I. Course Description:
The purpose of the New Lumberjack Experience is to create a welcoming and affirming environment for each new student. Students will develop self-efficacy, self-awareness, and a sense of purpose; become actively engaged in the learning environment inside and outside of the classroom; and become socially integrated within the diverse Lumberjack community.

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 days of hour and fifteen-minute meetings per week with online course work for 8 weeks. Students have weekly readings and assignments that focus on topics related to student development and college success.

Course Delivery Modality
This course is a combination of in-person and online course instruction. 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.

Respect for Diversity
At SFA, our commitment to diversity and inclusion is more than words—it is actions. We believe diversity and inclusion are the keys to promoting more engaged individuals locally and globally. We at SFA are committed to amplifying a campus culture that nurtures belonging and embraces similarities while celebrating that every Lumberjack will be different. Those differences are valued, acknowledged, and supported purposefully. We encompass ground-breaking strategies fostered from our diverse campus while taking a holistic approach to how we function as a university.

II. Intended Learning Outcomes/Goals/Objectives (Program/Student Learning Outcomes):

This course supports the mission of Stephen F. Austin State University:
Stephen F. Austin State University is a comprehensive institution dedicated to excellence in teaching, research, scholarship, creative work, and service. Through the personal attention of our faculty and staff, we engage our students in a learner-centered environment and offer opportunities to prepare for the challenges of living in the global community.

This course also supports the mission of the Student Success Center:
The Student Success Center supports undergraduate students by optimizing campus resources through innovative and intentional programs, which empowers students to attain academic success and persist toward graduation and beyond.

Program Learning Outcomes
Students participating in the New Lumberjack Experience will:

1. discover and connect with the Lumberjack community at Stephen F. Austin State University.
2. develop the skills necessary to achieve personal and academic goals.
3. contribute to a respectful and inclusive environment.
Student Learning Outcomes
As a result of this course, students will be able to:

1. develop positive relationships and a sense of community with peers, staff and faculty.
2. identify and use appropriate campus resources and engage in opportunities that contribute to their learning and beyond the classroom.
3. identify academic resources and apply appropriate learning strategies to support their academic success and timely progress towards a degree.
4. identify and apply strategies to effectively manage time and priorities.
5. examine and develop strategies that promote wellbeing and explain how wellness impacts their academic and personal success.
6. describe the community expectations and their responsibility to ensuring a safe, respectful, and supportive learning environment for all members.
7. recognize and critically reflect upon one's own cultural biases and articulate how this shapes their perspectives and relationships with people who are like and different from themselves.
8. use their skills and knowledge of financial resources to make informed and effective decisions to reach their financial goals.

III. Class Readings and Materials
All students will receive a SFAS 1101 Freshman Success Handbook in a digital format in their Brightspace Course. Information in the handbook will be used for class discussions. Make sure you read and understand them. You will also need a class notebook to keep required coursework and assignments organized.

IV. Course Assignments, Activities, Instructional Strategies, use of Technology

Attendance – 30 pts. (2 pts. / class)
Assignments / online discussions – 15 pts.
Written Paper – 5 pts.
Instructor/ Student Meetings – 5 pts.
Group Assignment – 15 pts.
Final – 30 pts

V. Evaluation and Assessments

100 – 90 A Excellent Work
90 – 80 B Good Work
80 – 70 C Acceptable Work
70 – 60 D No Acceptable Work
60 & below F Failing Work

VI. Class Rules
Following these rules will help maximize the SFAS 1101 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 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/Evaluations**

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 Lydia Richardson, Program Coordinator of The New Lumberjack Experience. (Steen Library, Room 203; 936-468-5808; lprichardson@sfasu.edu).

Near the conclusion of each semester, students enrolled in SFAS 1101 electronically evaluate courses (the teaching itself and the content/assignments). Evaluation data is used for a variety of purposes including: (1) course and program improvement and planning; (2) instruction evaluation purposes; and (3) making decisions on instructors pay and retention. As you evaluate this course, please be thoughtful, thorough, and accurate in completing the evaluation. Please know that the SFAS 1101 faculty are committed to excellence in teaching and continued improvement. Therefore, your response is critical!

The course evaluation process has been simplified and is completed electronically through mySFA. Although the instructor will be able to view the names of students who complete the survey, all ratings and comments are confidential and anonymous, and summarized data will not be available to the instructor until after final grades are posted.

**IX. General Student Policies**

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

1. **Class Attendance and Excused Absence (6.7)**

   Regular, punctual attendance, documented participation, and, if indicated in the syllabus, submission of completed assignments are expected at all classes, laboratories, and other activities for which the student is registered. Based on university policy, failure of students to adhere to these requirements shall influence the course grade, financial assistance, and/or enrollment status. The instructor shall maintain an accurate record of each student’s attendance and participation as well as note this information in required reports (including the first 12-day attendance report) and in determining final grades. Students may be excused from attendance for reasons such as health, family emergencies, or student participation in approved university-sponsored events. However, students are responsible for notifying their instructors in advance, when possible, for excusable absences. Whether absences are excused or unexcused, a student is still responsible for all course content and assignments. Students with accepted excuses may be permitted to make up work for up to three weeks of absences during a semester or one week of a summer term, depending on the nature of the missed work. Make-up work must be completed as soon as possible after returning from an absence.

2. **Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities (6.1/6.6)**

   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, 936-468-3004 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/

3. **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.

4. **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

5. **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.

6. **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.

X. **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

   SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic
Crisis Resources:
Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1(800) 392-8343
Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1(800) 273-TALK (8255)
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741