First-Year Florida: FOS Freshmen Experience
Section 5377

TEACHING TEAM
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OFFICE HOURS
Office hours are by appointment. Office is located in 112 Farrior Hall.

Course Description
First Year Florida is a course designed to aid students in a successful transition to the University of Florida. This course aims to help students develop the practical, social, emotional, and intellectual skills that are essential to a fulfilling four years at UF, provide a foundation for a well-rounded college experience, connect students to the University of Florida, promote engagement within and outside the classroom, and communicate university expectations.

Course Objectives
First Year Florida educates new students to maximize their learning and development. As a result of take this course, students will:

• Connect with faculty, staff, and peers at the University of Florida.
• Identify university resources and services that contribute to their personal and educational goals.
• Recognize the purpose of reflection, critical thinking, and enriching educational opportunities within and outside the classroom.
• Evaluate the effects of personal well-being on student success and engagement.
• Recognize the academic, conduct, and citizenship expectations of the University of Florida.
• Develop an awareness and respect for being a part of a diverse global community.

Required Readings

• College Success Strategies, 2015-2016 Edition; Author: Nist, available at University of Florida Bookstore
• Double Take; Author: Kevin Connolly; provided at Preview
**Technology**
This class will utilize Canvas for assignment submissions in conjunction with in-paper assignments. For every assignment submitted in this class, you will need to submit it via Canvas and bring a printed copy to class.

**Absence/Late Policy**
All absences and late arrivals must be accompanied with an excuse in order to receive participation or tardy points. Students are counted tardy after five minutes, no exceptions. Attendance is approximately 40% of your grade and is integral to your success in this class. Excused absences include: University Sponsored events, Religious Holidays with prior notice, Medical/Emotional/Family Emergencies with appropriate documentation. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx.

**Academic Honesty**
An academic honesty offense is defined as the act of lying, cheating, or stealing academic information so that one gains academic advantage. As a University of Florida student, one is expected to neither commit nor assist another in committing an academic honesty violation. Additionally, it is the student’s duty to report observed academic honesty violations. Violations of the Honor Code and academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Specifically, instructors will rigorously pursue incidents of plagiarism of any type or incidents of referring to any unauthorized material for any class requirement. Before submitting any work for this class, please read the policies about academic honesty at www.dso.ufl.edu/scr, and ask the instructors to clarify any expectations you do not understand.

**Preamble:** In adopting this Honor Code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students who enroll at the University commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the Honor Code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon community acceptance and enforcement of the Honor Code.

**The Honor Code:** We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

**Pledge:** "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

**ADA Statement**
The University of Florida provides high-quality services to students with disabilities, and we encourage you to take advantage of them. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter
which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

**Expectations of Classroom Behavior**
As college students, you will be treated and respected as an adult. You are encouraged to share your ideas and express your opinions in class and you will be expected to respect other’s opinions and values as well. You are expected to do your best work, meet assignment deadlines, and treat other members of the class and the University with courtesy and respect. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Cell phones must be off or on silent before entering the classroom.

**Gatorlink Email**
Students in FYF are required to have and use their GatorLink account for all UF related e-mail functions. Official university communications are sent to students at this email address.

**Course Evaluations**
Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/. Additionally, students enrolled in First Year Florida will be asked to complete a separate course evaluation for further information. This is a time for you to provide direct feedback on your Peer Leader and Instructor.

**Grading Scale**
This course adheres to the UF Grading policy for assigning grade points. For more information please visit: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx. Below is the course grading scale:

- 94-100 (A);
- 90-93 (A-);
- 87-89 (B+);
- 83-86 B;
- 80-82 (B-);
- 77-79 (C+);
- 73-76 (C);
- 70-72 (C-);
- 67-69 (D+);
- 63-66 (D);
- 60-62 (D-);
- 59 or below (E)

**Course Overview**

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<th>Date/Topic</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Assigned Reading</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
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<tr>
<td>8/28</td>
<td>Welcome and Introductions</td>
<td>Nist Chapter 1: Now That You’re Here</td>
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<td>9/4</td>
<td>Financial Management</td>
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<td>9/11</td>
<td>Healthy Living/Time Management</td>
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<td>Library Visit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
<td>Reflection on Event</td>
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<td>9/25</td>
<td>Understanding Your Degree Audit</td>
<td>Reflection on Meeting with your Academic Advisor</td>
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<td>10/2</td>
<td>Group Presentations</td>
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<td>10/9</td>
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<td>Diversity Experience Proposal</td>
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<td>10/16</td>
<td>Student Panel</td>
<td>Reflection on Meeting with a Faculty Member</td>
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<td>10/23</td>
<td>Diversity</td>
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<td>10/30</td>
<td>Resume Workshop</td>
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<td>Holiday - Homecoming</td>
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<td>11/13</td>
<td>Strengths Quest</td>
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<td>11/20</td>
<td>Common Reading Roundtable</td>
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<td>Common Reading Program Event</td>
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<td>Community Service Project</td>
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**Assignments**

