, or family emergencies. Documentation for excused absences must be provided. Notification of planned excused absences should be provided. Make-up work will be accepted for a maximum of 2 weeks following an excused absence. http://www.sfasu.edu/upp/pap/academic_affairs

Academic Integrity (A-9.1)
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.
Responsible Use of Technology
It is expected that all students will only use cell phones, PDAs, laptop computers, MP3 players and other technology outside of class time or when appropriate in class. Answering a cell phone, texting, listening to music or using a laptop computer for matters unrelated to the course is unprofessional and may be grounds for dismissal from class or other penalties. Use of laptops in such a way that is disturbing to other students will not be permitted. Lectures may be recorded by students.

Classroom Behavior
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

Student Acknowledgment

Required:
I have received and read Dr. Matthew McBroom’s course outline for SFA 101. I understand the requirements for successful completion of this course.

_______________________  ____________________  ____________________
Print your name          Your signature          Date

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