SFA 101.049 Freshman Seminar (FLA) Fall 2017

“For many new students…the initial weeks of the first academic term are like being in a foreign land. With only intermittent feedback and classes meeting but two or three times a week, students who think they are doing well are sometimes surprised to discover after their first midterm exam reports that their academic performance is subpar. After six or eight weeks, some have dug a hole so deep that getting back to ground level seems almost impossible” (Kuh, 2005, p.86).

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Department: Student Engagement Programs

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course purpose: The SFA 101 course has been created to help first-year students’ transition into the college setting and learn the principles of leadership. The overall goal of the course is to prepare the first-year student to be successful leaders at Stephen F. Austin State University, and beyond.

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. Students will learn about campus resources, and how to become involved on campus. This interactive course will cover the following topics:

SFA 101
- 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.

Leadership
- An introduction to Leadership Studies
- Self-leadership
- Understanding yourself and others
- Group dynamics
- Servant leadership
- Ethics
- Certified Student Leader Endorsements (Communication, Influence, Decision-Making, Organization, Teamwork)

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

Student Version
Course objectives and learning outcomes: At the completion of the course, students will…
- Demonstrate working successfully with peers, faculty, and staff
- Identify options to become involved on campus.
- Be able to identify key campus resources.
- Feel a stronger sense of connection to SFA.
- Be prepared to make informed choices regarding alcohol.
- Understand prevalent college issues including drug use and sexual assault.
- Reflect on their values and purpose, as it relates to career decision-making.
- Determine the balance between academic course-load requirements, work and leisure time.
- Recognize and practice effective study skills and acquire the knowledge and skills to succeed academically at SFA.
- Understand how culture impacts our view of the world and learn to practice tolerance for the viewpoints of others different from oneself.
- Establish positive relationships with others in the class.
- Understand different leadership styles and how styles affect others.
- Demonstrate the ability to work effectively in groups.
- Feel more committed to ethical leadership.

Class text 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 requirements and expectations: Attendance is required at each class period. Because of the importance of classroom interaction for this course, it is imperative that students attend class. Students will lose one point from their overall grade per absence. Students are expected to actively participate in class discussion.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>Participation and Attendance</td>
<td>90-100= A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Leadership and Service Development</td>
<td>80-89= B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>70-79= C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>Total points possible</td>
<td>60-69= D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>59 or below= F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AF= Failure due to unauthorized withdrawal or excessive absence.

Required for participation and attendance, leadership, cultural and service points:

**Participation and Attendance (55 points)**

- **One-on-One Meetings with Instructor:** Each student is required to set-up one outside of class meeting with one of the instructors. You will sign up for these meetings during class. **5 points**

- **Reflections/Assignments:** Please download the free Campus Labs Respond app or visit [www.sfs.campuslabs.com](http://www.sfs.campuslabs.com). The ID code will be provided in class. During class, you will have the opportunity to reflect on your experiences. **40 points**

- **AARC Slip:** Turn in at least one (1) AARC Slip before November 2nd. **5 points**

- **Academic Convocation:** Bring proof of attendance to class. See schedule at end of syllabus **5 points**

Student Version
Leadership and Service Development (45 points)

**FLA Service Learning Group Project:** Several out of class activities will take place for the FLA project. Each student will be put into committees that will plan and implement a service learning project. Your instructor will allow class time to work on these projects, but the projects will require some committee meetings and time outside of class. In affiliation with each of the stated course topics/objectives, you will participate in out-of-class activities. **30 points**

**Leadership Conference:** On Saturday, Nov. 4th - all sections of FLA will come together for the opportunity to attend the ODK Leadership Conference on the second floor of the Baker Pattillo Student Center. Details available closer to date. Please wear your FLA T-shirt. **5 points**

**Involvement:** Pick one or two of the following tasks. **5 points**
- Attend the Involvement Fair on Sept. 7th from 5-7pm at Campus Rec, and submit snaps or a picture on Instagram. OR
- Participate in Involvement Advising, which has to be scheduled by appointment. Email the Involvement Center today at getinvolved@gmail.com to schedule your appointment. You must have appointment before Nov. 16th.

**Cultural Development:** Pick one or two of the following tasks: **5 points**
- The “Tunnel of Oppression” program hosted by the Office of Multicultural Affairs will be held November 7th (sometime between 6-9pm) in the BPSC. If you are unable to attend at that time, you may receive permission from the primary instructor to attend on another day. OR
- Poverty Simulation- Participants will experience some of the daily challenges a family in poverty may endure over a simulated experience of one month. This experience will take two to three hours. **Spots for this are very limited and students must sign up individually. Pre-registration can be found at [http://www.sfasu.edu/multicultural/658.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/multicultural/658.asp)**

Behavioral Expectations: 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. Classroom behavior that is disruptive, distracting or disrespectful 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. 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!

**Mail:** 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).

Student ethics and other policy information may be found at 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/

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: Policy 6.3
A student who wishes to appeal decisions related to academic dishonesty should follow procedures outlined in Academic Appeals by Students.

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.

Student Version
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/inappropirate 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.

