COURSE DESCRIPTION

SFAS 1101: Freshman Success Seminar
One semester hour, two hours lecture per week. This course provides study and practice in methods for success in college. Topics include critical thinking skills, study skill, time and money management, goal setting, career planning, and a review of university resources and regulations.

CLASS READINGS AND MATERIALS:
All students will receive a Keys to College Success pamphlet and a digital copy of the SFAS 1101 Freshman Success Handbook at the beginning of the semester. Information 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. Other readings will be assigned.

Program & Student Learning Outcomes:
- 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.

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
★ Videos
★ Games and exercises
★ Illustrated lecture
★ Individual conferences

CLASS RULES:
Following these few rules will help to maximize the SFAS 1101 experience for you and your classmates:
• Currently, face coverings are not required but encourage to be worn in the classroom. Face covering requirements and FAQ can be found here: https://www.sfasu.edu/covid19
• Attend every class
• If you become ill or are required to quarantine, contact your instructor immediately
• Read the assigned material, and turn in all required work on the day it is due
• 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.

Teaching Philosophy:
Learning is a two-way street, requiring interaction between teacher and student. We tend to learn in three distinct phases:
1. Accumulation of information or knowledge.
2. Assimilation of that knowledge into what we already know.
3. Application of new knowledge to various circumstances.

Learning occurs instinctively by observing, imitating, then understanding. Assimilation and application are integral to accumulating knowledge that can be used throughout one’s life. Each phase of learning will be incorporated into the topics covered in this course.
Communication:
Please check your SFA email account regularly. Email will be an official tool for communicating the important reminders, announcements, and further assignment directions. You can forward your SFA account to your preferred email address.

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 Dr. Lydia Richardson, Program Coordinator of Student Success Courses. (Steen Library, Room 203; 936-468-5803; lprichardson@sfasu.edu).

Assignments: Each student must work faithfully on his/her assignments. Copying from someone else (even from an earlier semester) will result in a zero grade on that assignment. All assignments should be handed in on or before the deadline, no excuses.

COURSE EVALUATION

Course Grades: Final course grades will be assigned as follows:

**Attendance** – “The World is Run by Those Who Show Up” (50 Total Pts)

1. Class Attendance – Class attendance is mandatory. Please plan to attend all class sessions. Attendance will be taken daily. *Every unexcused absence that you incur will result in a deduction of 3 points from your final grade.*
2. Lake Nachoniche excursion (20 pts)
3. Class Participation (30 pts)

**Lake Nachoniche Assignment** – We will conduct a biological survey of a section of the Lake Nachoniche. There will be a group Poster Presentation (100 pts).

**Other Assignments** – Three (3) assignments worth 20 points each (60 points), will be given during the semester. These assignments will provide you with an opportunity to reflect on and benefit from what is happening in college. You will also complete the leave no trace assignment (20 pts). Finally, you will be graded on a note taking assignment as well (20 pts).

The due dates are indicated on the above class schedule.

**NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED. LATE WORK WILL RECEIVE A 0 GRADE.**

Total Points for the Course – 300 Points

Final course grades will be assigned as follows:

A – Student earns 300-269 points.
B – Student earns 268-239 points.
C – Student earns 238-209 points.
D – Student earns 208-179 points.
F – Student earns 178 or fewer points.

No curves will be given.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/24</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Course Syllabus, Introduction to course and people, Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/26</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>D2L Review, College Classroom Behavior and Policies, Academic food chain</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/31</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>ATCOFA Peer Mentor Introductions, Time management, – <strong>Exercise</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Developing Schedule</strong></td>
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<td>9/2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Social Interactions, people, professors, Campus Involvement and Belonging,</td>
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<td>16 Personalities- What type of learner are you?</td>
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<td>9/7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Academic Integrity- Dr. McBroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>AARC Tour</strong></td>
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<td>9/14</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Note Taking Methods</td>
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<td>9/16</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Value of A College Education – Dr. Michael Tkacik – note taking assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/21</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Practice Test Skills, Stress Management, Health &amp; Wellness, Mental Health, Survival Skills</td>
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<td>9/23</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>University Rules and Procedures</td>
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<td>9/28</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Message for Garcia</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/30</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Study Skills</td>
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<td>10/5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Leave No Trace Ethic</td>
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<td>10/7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Canoe Training</td>
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<td>10/12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>How to Land that First Internship</td>
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<td>10/14</td>
<td>8</td>
<td><strong>Career Fair</strong></td>
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<td>10/16</td>
<td>8</td>
<td><strong>CANOE TRIP</strong></td>
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<td>10/19</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Preparing for the Assignment – Lake Nachoniche Water Quality</td>
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<td>10/21</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Work on Lake Nachoniche Poster</td>
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<td>10/26</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Work on Lake Nachoniche Poster</td>
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<td>10/28</td>
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<td>SFA Traditions and Pride (Homecoming- 10/30)</td>
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<td>11/2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Work on Lake Nachoniche Poster, Cultural Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice</td>
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<td>11/4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>HOTs-Higher Order Thinking Skills</td>
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<td>11/9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Social Media, Self-Image, Growth Mindset, Money Mgmt. (Posters DUE by 4pm)</td>
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<td>11/11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Lake Nachoniche Poster Presentations – ATCOFA Reading Room</td>
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<td>11/16</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>International Programs</td>
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<td>11/18</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Alcohol Awareness</td>
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<td>11/23</td>
<td>14</td>
<td><strong>Thanksgiving Holiday</strong></td>
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<td>11/25</td>
<td>14</td>
<td><strong>Thanksgiving Holiday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11/30</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Accessing and Evaluating Information, Grades and GPA</td>
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<td>12/2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Finals Study Skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/7</td>
<td>16</td>
<td><strong>STUDY!!</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/9</td>
<td>16</td>
<td><strong>STUDY!!</strong></td>
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**Attendance:** Course attendance is required. Three (3) points will be deducted from the final course grade for each unexcused absence. Excused absences include participation in University-sponsored events, health problems, or family emergencies. Documentation for excused absences must be provided. Notification of planned excused absences should be provided. Make-up work will be accepted for a maximum of 2 weeks following an excused absence.

[http://www.sfasu.edu/upp/pap/academic_affairs](http://www.sfasu.edu/upp/pap/academic_affairs)

**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.
IT’S IN THE SYLLABUS

This message brought to you by every instructor that ever lived.

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