SFAS 1101.039
Freshman Success Seminar-Fall 2020
Tuesday/Thursday: 1230-120
LOCATION

Faculty Instructor: Dr. Michael Martin
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Email: martinmj@sfasu.edu
Office Hours:
Department: English and Creative Writing

Student Instructor: Ms. Kacie Brown
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Office Hours:
Major: English/Secondary Education
Classification: Junior

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 polices.

In other words, the goal of this class is to acclimate students to their new living and learning environment. While college is a time of freedom and exploration, it is also a time of great change. Our purpose here is to help one another survive this wave of change, succeed in our first semester of school and beyond, come to learn more about Lumberjack traditions, and discover how to have fun and be safe.

II. Program and Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of SFAS 1101, the student will be informed of the following areas and how they relate to their success:
- Evaluate the significance of academic integrity.
- Apply college classroom learning strategies within the class and beyond.
- Relate the Wellness Model to personal life activities and behaviors.
- Apply a Growth Mindset to learning in college and beyond.
- Evaluate the importance of academic advising while in college and explore SFA advising protocols.
- Demonstrate an increased understanding of cultural diversity, inclusion and social justice.
- Demonstrate the understanding of metacognitive skills and applying strategies academically and beyond.
- Construct a strategy for accessing and evaluating information through Steen Library.
- Select campus and community service opportunities in which the student is interested.
• 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 Student Success Handbook in a digital format at the beginning of the course. Information in the 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

We have been assigned a classroom that will hold 18 students and up to 3 instructors. Therefore, we will be able to meet as a full class for every meeting. While in the classroom, we will engage in small group discussions, large group discussions, class exercises, etc. There will be days that outside speakers will come to visit our class.

V. Grading Policy and Assignments

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:

500-450 points = A
449-400 points = B
399-350 points = C
349-300 points = D
299 points & below = F

Attendance: 100 Points Total

For our purposes, attendance does not simply mean attending our individual class meetings. As you can see from the list below, attendance
for this class includes our class meetings, individual meetings with instructors, and mandatory outside events. In the case of all three of these types of meeting, the greater goal is to acclimate you to the university, expose you to its offerings, and ensure that you are feeling secure in your academic and personal life.

_Instructor/Student Instructor Meetings:_ One individual meeting with the instructor or the student instructor will be scheduled. The purpose of the meeting is to allow you to ask questions, get clarification about college life or just to chat about whatever is on your mind. This meeting will count for **20 points.**

_Outside Events:_ You will be required to attend two (2) outside events provided by SFA. You must provide sufficient documentation of the event of your choice. Attendance to these events will be valued at **15 points each** for a total of **30 points; these points are only connected to your attendance grade and thus are earned by attending the event and providing evidence of your attendance.** In this case, evidence of your attendance will be a ticket stub (if available) and a “selfie” (appropriate in manner) taken at the event; we will find a place to post all of these. Now, due to COVID, we may be limited in terms of attending events—or this may be something that will be done virtually. You are not being asked nor required to put yourself in any situation in which you would not feel comfortable. The goal here is to attend an event that you may not have experienced before or that introduces you to something new.

_Class Attendance:_ Class attendance is mandatory; therefore, please plan to attend **ALL** class sessions. Attendance will be taken daily. Every absence that you incur (unless you have discussed said absence with one of the instructors) will result in a deduction 2 points from your final grade. **50 Points.**

_Exam:_ **100 points**

Only one exam will be 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 discussion; it should not be difficult if you have done the readings and
participated in classes. Specifically, it will be based on our reading and discussion of University policies (academic and social). There is no exam set for Final Exam Week.

Writing for Reflection: 200 point

From the calendar that is provided at the end of the syllabus, you will see that you will turn in 4 different “essays” throughout the semester. Each of these essays is to be 2 pages in length (2 pages means 2 full pages) and will not require research. Instead, we will provide you with a specific question that we would like you to answer. The questions given will center on how different aspects of life are going for you at SFA. We encourage you not to leave these assignments until the last minute, but to take some time when writing each essay. Each paper will be worth 50 points.

Research Presentation: 100 Points

At the end of October/start of November, we will begin our research project. This will be done, mainly, during class time. We are currently working on developing a set of guidelines and goals for a virtual presentation that will be shared with the Honors College and various administrators and faculty on campus. This presentation is designed to be inventive, enjoyable, and to connect you to your regional community.

TOTAL POINTS FOR COURSE: 500 points

VI. Class Rules

Following these rules will help maximize the SFAS 1101 experience for you and your classmates.

- Currently, face coverings are required to be worn in the classroom. Face covering requirements and FAQ can be found here: http://sfasu.edu/fall2020
- Attend every class.
- If you become ill or are required to quarantine, contact your instructor immediately.
- 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.
• ASK QUESTIONS!

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 and form of communication for SFA. Brightspace/D2L will be the official tool used in your SFAS 1101 class for 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 SFAS 1101, the chairperson is Raquel Skidmore, Interim Director of the Student Success Center. (Steen Library, Room 203; 936-468-6232; skidmorerr@sfasu.edu).

IX. 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 Academic Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.