Withdrawal Policy: Per the Registrar's Office, the last day to drop the course without a “WP or WF” is Wednesday, October 25, 2017.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Tuesdays*</th>
<th>Thursdays*</th>
<th>Outside of Class Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>August 29: Getting to Know You</td>
<td>August 31: Class Overview and Working with Professors, Differences in high school and college</td>
<td>Last day to change schedule, except for drops, August 31</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Download campus labs respond app</td>
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<td>FLA RETREAT, Sept. 1-2!!!!!!</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>September 5: What is FLA (two parts)? Leadership Skills/ Group Dynamics) and Theories of Leadership</td>
<td>September 7: Overview of AARC Learning Strategies True Value of a College Education</td>
<td>Sept 5: Traditions Tours 6-8pm, BPSC Plaza Sept 7: Involvement Fair 5-7pm, Campus Recreation Sept. 8- Class of 2021 class photo at Homer Bryce stadium at 7:30pm! WEAR PURPLE!!! Holler at Homer, 8pm, get your FREE AXE handle! Sept. 9: JACKS CHARGE, 5:37pm - Meet at the spirit rock with your axe handle and WEAR PURPLE!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>September 12: Leadership Skill - Influence</td>
<td>September 14: Time Management and Procrastination, Motivation, and Notetaking</td>
<td>Sept 12: 12th Class Day- Go to all your classes, instructors take attendance Sept. 16: SFA Football v. Incarnate Word, JACKS CHARGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>September 19: Leadership Skill – Decision-Making</td>
<td>September 21: Personal Survival Skills – Alcohol and Drugs Campus Resources</td>
<td>Register for Poverty Simulation!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fall 2017 Tentative Schedule
Each class meeting lists what assignments you should have completed prior to class, what is due, and any special instructions for that day. Please review this section prior to each class meeting with sufficient time to complete the required readings and assignments for each class.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 5</th>
<th>September 26: Leadership Skill – Communication</th>
<th>September 28: Critical Thinking and Integrity Career Planning</th>
<th>Involvement Advising- Email the Involvement Center today at <a href="mailto:getinvolved@gmail.com">getinvolved@gmail.com</a> to schedule your appointment. Please do so at least 3 weeks before due date. Sept. 30 SFA v. McNeese, JACKS CHARGE begins 23 minutes before game time, meet at the spirit rock.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>October 3: Leadership Skill – Setting Priorities Eisenhower Matrix</td>
<td>October 5: Working Successfully with Faculty, Staff, and Peers, Study Skills Test Taking</td>
<td>Oct. 8: Battle of the Piney Woods @ NRG Stadium @ 1:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>October 17: Group Dynamics – Building Trust</td>
<td>October 19: Personal Survival Skills – Health, Safety and Fitness Self Esteem, Stress Management, Resiliency</td>
<td>Oct. 21: Homecoming, SFA v. Houston Baptist, JACKS CHARGE begins 23 minutes before game time, meet at the spirit rock. One-on-one meetings this week with instructors: Each student is required to set-up one outside of class meeting with one of the instructors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>October 24: Group Dynamics – Managing Conflict</td>
<td>October 26: SFA History, Traditions, and Pride</td>
<td>Oct. 25: Last day for dropping without WP/WF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>October 31: Group Dynamics – Securing Commitment</td>
<td>November 2: Accessing and Evaluating Information AARC Slips due</td>
<td>Nov. 4: ODK Leadership Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>November 7: Group Dynamics – Holding Yourself and Others Accountable</td>
<td>November 9: True Value of a College Education – How Much Does College Really Cost True Value of a College Education – Grades, GPA, and fall scheduling</td>
<td>Nov. 6- 8 at 6:00 -8:00 p.m.: “Tunnel of Oppression” program hosted by the Multicultural Center-BPSC Movie Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>November 14: Group Dynamics – Achieving Results</td>
<td>November 16: Online Portfolios My First Semester at college- what I have learned Personal Survival Skills – Money Management</td>
<td>SFA v. Northwestern State The Battle of Chief Caddo, 3:00pm – Nachitoches, LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>November 21: No class</td>
<td>November 23: No class</td>
<td>Enjoy your Thanksgiving break! Be safe!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>November 28: Course Wrap Up</td>
<td>November 31: LAST CLASS DAY</td>
<td>Nov. 27: Last day to withdraw from the University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please note that due to the dynamic nature of this course, topics covered on a given day may be altered from this schedule.*
At Stephen F. Austin State University, our faculty, staff, alumni and students believe in doing things “The SFA Way.” We expect the best from ourselves and from each other, and we hold each other accountable when we fail to maintain these standards. Grounded in the five “Root Principles” below, members of the SFA community seek to strive for personal excellence in everything that we do.


New Student Academic Convocation 2017
Meet with the dean and faculty members of your college!

Nelson Rusche
College of Business
3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 13
McCee 133

College of Fine Arts
Theatre
6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 28
Turner Auditorium

Music
1 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 30
Cole Concert Hall

Art
3 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 31
Cole Concert Hall

College of Liberal and Applied Arts
Social Work
2 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12,
Social Work Building

Anthropology, Geography, Sociology
3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12, LAN 142

English
(Literature and Creative Writing)
3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12, LAN 208

Government
(Criminal Justice)
3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12, Ferguson 377

History
3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12, LAN 102

Languages and Communication
(Modern Languages, Communication Studies)
3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12, Ferguson 277

Mass Communication
3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12, Boynton 104

Multidisciplinary Programs
(Applied Arts and Sciences, Liberal Studies, Multidisciplinary Studies, Philosophy)
3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12, Ferguson 376

Psychology
3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12, McKibben 131

James I. Perkins
College of Education
Kinesthetics and Health Science
3 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 5
Pepper Center Annex 121

School of Human Sciences
3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 5
HPE 113

Human Services
4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 5
Human Services Building Lobby

Elementary Education
4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 5
Early Childhood Education Center 212

Arthur Temple
College of Forestry and Agriculture
4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 7
Temple Forestry Building 117

College of Sciences and Mathematics
4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14
Kennedy Auditorium

Undecided Major?
Select the college in which you are most interested.

R.W. Steen
Library
4:45 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 20
Library Lobby

INFORMATION + Door Prizes
Access SFA's campus map at sfasu.edumatlas.asp.

This event is mandatory unless you have a class. Call (936) 498-2504 for more information.