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 and 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 the student is interested in.
- Apply college classroom learning strategies within the 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 the student’s 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 to keep required coursework and assignments organized.
Course Methods

You will participate in the class in the following ways: small group and whole class discussions, guest speakers, visits to campus locations, videos, illustrated lectures, individual meetings, games and exercises.

Grading Policy and Assignments

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. Grades are based on a 100%-point system. 90 – 100 is an A, 80 – 89.99 is a B, 70 – 79.99 is a C, and on down where you don’t want to be.

Major assignments and points:

**Participation in Special Events:** 15 points in a 100-point grading system

You will attend these events to earn your points. If you’re in one of the Theatre Department productions as an actor or production staff or crew, that will count as your attendance.

*The Wolves* by Sarah Delappe, October 1 – 5 Turner Auditorium 5 points

*Titus Andronicus* by William Shakespeare, November 12 – 16 Turner Auditorium 10 points

*One additional event* on the SFA campus, but *not in the Theatre Building.* (This could be a football game, the Planetarium, an art show at the Cole Art Center downtown, a movie in the student center!) I’m good with most anything, but YOU MUST PROVIDE PROOF THAT YOU WENT…TICKETS, PHOTOS, HAND STAMP, ECT. 5 points

**Individual Meetings with Instructor and Teaching Assistant (two sessions over the course of the semester)** 20 points

You are required during the semester to meet with the Instructor and the Teaching Assistant to discuss your progress as a college student and where improvement is needed.

**Attendance and Class Participation** 20 points

Attendance is mandatory. You get two unexcused absences and after that, each absence is counted as 1 point deducted from your final grade.

Participation in class is mandatory. You must help with the discussion.

**Mid-Term Exam:** 5 points
There will be one exam in November that covers all you have learned in class to that point. It will include true/false, multiple choice, and essay questions. You must read the instructions very carefully! The test is provided by your professor, you bring the pen.

Assignments: 20 points
Writing Assignment #1: Who am I? 5 points
Writing Assignment #2: Who will I be? 5 points
Writing Assignment #3: Automatic/Stream of Consciousness. 5 points
Assignment #4: Who are they? (Your description of a fellow classmate without hurtful statements) 5 points

Group Final Presentations: 20 points
Write and perform a short play/skit about the First Year of College Experience. In class write a critique on collaboration as a group and how it could be improved.

Class Rules
Following these rules will help maximize the SFA 101 experience for you and your classmates.
- Attend every class.
- Read the assigned material and submit all required work on the day it is due. No late work is accepted.
- Participate in individual and group activities and discussions.
- Treat everyone in the class with respect and courtesy.
- All students are expected to demonstrate professional behavior and use language appropriate for the classroom learning experience.
- Cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off and put away during class time.

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.

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. Brittany Fish (Steen Library, Room 203; 936-468-5803).
General Student Policies

The following policies apply to all students enrolled in courses at Stephen F. Austin State University.

1. Student Academic Dishonesty (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.

2. 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

3. Course 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.

4. Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities (6.1)
   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/

5. Student Code of Conduct (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 (see the Student Conduct Code, policy 10.4). 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 iCare Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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<td>Week 1, August</td>
<td>Class Introduction-Resources, D2L, mySFA</td>
<td>Differences between HS &amp; College: Developing Personal Responsibility</td>
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<td>Week 2, September</td>
<td>AARC Overview</td>
<td>Navigating College: Time Management &amp; Prioritization! Bring all syllabi to class!</td>
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<td>Week 3, September</td>
<td>Who are you, what are you, &amp; why are you? Finding your purpose.</td>
<td>SMART Goal Setting</td>
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<td>Schedule 1st Individual Sessions</td>
<td>Writing Assignment #1</td>
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<td>Week 4, September</td>
<td>Learning Strategies: Note-taking &amp; Reading textbooks</td>
<td>Learning Strategies: Study Skills &amp; Test Taking</td>
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<td>Week 5, September</td>
<td>Linking Academic &amp; Social Engagement</td>
<td>Developing Relationships: Networking for your future!</td>
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<td>Week 6, October</td>
<td>The SFA Way &amp; Academic Integrity</td>
<td>University Rules and Procedures</td>
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<td>Week 7, October</td>
<td>Success in College: Grades, GPA, Course Selection, Academic Advising</td>
<td>Student Success Panel</td>
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<td>Schedule 2nd Individual Sessions</td>
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<td>Week 8, October</td>
<td>SFA History, Traditions, Pride</td>
<td>University resources: Scavenger hunt!</td>
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<td>Week 9, October</td>
<td>Personal Survival Skills: Alcohol, Drugs, and UPD</td>
<td>Personal Survival Skills: Health &amp; Stress Management</td>
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<td>Week 10, October</td>
<td>Critical Thinking &amp; Academic Integrity</td>
<td>Accessing &amp; Evaluating Information-Library Services</td>
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<td>Week 11, November</td>
<td>Managing Motivation &amp; Maintaining Mindset</td>
<td>Career Planning</td>
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<td>Schedule</td>
<td>Writing Assignment #3</td>
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<td>Week 12, November</td>
<td>Sharpening your Study Skills: Test preparation!</td>
<td>Exam</td>
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<td>Week 13, November</td>
<td>The Value of a College Education: Money Management &amp; Budgeting</td>
<td>Re-evaluate SMART Goals: Check your progress!</td>
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<td>Week 14, November</td>
<td>Hospital break</td>
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<td>Week 15, December</td>
<td>Review learning strategies &amp; study skills: Prepping for finals!</td>
<td>My first semester at College: Reflection</td>
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<td>Writing Assignment #4</td>
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<td>Week 16, December</td>
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**Thanksgiving Break**

**Finals Week**