TUESDAY, 11:45 AM – 12:35 PM, TUR 2305

Course Information

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 taking 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.

Instructor

Julia Fleming

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352-273-2302

Career Resource Center

Assistant Director for Professional Development and Experience at the Career Resource Center. USF Alumni.

Peer Leader

Brooke Williams

Bewilliams27@ufl.edu

850-559-0633

2nd Year Public Relations Major

Teaching Team Office Hours: By Appointment
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.

ABSENCES/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 30% 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/sccr, 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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class Activity:</th>
<th>Assignment Due:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class 1: August 25</td>
<td>Syllabus, Community Building, &amp; Ground Rules</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 2: September 1</td>
<td>UF Traditions</td>
<td>Letter to Yourself</td>
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<td>Class 3: September 8</td>
<td>Scavenger Hunt</td>
<td>Read Chapter 1 of <em>Double Take</em></td>
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<td>Class 4: September 15</td>
<td>Involvement Panel</td>
<td>Questions for Panel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 5: September 22</td>
<td>Strengths Quest/Finding YOU!</td>
<td>Strengths Quest Activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 6: September 29</td>
<td>Study Skills &amp; Learning Styles</td>
<td>Study Skills Test</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>College Success Strategies</em>: Read pages 24-37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 7: October 6</td>
<td>Time Management &amp; Goal Setting</td>
<td>Vision Board</td>
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<td><em>College Success Strategies</em>: Read pages 50-60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 8: October 13</td>
<td>Homesickness, Stress Management &amp; Wellness</td>
<td>College Success Strategies: Read pages 106-118</td>
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<td>Class 9: October 20</td>
<td>Building Faculty Connections</td>
<td>Divisional Interview</td>
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<td>Class 10: October 27</td>
<td>Financial Management (Game of Life)</td>
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<td>Class 11: November 3</td>
<td>Diversity Awareness</td>
<td>Diversity Reflection</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>College Success Strategies</em>: Read pages 89-103</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 12: November 10</td>
<td>Discovering Your Path</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 13: November 17</td>
<td>Skill &amp; Resume Development</td>
<td>Resume</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 14: November 24</td>
<td>Points of Pride Profile/ Strengths Quest Revisited</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 15: December 1</td>
<td>Celebrating the 1st Semester</td>
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Learning Outcomes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points Possible</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Letter to Yourself</td>
<td>September 1: Class 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Questions for Panel</td>
<td>September 15: Class 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Strengths Quest Activity</td>
<td>September 22: Class 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Study Skills Test</td>
<td>September 29: Class 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Vision Board</td>
<td>October 6: Class 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Divisional Interview</td>
<td>October 20: Class 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Diversity Reflection</td>
<td>November 3: Class 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Resume</td>
<td>November 17: Class 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>Attendance and Participation (5 pts per class)</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Activate Gator Career Link</td>
<td>November 17th</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Attend Common Reading Program Event</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Attend one Campus Fair Event</td>
<td>December 1st</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Complete Campus Clarity</td>
<td>October 13th</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>One-on-Ones</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Portfolio</td>
<td>December 1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Workshop Success Series</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Service Learning Project: Gator Plunge</td>
<td>September 19th</td>
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<td>250</td>
<td>Total Points</td>
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Assignment DESCRIPTIONS:

**Letter to Yourself:** You will write a 1-page letter to yourself detailing all the experiences you have had in your first week of college. In the letter you may also include any goals or plans you have set for yourself and anything else you would like to write to yourself to read later.

**Questions for Panel:** You will be required to come to class with at least 3 questions for our involvement panel that will be coming to class on September 15th. For this assignment you need to type or handwrite the three questions and be ready to turn it in at the end of class.

**Strengths Quest Activity:** You will need to go to [www.strengthsquest.com](http://www.strengthsquest.com) and follow these steps:

- Go to “Purchase” at the top of the page and click on it.
- The next page will say “Want to purchase a single strengths quest Access Code?” Click on “Buy Access Code”. You will have to pay a one-time fee of $9.99.
- Click “Proceed to Checkout”
- Click on “New User? Click to Register” – Fill out registration information.
- Once you select continue, you should be able to pay for the access code.
- Complete the assessment. Both upload to Canvas and bring to class your print out of your Top 5 Strengths. Come prepared to class ready to discuss your top 5 strengths.
**Study Skills Test:** You will be required to complete a study skills test which will be emailed to you prior to Class 6 on September 29th. For this assignment you will need to follow the directions given in the email, and print out your top study skills results and bring them to class on the due date.

**Vision Board:** Understanding where you want to go in life is crucial to developing a plan for getting there. For this assignment you will create a “map” of all the places you want to go during and after college. These will include all of your aspirations for your college experience as well as your life after college. This map will serve as a personal guide toward applying the information you learn in the class to yourself and your unique path through college.