- **In-class attendance and participation (3 pts each class)**
- **Portfolio presentation Due December 4th**
- **Service learning project (5 pts. for attendance, 5 pts. for reflection paper) Due October 30th**
- **Campus resource presentation – Due October 2nd and 9th**
- **Diversity assignment (3 pts. for proposal, 5 pts. for Paper) Due October 23rd**
- **Advising appointment Due September 25th**
- **Faculty Interview Due October 16th**
- **Strengths Quest**
- **FOS Mentee-Mentor Contract**
- **Common Reading Program Event**
- **Gator CareerLink Due October 23rd**
- **Campus Clarity Think About It Module Due November 20th**
- **TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE 100**
**Assignment Description**

**Common Reading Program Event** (1 hour) – Our class will be attending one of the featured speaker series events this fall. See www.dso.ufl.edu/nsp/firstyearexperience/speakers.php for the list of all events. Bring your UF ID to each event as you will need to have it swiped to record attendance.

**Campus Clarity Think About It** – To complete the module, check your email or log onto https://www.campusclarity.com “Think About It” is an interactive online training course designed and distributed by CampusClarity. The goal of the training module is to help students make healthy decisions and promote a positive and safe culture on and off campus. The training explores (college students for the challenges and responsibilities of college life) and addresses the interconnection between drug and alcohol abuse, decision making, and sexual violence. It encourages students to reflect critically on the personal beliefs, social norms, and cultural pressures that enable high-risk behaviors. All new students must complete this module.

**Service Learning Project & Reflection Paper**– Our class will be selecting a service learning project during the first few weeks of class. You will complete a follow-up reaction paper about your experience, and don’t forget to take a picture the day of your project for your photo portfolio!! In the event of an unavoidable conflict, if you are not able to attend our service learning project you have the option to attend with another class on a different day. It is your responsibility to contact the other instructor and receive approval for you to attend with their class. If you are participating in another volunteer experience you cannot use that to “double count” for FYF.

**Campus Resource Presentation** – This will be a group project. As a group you will choose a campus resource to visit and prepare a 5 minute creative presentation for the class to learn about the selected resource. Your group must also create a one page (front and back) handout for each student in class that has the following information:
- Location
- Hours
- Phone Number
- Description of Services Offered

**Advising appointment** – You will schedule this on your own; see Nist textbook pgs. 216-218 to prepare for your meeting.

**Faculty Interview**- Students will choose a member of the faculty at the University of Florida to interview whom they admire. They should ask questions regarding their education background, educational philosophies, and any advice they feel that a first year student should know while at the University of Florida. At the end of the interview, students will take a picture with the faculty member and take a business card to turn in as well.
Diversity Experience - Select and become involved in a cross cultural experience that is completely new to you. For the purpose of this experience, you may consider ethnicity, religion, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, or gender. You will submit a Diversity Activity Proposal prior to completing this experience.

The project consists of observation and a summary of your experience.

1. Observation (learning from a safe distance)
   The following are some suggested ideas:
   - Attend a lecture that focuses on minority issues and concerns
   - Make a tour of minority community and note the community’s environment such as quality of homes, behaviors of people and other unique aspects of the community
   - Attend a religious service of a predominant minority group
   - Attend an event, activity or program sponsored by the minority group
   Keep a personal journal of your reactions and feelings to your experience(s).

2. Summary of your experience. Prepare a 2-3 page paper that includes the following:
   - Identify the minority group you selected and why to you, this group is “diverse.”
   - Briefly describe the diversity experiences you selected
   - Discuss your feelings or reactions, what you learned, and what you have learned personally
   - Discuss how your experiences may impact your behaviors and attitude as an individual

This project is experiential in nature and can require involvement with strangers causing some degree of anxiety for those with limited cross-cultural interactions or relations. Therefore, we encourage you to select experiences based on your own level on intercultural comfort, yet pushing yourself to grow. Activities or experiences you have achieved in the past are unacceptable.

FYF Photo Portfolio presentation - This is your “capstone” assignment for this course and is completely determined upon your completion of other requirements in this course so be sure to plan ahead. Throughout the semester, you will take pictures during the following:

- Advising Appointment
- Faculty Interview
- Service Learning Project
- Common Reading Program Event
- Campus Resource Visit
- Diversity Experience
- Any other locations on campus of your choosing

You will then create a portfolio of all your pictures in your own creative way and submit by the last day of class.