I. 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.

II. 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.

III. 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.
IV. 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.

V. 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. The grading system is as follows:

- 400 - 360 points A
- 359 - 320 points B
- 319 - 280 points C
- 279 - 240 points D
- 239 points & below F

Attendance Policy

- Instructor/Student Meetings (20 points): Two individual meetings with the instructor or the student instructor will be scheduled. The purpose of the meeting is to allow you to ask questions, get clarification on college processes, or just to develop a professional relationship. Your participation in these meetings will count as 10 points per meeting.
- Outside Events (30 points): You will be required to attend two (2) outside events provided by SFA. You must provide sufficient documentation of the event. Attendance at each of these events will be valued at 15 points each.
- Class attendance (50 points): Class attendance is mandatory and will be recorded during each class meeting. Therefore, please plan to attend all sessions. For every absence you incur, a deduction of 2 points will be taken from your final grade.

Assignments

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

1. Learning Styles Inventory (25 points)

Go to [http://vark-learn.com/the-vark-questionnaire/](http://vark-learn.com/the-vark-questionnaire/) and fill out the VARK questionnaire about learning styles. Print off your results. Also click on the strategies link that it gives you that are specific to your learning style and print it off. Bring these two pieces of paper to class and turn in. See [Tentative Class Calendar](#) for the due date.
2. Prof Chat (25 points)

Schedule a meeting with EACH of your professors (other) than your SFA 101 instructor) during their office hours by date assigned. Use your time with the professor to get to know them better, and ask any questions you might have. A few things you might choose to talk about are: something you are struggling with in class, suggestions for studying for their class, advice on the subject of your major, and/or clarification on something for the course. You may use this time to discuss anything you choose. Fill out the form provided on Brightspace and have the professor sign it. Bring this form to class on the due date. See Tentative Class Calendar for the due date.

3. Presentation (50 points)

You will complete a group project over something you learned during your first semester of college. Groups will be assigned in class and presentation guidelines will be posted in Brightspace. Each student will be required to participate in the presentation and complete a peer evaluation. See Tentative Class Calendar for the due date.

Writing for Reflection & Discussion 100 points

You will be assigned four discussion and/or writing assignments, each valued at 25 points. Details and formatting for these assignments are accessible in Brightspace. No late work will be accepted.

1. Introduction Padlet
2. What College Means to Me Written Discussion
3. Problem-Solution Written Discussion
4. Why I Chose Nursing Marco Polo Discussion

Discussion Etiquette

Treat discussions as you would any professional conversation. Disagreeing with a post is good, if you do so in a professional and respectful manner. You should have scholarly evidence to support your ideas.

- Start by stating you have a different view or opinion and then proceed to describe your stance on the subject.
- Refrain from saying “you are wrong”, “what were you thinking”, “did you not pay attention to the material” or anything along these lines.
- Discussions are conversations among colleagues. Before you submit a post, please ask yourself “if someone
responded to me with what I just said, how would it make it feel?” Consider wording strong opinions in a manner to generate conversation and continued thought on a subject.

**Exam**

There will be one exam given during the semester. It will include true/false, matching, multiple choice, fill in blank and essay items. The exam will be based on material from assigned readings and class discussions. In addition to testing you on course material, this exam will indicate how you perform with different types of test questions and allow your instructor to make suggestions to improve your test taking skills in other classes. **There is no final exam.**

**VI. 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.

**VII. Communication**

Please check your SFA email account regularly as this is the official email for SFA. Brightspace will be the official tool used in your SFA 101 class for communicating the important reminders, announcements, and further assignment directions.

**VIII. 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).

IX. General Student Policies

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

1. Academic Integrity (A-9.1)
   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. Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)
   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. 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/
5. **Acceptable Student Behavior**  
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 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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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1, August 26</td>
<td>Introduction &amp; Differences Between High School and College</td>
<td>Introduction Padlet Due 09/01 at 11:59 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2, September 2</td>
<td>AARC &amp; Time Management, Prioritization, &amp; Procrastination</td>
<td>Bring Planner to Class &amp; All Syllabi</td>
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<td>Week 3, September 9</td>
<td>Learning Strategies, Testing Skills, &amp; Note Taking</td>
<td>Bring Laptop &amp; Textbooks to Class</td>
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<td>VARK Learning Strategies Due In Class</td>
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<td>What College Means to Me Discussion Due 9/15 at 11:59 pm</td>
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<td>Begin Prof Chat</td>
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<td>Week 4, September 16</td>
<td>Integrity &amp; Values</td>
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<td>Week 5, September 23</td>
<td>University Rules &amp; Procedures</td>
<td>Problem-Solution Discussion Due 9/29 at 11:59pm</td>
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<td>Week 6, September 30</td>
<td>Working Successfully with Faculty, Staff, and Peers</td>
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<td>Week 7, October 7</td>
<td>Advising &amp; Instructor Meeting – <em>Come only at assigned time</em></td>
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<td>Week 8, October 14</td>
<td>SFA History, Traditions &amp; Pride</td>
<td>Prof Chat Due in Class</td>
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<td>Week 9, October 21</td>
<td>Personal Survival Skills</td>
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<td>Week 10, October 28</td>
<td>Health &amp; Stress Management</td>
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<td>Week 11, November 4</td>
<td>Exploring Nursing – <em>Meet at SON</em></td>
<td>Why I Chose Nursing Marco Polo Discussion Due 9/8 at 11:59 pm</td>
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<td>Week 12, November 11</td>
<td>Value of a College Education: Money Management &amp; Budgeting</td>
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<td>Week 13, November 18</td>
<td>Celebration Exam</td>
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<td>Week 14, November 25</td>
<td><em>Thanksgiving Break</em></td>
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<td>Week 15, December 2</td>
<td>My First Semester in College Presentations</td>
<td>Peer Review Due in Dropbox on 12/6 at 11:59 pm</td>
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<td>Week 16, December 9</td>
<td><em>Finals Week-Good Luck!</em></td>
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