**Divisional Interview:** You and your group members will interview 1 of the 14 departments in the Division of Student Affairs staff members. A list of the different departments can be found through this link: http://www.ufsa.ufl.edu/about/departments/. After visiting the website call, email or stop by your chosen department and ask if you can schedule an interview with a staff member for your First Year Florida class. You should give this staff member plenty of notice prior to interviewing them, and do not forget to thank them when you are done! Following the interview your group will create a five-minute (at maximum) presentation that discusses the information you gathered from the interview. In the presentation your group should answer the five W’s, who, what, when, where, and why. Also provide some interesting facts about the department. The group will be graded on whether the information is factual, creativity of your power point, and whether all group members actively participated during the presentation.

**Diversity Reflection:** Attend a diversity activity from a culture you do not personally identify with and write a 1 page reflection. In your reflection you should include your expectations of the event, your feelings while attending the event, and the differences between your expectations and the actual experience. End your reflection by closing what you learned from trying a new experience.

**Resume:** Before the assignment is due go by the Career Resource Center to have a career planning staff member critique your resume to offer suggestions. After having your resume critiqued make sure you have the staff member sign your resume as proof of the critique and bring it to class.

**Attendance & Participation:** Attendance points are gained in this class by attending class and being on time. Participation points are gained by actively engaging in the course. This includes staying awake, keeping your phones or computers turned off (unless we are using it for a class activity), and showing respect to your teaching team, fellow peers, and guest speakers.

**Gator Career Link:** To complete this assignment you must go to the link http://www.crc.ufl.edu/gatorcareerlink and create an account. After creating an account through Gator Career Link please screen shot a picture of your account once activated and either email/ print a picture out and bring to class.

**Campus Clarity “Think About It”:** For this assignment complete the Campus Clarity modules online. After completion bring in a copy of your certificate to class.

**Common Reading Program Event:** We will be attending one CRP event this fall as a class. Bring your UFID to the event as you will need to have it swiped to record attendance. You will also be asked to complete a one-page reaction paper to the presentation.

**Campus Fair Event:** You must attend one of the below and have your picture taken to include in your portfolio as proof of attendance and/ or submit a flyer, brochure, etc. that obviously lists the name of the event below.

- RecStravaganza 2015 | August 27th | 6PM – 8PM | Southwest Recreation Center
Part-Time Job Fair | September 2nd | 10AM – 2PM | JWRU Breezeway
Study Abroad Fair | September 16th | 10 AM – 3 PM | Plaza of Americas
Volunteer Organization Fair | September 16th | 10 AM – 1PM | JWRU Breezeway
Career Showcase | September 29th & 30th | 9AM – 3PM | O’Dome
Graduate & Professional Schools Fair | October 15th | 10AM – 2PM | JWRU Grand Ballroom
Housing Fair | TBA | JWRU Breezeway & Northwest Walkway
Student Organization Fair | TBA

One-on-Ones: Connecting with others is a very important part of a person’s college experience, especially with your teaching team. With that in mind, we would like to get to know you a little more. You will be asked to meet one-on-one with one of your instructors, at some point during the semester.

Workshop Success Series: You will need to attend one workshop of your choice on your own time. For a listing of workshops and to register online visit www.dso.ufl.edu/nsfp/first-year-experience/wss to secure a spot in the workshop. You must register for the workshop in order to attend. If your plans change and you will no longer attend the workshop, please return to the site to “unregister”; this will provide an open seat to someone else. Workshops fill up so sign up early! Your attendance will be documented at the workshop and emailed to your teaching team. Get a handout and take a picture of yourself at the workshop for your portfolio. You may also be given an orange slip to fill out & hand in for credit.

Service Learning Project: Our class will be participating in Gator Plunge as our service-learning project. More details about the event’s time and location will be discussed in class. You will complete a follow-up reaction paper about your experience, and do not forget to take a picture the day of the project for your portfolio. In the event of an unavoidable conflict, or if you are not able to attend our class designated 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.

Portfolio: For this assignment you will put together a portfolio in a folder, binder, etc. of the following materials:

- Strengths and Reflection
  - List your top 5 strengths
  - How have you used them to help you excel? (1 paragraph)

- Top Study Skills
  - Include 3 tips that you have implanted into your learning habits

- Health Management
  - Include 3 goals that you have set to enhance the quality of your life

- Involvement (1/2 page)
  - Choose a club or organization (don’t have to join)
  - Go to a meeting
  - Explain your experience
  - Would you go back? If not, what other club/organization do you find interesting?

- Campus Fair Event
  - Write 1 paragraph reaction summary
• Workshop Success Series
  - Include photo from event
  - Write 1 paragraph reaction summary

• Service Learning Project
  - Include photo from event
  - Write 1 paragraph reaction summary

• 5 of your favorite photos from freshmen year

• Campus Resource (1/2 page)
  - Choose one resource to visit/research
  - Explain this resource and what they do

• Final Reflection (1 page)
  - How did this class help you?
  - What can you take forth from this class?
  - What is your plan for next semester?
  - Likes and dislikes from the class
  - Comments to Julia/Brooke