GenJacks Freshman Seminar  
SFA 101.038  
Fall 2017

Faculty Instructor: Dr. Lauren Burrow  
Office: ECRC 201N  
Phone: 936.468.1628  
E-mail: burrowle@sfasu.edu

REMIND: https://www.remind.com/join/sfa101d  
or text @sfa101d to “81010”

Department: Elementary Education

Office Hrs:  
- Monday, 1030 – 1130am (by appointment)  
- Meetings at other time can be arranged with advanced request  
- VIRTUAL: Fridays, 10am – 100pm (via GroupMe)

Class Meeting time and place: ECRC 204
Student Instructor: Lesley Cisneros  
Email: cisnerosle@jacks.sfasu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:  
This course provides study and practice in methods for success in college. Topics include critical thinking skills, study skills, time and money management, goal setting, career planning, and a review of university resources and regulations.

Program/Student Learning Outcomes:  
Upon completion of SFA 101 the student will be informed of the following areas and how they relate to their success

- 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 of 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

CLASS READINGS AND MATERIALS: All students will receive 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.

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 meetings
GRADING POLICY: SFA 101 is a graded course. Passing this course will give you one semester credit that can be used toward the total number of credits you need to graduate. The grading system is as follows:

- 200 – 179 points = A
- 178 – 159 points = B
- 158 – 139 points = C
- 138 – 119 points = D
- 118 pts & below = F

Attendance Activities 80 points

- **Class attendance:** SFA 101 is largely an activity and discussion-based course. As such, **attendance is mandatory** for full access to the course experience. Attendance will be recorded during each class meeting. Attendance includes physical presence as well as cognitive presence and engagement in discussions and activities. *(2 points per class x 26 classes = 52 points)*
- **Tunnel of Oppression:** TOP is an immersive experience with dimension of global oppression. This experience is tentatively scheduled for November 7. Exact time will be announced. Tickets will be handed out in class. **Attendance will be taken with an ID swipe** at the event. *(8 points)*
- **Instructor/Student Meetings:** Two individual meetings with the instructor or the student instructor will be scheduled. The purpose of the meeting is to ask questions, get clarification on college processes, or to develop a professional relationship. Your participation in these meetings will count towards 10 points per meeting *(2 x 10 points = 20 points).*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classes</td>
<td>27 x 2 = 52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunnel of Oppression</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instructor Meetings</td>
<td>2 x 10 = 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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Writing and Reflective Activities 80 points

- **Professor Chat:** Each student will meet with a **non-Gen Jacks professor.** This chat is an opportunity to gain understanding of an assignment or course material, to get feedback on tests/essays/assignments, to get to know your professor on a professional level, get advice in your major, etc. After chatting with your professor, you will submit a two-page, double-spaced reflection on the experience. Specific instructions are listed in D2L. *(30 points)*
- **Letter to Self/Response:** At the beginning and end of the course, you will engage in two writing assignments in class. Specific instructions will be provided in class. *(2 x 10 points = 20).*
- **Elegy Reflections:** For each of the three “Supergroups,” you will engage in a reflective activity related topics from the chapters listed on the meetings dates. Specific instructions will be provided in class *(3 x 10 points = 30 points).*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Writing/Reflecting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prof Chat</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Letter to Self/Self Response</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elegy Reflection</td>
<td>3 x 10 = 30</td>
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Campus Resource Presentation 40 points

- **Campus Resource Presentation:** Students will research a campus resource and present their findings to the class in small groups. Specific instructions and rubric will be available on D2L *(30 points).*
• **Group Feedback:** After learning about effective practices for working in groups, you will be given an opportunity to give feedback on how your group worked together. You will not award points to your group members; instead, you will give feedback on how well your group worked together based on what you learned about effective collaboration. *(10 points)*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presentation</th>
<th>30</th>
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<tr>
<td>Group Feedback</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>40</strong></td>
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**TOTAL POINTS FOR COURSE**

**200 points**

**Optional Outside Activities**

Students may earn additional course points (aka extra credit) by attending optional activities. Information about dates and tickets will be given in class. Students may attend up to 3 outside activities for 6 additional course points. If a student would like to attend a different outside activity, they must get the alternate activity preapproved by the course instructor to earn 2 points. If you attend an alternate activity, you can still earn a maximum of 6 additional course points. Below are the only events for which tickets will be provided.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fine Arts Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Observatory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Involvement Advising</td>
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**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 to demonstrate professional behavior and use language appropriate for the classroom learning experience.
6. Cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off and put away during class time.
7. Ask questions!

When students have personal technology available in the classroom, it should be used appropriately. Using devices for interacting on social media sites is not an appropriate in-class use of technology. Sending or receiving texts, instant messages, or making/receiving phone calls can cause distractions to the instructor and to fellow students. Cell phones, computers, and other electronic devices in the classroom are to be used for class purposes only.

**MAIL:** Please check your Jacks email account regularly. Your Jacks account is the official email account for SFASU. D2L will be the official tool in your SFA 101 class for communicating the important reminders, announcements, and further assignment directions.

**COURSE COMPLAINTS:** Any college course complaints or problems should first be discussed with the course instructor for the particular course. Difficulties can usually be resolved there. If the complaint cannot be resolved, the next person to see is the appropriate department chairperson. For SFA 101, the chairperson is Dr. M.C. Breen (Steen Library, Room 203L; 936-468-1588).

