GenJacks Freshman Seminar - Fall 2017
McGee Business Bldg, Room 124
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-2:50 p.m.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course provides study and practice in methods for success in college. Topics include critical thinking skills, study skills, time 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 TEXT AND MATERIALS:
All students will receive 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.

Class discussions over Hillbilly Elegy will take place at the end of each month. You will be responsible for readings and participating in group discussions.

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

- Group discussions
- Guest speakers
- Visits to campus locations
- Videos
- Games and exercises
- Illustrated lecture
- Individual Instructor Meetings
GRADING PROCEDURES:
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 points and below = F

ATTENDANCE – 80 POINTS
Class Attendance: SFA 101 is largely an activity and discussion-based course. As such, attendance is mandatory; therefore, plan to attend ALL class sessions. Attendance will be taken daily. Each class is worth 2 points (26 classes = 52 points).

Instructor/Student Meetings: Two individual sessions with the instructor or the student instructor will be scheduled; these are important and count for a total of 20 points of your attendance grade.

Tunnel of Oppression: The Tunnel of Oppression is hosted by the Office of Multicultural Affairs. The event is an immersive experience with dimensions of global oppression. Attendance will be taken with a student ID card swipe. Attendance at the event is worth 8 points.

WRITING & REFLECTION ASSIGNMENTS – 80 POINTS
Letter to Self: At the beginning and end of the semester, you will engage in two writing assignments. Specific instructions will be provided in class. This assignment is worth a total of 20 points.

Professor Chat: Each student will meet with a non-Gen Jacks professor. After meeting with your professor, you will submit a two-page, double-spaced reflection on the experience. Specific instructions will be provided in D2L. This assignment is worth 30 points.

Elegy Reflections: For each of the three Elegy “Supergroup” discussions, you will engage in a reflective activity related to topics from the chapters listed on the meetings dates. Specific instructions will be provided in class. Each reflection is worth 10 points, for a total of 30 points.

FINAL GROUP PROJECT – 40 POINTS
Campus Resource Presentation: At the beginning of the semester, you will be placed in a group and assigned a campus resource. Each group will research and present their findings to the class at the end of the semester. Specific instructions will be provided in class and available in D2L. Your group’s presentation is worth 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 give feedback on how well your group worked together based on what you learned about effective collaboration. Submission of your feedback is worth 10 points.

TOTAL POINTS FOR COURSE = 200 POINTS
OPTIONAL EXTRA CREDIT ACTIVITIES
Students may earn additional course points by completing an optional activity listed below. Students may complete up to 3 outside activities for 6 additional course points. If a student would like to attend a different outside activity, you 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.

Attend a Fine Arts event
Involvement Advising
Join a student organization
Attend the SFA Observatory
Attend 5 SI study sessions (provide pink slips)

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.
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. Cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off and put away during class time.
7. Ask questions!

EMAIL: Please check your Jacks email account regularly. Your Jacks account is the official email account for SFA. 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).

FOOD FOR THOUGHT (Hunger Jacks): The purpose of Food for Thought Student Food Pantry is to provide supplemental healthy food to SFA students who are experiencing food insecurities. The only requirements for eligibility are to be enrolled for courses at SFA during the current semester and not have a mean plan. Food for Thought is not a University-funded service. It is supported by volunteers and by charitable contributions and donations. All items are offered as available. (located Student Center, Room 3.201)

STUDENT ETHICS AND OTHER POLICY INFORMATION: FOUND AT WWW.SFASU.EDU/POLICIES
The following policies apply to all students enrolled in courses at Stephen F. Austin State University.

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/

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)]. 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 or call the office at 936-468-2703.
# TENTATIVE CLASS CALENDAR

**SFA 101 Fall 2017**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
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| **August 29**  
Class Overview and Introductions  
Letters to Self | **August 31**  
Myers-Briggs: Strengths Assessment and Discussion  
(Note: Last day to change schedule except drop) |
| **September 5**  
STAR, Challenges and planning for the semester | **September 7**  
Time Management |
| **September 12**  
Progress monitoring, Self-efficacy discussion | **September 14**  
Note Taking Discussion |
| **September 19**  
Academics 101 | **September 21**  
Interacting with Professors  
Professor Chat Assignment Instructions |
| **September 26**  
Getting Involved on Campus | **September 28**  
Hillbilly Elegy Chapters: Prologue – Ch. 5  
**Elegy Reflection #1 Due** |
| **October 3**  
Note taking vs. Note making: How to take notes in class and at home | **October 5**  
Reading and writing skills for different situations and courses |
| **October 10**  
SFA Traditions | **October 12**  
Library Visit  
**Professor Chat Assignment Due** |
| **October 17**  
Stress Management | **October 19**  
STAR: What to do after midterms |
| **October 24**  
How to navigate group projects | **October 26**  
Hillbilly Elegy Ch. 6-11  
**Elegy Reflection #2 Due** |
| **October 31**  
Goal Setting and Self-Reflection | **November 2**  
Presentation Skills  
Campus Resource Presentation Instructions |
| **November 7 (No Class)**  
Tunnel of Oppression | **November 9**  
Tunnel of Oppression Reflection |
| **November 14**  
Social Interaction | **November 16**  
Changing Relationships: differences in relationships after returning home from college |
| **November 21**  
Thanksgiving Break (No Class) | **November 23**  
Thanksgiving Break (No Class) |
| **November 28**  
Finals Study Skills, finals study plan | **November 30**  
Hillbilly Elegy Ch. 12-Ending  
**Elegy Reflection #3 Due** |
| **December 5: Dead Week Presentations** | **December 7: Dead Week Presentations** |