SFAS 1101.044
Freshman Success Seminar

When: M/W 12-12:50pm
Where: Boynton 212

Faculty Instructor: Bailey Thompson, Ph.D.
Office: Boynton 201
Email: Thompsonba@sfasu.edu
Office Hours: M-Th 9-10:30am

Student Instructor: Natalie Wright
Email: wrightnm@jacks.sfasu.edu
Office Hours: by appointment
Major: Mass Communication
Concentration: Advertising & Public Relations

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.

Credit Hour Description: SFAS 1101 “Freshman Success Seminar” (1 credit hour) is an optional but highly recommended course for all first-year freshman and transfer students at Stephen F. Austin State University. Direct instruction is provided for two 50-minute meetings per week for 16 weeks. Students have weekly readings and assignments that focus on topics related to student development and college success. These activities average at a minimum two hours per week to prepare outside of classroom hours.

Course Delivery Modality: This course is a fully in-person course which offers all of its meetings in person on campus at a scheduled time. Instructional content will be made available through illustrated lectures, individual meetings, guest speakers, small group and whole class discussions, visits to campus locations, videos, games, and exercises.

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.
• Evaluate the importance of academic advising while in college and explore SFA advising protocols.
• 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.
• Learn about the Mass Communication department, major, concentrations, and student organizations.

Class Readings and Materials: All students will receive a SFAS1101 Freshman Success Handbook in a digital format at the beginning of the course. 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.

Communication: Please check your SFA email account regularly as this is the official email for SFA. D2L will be the official tool used in your SFAS 1101 class for communicating the important reminders, announcements, and further assignment directions.

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 (lprichardson@sfasu.edu).

General Student Policies

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

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.

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

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

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/

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.

Mental Health Statement: SFASU values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
SFASU Counseling Services
www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
3rd Floor Rusk Building
936-468-2401

Crisis Resources:
SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
Human Services Room 202
936-468-1041

www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
3rd Floor Rusk Building
936-468-2401

Bailey’s Policies

I adhere to 10 general policies in all of my courses:

1. No late work accepted: I do not accept late work or late exams, quizzes, assignments, etc.
2. No extra credit: I do not provide extra credit on an individual basis. Any extra credit provided will be at my discretion and will be extended to the entire class.
3. 24/7 rule: Your grades are just that- your grades. Not mine. If you have questions about a grade you earned on an assignment, I urge you to contact me about it (via email) to set up an appointment to come in and talk about it. I want you to know what you did wrong, and what you did right. However, please observe the 24/7 policy- take 24 hours after receiving a grade to cool off, try to understand your mistakes, and then shoot me an email. You will also have 7 days after a grade is posted to contact me to discuss or dispute it. After those 7 days, all grades will stand as is.
4. No D2L emails: Contact me via SFA email, not D2L email. My email address is thompsonba@sfasu.edu
5. No doctor’s notes please: I do not accept, want or need doctor’s notes for missed classes or assignments- your medical information is yours and is private. If you have an extended absence for hospitalization, etc. please go through the proper channels at the rights and responsibilities office.
6. There are some emails I will not respond to. I will not respond to any emails asking the following questions or making the following requests: 1) emails asking for grade changes 2) emails asking for final grades to be rounded up 3) emails asking for extensions on assignments with no hospitalization or extreme circumstance 4) emails asking for extra credit—any extra credit given by me will be given to all students and advertised in class or on D2L, not on an individual basis via email. – Essentially, emails asking me to show favor grade-wise to one student in a course over other students will not be returned. This is the primary way I will be working to ensure that all students have the same opportunities in my courses.

7. Final grade rounding policy: I will round final grades with a .5 or higher. I will not raise final grades with a .4 or lower for any reason. I will also not round “9” grades. Therefore, if you make an 89 in the class, do not email me asking if I will bump in to a 90. Unless you make an 89.5 or higher, I will not round.

8. Grading Turnaround Time: my turnaround time for grading assignments varies by the assignment type. For multiple choice quizzes or exams the turnaround time is approximately 48 hours. For substantial written assignments it is 2 weeks.

9. Email Turnaround Time: I do not answer emails after 5pm or before 8am Monday-Friday. If you email after those hours expect a reply within 48 hours. I also do not respond to emails on the weekends. I encourage each of you to set healthy boundaries when it comes to your own work-life balance.

10. A is for Awesome: Every student should not expect an A in my course. A is for exceptional work. B is for good work. C is for average work. A work goes above and beyond the requirements and shows true mastery of the content. A work impresses.

Assignments & Grading

Grading Policy and Assignments: SFAS1101 is a graded course. Passing this course will give you one semester credit that can be used towards the total number of credits you need to graduate. The grading system is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
<th>Due Date &amp; Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>Weight</td>
<td>Due Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester Plan + Goals</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Sunday, September 5 by 11:59pm D2L Dropbox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-year degree plan</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Sunday, October 10 by 11:59pm D2L Dropbox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advising Slip</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Must be completed by November 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance + Class Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Assessed every class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly check in reflection (13 % 2% each)</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>Due each Sunday by 11:59pm- Week 1- Week 13 on D2L Dropbox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finals Planning</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Must be completed by November 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCOM Concentration Event</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>Must be completed by December 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside Events</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Must be completed by November 17 and proof of attendance submitted to D2L Dropbox by 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Semester Plan + Goals

You will complete a semester planner tailored to your specific courses and create a set of semester academic goals in this course. A more detailed assignment description is available on D2L.