**STUDENT ETHICS AND OTHER POLICY INFORMATION:** FOUND AT HTTP://WWW.SFASU.EDU/POLICIES

**Class Attendance and Excused Absence:** Policy 6.7

Regular, punctual attendance, documented participation, and submission of completed assignments are expected. Based on university policy, failure of students to adhere to these requirements shall influence the course grade, financial assistance, and/or enrollment status. The instructor shall maintain an accurate record of each student’s attendance and participation as well as note this information in required reports (including the first 12 day attendance report) and in determining final grades. Students may be excused from attendance for reasons such as health, family emergencies, or student participation in approved university-
sponsored events. However, students are responsible for notifying their instructors in advance, when possible, for excusable absences. Whether absences are excused or unexcused, a student is still responsible for all course content and assignments. Students with accepted excuses may be permitted to make up work for up to three weeks of absences depending on the nature of the missed work. Make-up work must be completed as soon as possible after returning from an absence.

**Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: Policy 6.1 and 6.6**
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, 936-468-3004 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/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/)

**Student Academic Dishonesty: Policy 4.1**
Abiding by university policy on academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members must promote the components of academic integrity in their instruction, and course syllabi are required to provide information about penalties for cheating and plagiarism, as well as the appeal process.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:
- using or attempting to use unauthorized materials on any class assignment or exam;
- falsifying or inventing of any information, including citations, on an assignment;
- 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 one’s own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:
- submitting an assignment as one’s own work when it is at least partly the work of another person;
- submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source;
- incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper or presentation without giving the author credit.

**Penalties for Academic Dishonesty**
Penalties may include, but are not limited to, reprimand, no credit for the assignment or exam, re-submission of the work, make-up exam, failure of the course, or expulsion from the university.

**Student Appeals**
A student who wishes to appeal decisions related to academic dishonesty should follow procedures outlined in Academic Appeals by Students (6.3).

**Withheld Grades: Policy 5.5**
At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, 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, except as allowed through policy [(i.e., Active Military Service (6.14)](https://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/). If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Student Code of Conduct: Policy 10.4**
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. 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. 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 iCare: Early Alert Program at SFA. Information regarding the iCare program is found at [http://www.sfasu.edu/judicial/earlyalert.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/judicial/earlyalert.asp) or call the office at 936-468-2703.
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| Tuesday Aug. 29 | Instructor day: Introduction to SFA 101 Letters to Self                      | Thursday Aug. 31| Myers-Briggs: Strengths Assessment and Discussion
Note: Last day to change schedule except drop (8/31)                                                                 |
| Tuesday Sep. 5  | STAR, Challenges and planning for the semester                               | Thursday Sep. 7 | Time management                                                               |
| Tuesday Sep. 12 | Progress monitoring, Self-efficacy discussion
Note: 12th Class day (9/12)
**MEET with Dr. Breen’s class in __________** | Thursday Sep. 14 | SUPER GROUP-Meet in __________
Note taking group activity and discussion |
| Tuesday Sep. 19 | Academics 101, policies and procedures, academic integrity
**MEET with Dr. Breen’s class in __________** | Thursday Sep. 21 | Professional professor etiquette
Introduction to Professor Chat assignment |
| Tuesday Sep. 26 | Student Involvement & Student Choices                                        | Thursday Sep. 28 | SUPER GROUP-Meet in __________
Hillbilly Elegy Chapters: Prologue-Ch. 5
**Elegy Reflection #1 Due** |
| Tuesday Oct. 3  | Note taking vs. Note making: How to take notes in class and at home.         | Thursday Oct. 5 | Reading and writing skills for different situations and courses.              |
| Tuesday Oct. 10 | Library Visits (VR/Stress Chat or Library Orientation)                       | Thursday Oct. 12| Library Visits (VR/Stress Chat or Library Orientation)
Prof. Chat due |
| Tuesday Oct. 17 | SFA Traditions                                                                | Thursday Oct. 19| STAR: What to do after mid terms                                               |
| Tuesday Oct. 24 | How to navigate group projects                                               | Thursday Oct. 26 | SUPER GROUP-Meet in __________
Hillbilly Elegy Chapters: 6-11
**Elegy Reflection #2 Due** |
| Tuesday Oct. 31 | Goal setting and self-reflection, revisit STAR, revisit decision making
Note: Last day to drop courses (10/25)                                   | Thursday Nov. 2 | Presentation skills
Campus Resource Presentation Introduced |
| Tuesday Nov. 7  | **TIME TBA** Tunnel of Oppression—“compensated time”                          | Thursday Nov. 9 | Tunnel of Oppression reflection day                                           |
| Tuesday Nov. 14 | Social interaction, self-check                                                | Thursday Nov. 16| Changing Relationships: differences in relationships after returning home from college. |
| Tuesday Nov. 21 | Thanksgiving vacation: No Class                                              | Thursday Nov. 24| Thanksgiving vacation: No Class                                               |
| Tuesday Nov. 28 | Final Study Skills, finals study plan
In-class writing                                                          | Thursday Nov. 30| SUPER GROUP-Meet in __________
Hillbilly Chapters: 12-end
**Elegy Reflection #3 Due** |
| Tuesday Dec. 5  | **Presentations**                                                            | Thursday Nov. 30| SUPER GROUP-Meet in __________
Hillbilly Chapters: 12-end
**Elegy Reflection #3 Due** |
| Dec. 7          | **Presentations**                                                            | Thursday Dec. 7 | **Presentations**                                                            |

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<tr>
<td>Tuesday Dec. 5</td>
<td><strong>Presentations</strong></td>
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<td>Dec. 7</td>
<td><strong>Presentations</strong></td>
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