Freshman Seminar  Fall 2017
SFA 101 (section 041 - CRN 10839) - Global Interest/Awareness

Faculty Instructor: Heather Catton  Student Instructor: Yusuf Abbas
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Phone: 936-468-5597  Class Meeting time: TR 11:00 – 11:50
Office: Liberal Arts North, Room 402  Class Meeting place: ECRC 217
Office Hours: MW 11:00 – 11:50
Department: International Programs

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course provides study and practice in methods for success in college. According to the interest and needs of student participants, topics may include critical thinking skills, study skills, time management, goal setting, career planning, and a review of university resources and regulations. Topics will also have a ‘global perspective’, helping students continue on their path to becoming global citizens.

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

- Develop cross cultural and personal skills.
- 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 handbook will be used for class discussions. Additional handouts and study sheets will be used throughout the semester.

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
- 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.

TOTAL POINTS FOR COURSE = 400 points. The grading system is as follows:
400 - 360 points = A
359 – 320 points = B
219 – 280 points = C

Attendance / Events - 200 points

Class Attendance (100 points) Class attendance is mandatory; therefore, please plan to attend ALL class sessions and activities. Every absence in excess of 2 will result in a deduction 5 points from your final attendance grade. Participation is also important and lack of effort to actively participate may also cause attendance points to be lowered.

Instructor/Student Instructor Meetings (50 points) Two short individual meetings with the instructor and/or the student instructor will be scheduled. The purpose of the meeting is to allow you to ask questions or just to chat about whatever is on your mind. Each meeting is 25 points.

Outside Events (50 points) You will be required to attend two (2) outside events sponsored by SFA – above and beyond those on the class schedule. You must provide sufficient documentation of the event of your choice. Attendance to these events will be valued at 25 points each.

Assignments/Projects - 100 points

Several times during the semester you will be given an assignment to be completed using D2L, or to be turned in at the beginning of class. NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Writing for Reflection - 100 points

You will be assigned two 2 page papers, each valued at 50 points. The due dates for the papers are indicated on the Tentative Class Calendar. Papers will be submitted in D2L - NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.

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

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 electronic devices MUST be turned off and put away during class time*.
7. Ask questions!

*Personal technology should be used only for appropriate educational purposes and when allowed by the instructor(s). Otherwise – put it in your bag or pocket.

MAIL: Please check your SFA email account regularly (remember you can forward your SFA email to an
account that you check regularly).

**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. Mary Catherine 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)]. 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.
TENATIVE CLASS CALENDAR

Topics may change depending on availability of guest speakers, student requests, etc.

Please check your D2L course page for updates regularly!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesdays 11:00 – 11:50</th>
<th>Thursdays 11:00 – 11:50</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1, August 29</td>
<td>August 31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Overview, Introductions</td>
<td>Cross Cultural Awareness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2, September 5</td>
<td>September 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>SFA Resource Treasure Hunt</td>
<td>Syllabi Day</td>
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<td>Week 3, September 12</td>
<td>September 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lunchtime with SFA101</td>
<td>Learning Styles and Academic Integrity</td>
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<td>Week 4, September 19</td>
<td>September 21</td>
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<td>Resumes 101</td>
<td><strong>No Class</strong> – Go to your Individual Meetings</td>
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<td>Week 5, September 26 -</td>
<td>September 28</td>
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<tr>
<td>SFA Tours – Health Clinic and Gardens</td>
<td>Communication Strategies</td>
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<td>Week 6, October 3</td>
<td>October 5</td>
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<td><strong>AARC Presentation</strong> – meet in the AARC (library) Lobby</td>
<td><strong>Mid-Term Stress</strong></td>
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<td>Week 7, October 10</td>
<td>October 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>SFA History, Traditions, and Pride</td>
<td>Social Media and Career Development</td>
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<td>Week, Date</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
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<td>Week 8, October 17</td>
<td><strong>Homecoming Week!</strong></td>
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<td>Week 9, October 24</td>
<td><strong>No Class</strong> – Go to Career/Internship Expo Tomorrow!</td>
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<td>Week 10, October 31</td>
<td><strong>Personal Health and Safety</strong></td>
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<td>Week 11, November 7</td>
<td><strong>Tunnel of Oppression</strong></td>
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<td>Week 12, November 14</td>
<td><strong>ACIREMA</strong></td>
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<td>Week 13, November 28</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td><strong>‘DEAD’ WEEK!</strong></td>
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<td><strong>FINALS WEEK!</strong></td>
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