4-year Degree Plan

You will complete a 4-year degree plan as a MCOM major in this course as is pertains to your concentration and minor. This will help prepare you for advising and help you plan your coursework as you matriculate through the major. A more detailed assignment description is available on D2L.

Attendance + Class Participation

Showing up in life is important. I expect you to attend class. It’s 50 minutes, twice a week.

You get 2 freebies to use if you’re sick, tired, need a day off, traveling, napping, etc.

Beginning with your third absence, each absence will result in a 10 point deduction from your attendance and participation grade.
Participating is also important. I expect you to participate in class activities. If you do not, I will not count you present in class, and the above absence policy will apply.

Advising Slip

As a MCOM major- you will do your advising within our department. Once your advising is complete please fill out the SFAS1101 advising sheet on D2L and have your advisor sign it saying that you have been advised for Spring and Summer 2022 by November 17 and submit to D2L Dropbox by 11:59pm.

Weekly Check in Reflection

Each week you will submit a quick reflection paragraph answering the following questions (you are free to write more, but you must answer these questions at minimum):
1. What was the most interesting thing you learned in a class this week?
2. What was the hardest part of your week?
3. What was the best part of your week?
4. What are you looking forward to next week?
5. What is something you did this week or something you accomplished that you’re proud of?
6. What is something you can change about your habits, behavior, etc. to make next week better? (This can apply to school, life, anything)
7. What major tests or assignments are coming due in each class next week?

These reflection paragraphs will be due every Sunday by 11:59pm to the corresponding Dropbox folder on D2L.

MCOM Concentration Event

You are required to sit in on a presentation, lecture, etc. for an upper-level course in your concentration sometime during the course of the semester (before December 8), and write a paragraph about what you learned, get it signed by the professor teaching the upper level course and submit to D2L. Contact the professor for the course(s) in the concentration that you’re in for a date to attend.
If you’re an Advertising & Public Relations or social media student, choose from:
- PR Campaigns (meets M/W 1-2:15pm in Boynton 209, professor: Dr. Thompson)
- PR Audiences and Analysis (meets T/Th 11-12:15 in Boynton 209, professor: Dr. Thompson)
- Advanced Advertising (this course is online, but they do have at least one presentation, professor: Dr. Cho)
- unfortunately all of our social media courses run asynchronously online, so students interested in social media will need to find another area to sit in on.

If you’re a Broadcast or Journalism student, choose from:
- Radio/TV Programming (meets T/Th 11-12:15 in Boynton 104, professor: Mrs. Williford)
- Backpack Journalism (meets T/Th 12:30-1:45pm in Boynton 210, professor: Mr. Stepniewski)
- Broadcast Capstone (meets M/W 1-2:15pm in Boynton 210, professor: Dr. Hart)
- Advanced TV Production (meets T/Th 9:30-10:45am in Boynton 210, professor: Dr. Hart)

Outside Events

You are required to attend two university events, outside class. Below is a listing of example events. If a student would like to attend a different outside activity, you must get the activity preapproved by the course instructor at least 72 hours prior to the event to earn credit.

- Attend an athletic event (must upload photo selfie to D2L that clearly shows you at this event)
- Attend 5 AARC SI study sessions (must provide pink slips)- 5 count as 1 event
- Career fair (with documentation)
- Internship fair (with documentation)
- Involvement fair (with documentation)
- On-campus Lecture series (with documentation)
- Attend a Fine Arts event (must bring event program)
- Etc....

Things that will not count:
- Athletic events if you are an athlete (even if it’s a sport you different from your own)
- Sorority events for current sorority members
- Fine arts events for those already involved (ex: band event for those already in band)
- Basically - if you’re already involved - it won’t count. It needs to be something you aren’t involved in or a member of.

Finals Planning Assignment

The finals planning assignment will help you organize your time for tackling finals. More information will be available closer to finals.

Tentative Course Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Course Overview + Intros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Welcome to MCOM!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Getting Organized for Classes + Goal Setting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Sept</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Sept</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Note Taking and Reading Textbooks &amp; AARC Tour</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Sept</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Sept</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Study Skills + Test Taking</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Sept</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Sept</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Working in MCOM?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Sept</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Academic Integrity</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Sept</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Campus + Community Service Opportunities</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Sept</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Working with Peers &amp; Faculty</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>All About Advising</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Personal Survival Skills</td>
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<td></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Accessing + Evaluating Information</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Alcohol &amp; Drug Awareness + Bystander Intervention</td>
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<td></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Happy Homecoming Week: SFA History &amp; Traditions</td>
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<td></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>University Resources, Rules + Procedures</td>
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<td></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>The Value of a College Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Money Management</td>
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<td></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Career Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Finals are Coming…!?!</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break</td>
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<td></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Dead Week: Meet as Needed</td>
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<td></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Finals Week</td>
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<td></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>8</td>
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</tbody>
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