SFA 101_005 Freshman Seminar
MW 10-10:50 in F477
Fall 2018
Stephen F. Austin State University

Faculty Instructor: Christopher D. Sams, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Linguistics (Department of English and Creative Writing)
Office: Liberal Arts North 261
Office phone: (936) 468-2005 (no voicemail activated)
Email: samsc@sfasu.edu (please indicate SFA 101 in the subject line of your message)
Office hours: MWF 8:00-9:00, TR 8:00-9:30, and any day by mutually convenient appointment

Student Instructor: Ms. Emily Crider
Email: crideres@jacks.sfasu.edu (please indicate SFA 101 in the subject line of your message)
Office: TBD
Office Hours: by mutually convenient appointment

Required Texts

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. You will also receive a 2017-2018 SFA Bulletin. I recommend getting one from the Office of Admissions every year or you can access it online.

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.

Prerequisite(s): None.

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.
Coursework Requirements and Grading Policy

- The final course grade will be determined by 5 assignments which will be announced in class at least one week in advance of the due date. We do not give partial credit and we do not accept late assignments. There are also daily assignments that we expect students to participate in.

Final Course Grade

5 assignments completed- A  
4 assignments completed- B  
3 assignments completed- C  
2 assignments completed- D  
< 2 assignments completed- F

Course policies

- Adults make arrangements. They also take responsibility, are held accountable, and accept the consequences of their actions.

Regular, prompt attendance, active participation, preparation, and adherence to the syllabus policies are expected. Attendance is taken daily by Emily and students are responsible to initial the sheet as it comes around at the beginning of class. We do not differentiate between excused and unexcused absences: an absence is an absence. Arriving late or leaving early, sleeping, habitual use of cell phones, listening to music, working on material for another class, or engaging in side conversation while we are talking (or a presenter) may result in being marked absent. Students are responsible for keeping track of their absences as no warnings will be given. **Exceeding 4 absences will result in failure of the course.**

- If a student misses class, they are responsible to find out from a classmate what they missed (including announcements). Do not ask us. Students can get notes from them and find out if they missed any announcements. After speaking to a classmate, if they have specific questions, they can see us. We will not give private lectures over what was missed in class. Period.

- Emily will post the number of assignments students have competed on D2L. We do not monitor or respond to emails sent via D2L; all emails should be sent to samsc@sfasu.edu or crideres@jacks.sfasu.edu. For D2L technical support, contact student support in The Center for Teaching and Learning at d2l@sfasu.edu or 936-468-1919. If you call after regular business hours or on a weekend, please leave a voicemail.

- Students should check their SFA email account daily during the week. I return most emails within 24 hours. If you don’t hear back from me within 24 hours on a weekday, please resend your email--I may not have received it. **This is a professional atmosphere; emails should have a subject, salutation (if for initial contact), body, and signature.**
Acceptable Student Behavior

A recent policy from the Provost’s Office states, “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.”

Academic Integrity (4.1)

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 (5.5)

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/.

**Tentative Course Outline (subject to change)**

In this course, we will cover Academic Integrity, Accessing and Evaluating Information, Campus and Community Service Opportunities, Classroom Learning Strategies, SFA History, Traditions, and Pride, Personal Survival Skills, University Resources, University Rules and Procedures, The Value of a College Education, and Working with Peers, Faculty, and Staff.

**Tentative Course Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>W</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Syllabus</td>
<td>Getting acquainted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>College Etiquette</td>
<td>Letter to Self (Assignment 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Differences between High School and College</td>
<td>Dining Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Time Management</td>
<td>Learning to Learn</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>University Policies and Procedures</td>
<td>Healthy Relationships</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Advising</td>
<td>Library Tour (Assignment 2 due: Policies and Procedures quiz)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Financial Aid</td>
<td>How to Find Books in the Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Personal Survival Skills</td>
<td>Campus Organizations and Jobs</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Calculating Grades</td>
<td>Campus Scavenger Hunt</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Financial Management</td>
<td>Life in Nacogdoches (Assignment 3 due: GPA calculation quiz)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Loneliness, Homesickness, and Depression</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD (Assignments 4&amp;5 due: Attending a university-sponsored event and interview)</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>No class</td>
<td>No class</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>No class</td>
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<td>15</td>
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Final course grades will be posted on D2L after the close of online evaluations.

“JackText grade notification is available to students who sign up for it. This service sends a text to the student each time a grade is posted to their account. This should eliminate some of their anxiety when awaiting grades posting, as they will be notified the moment the grade is rolled into their academic history. Instructions for signing up for JackText can be accessed at http://www.sfasu.edu/5418.asp.”