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.

This course also connects students to key resources at the University of Florida: a faculty/staff member who is committed to first-year student success; an undergraduate peer leader who is experienced in the challenges of making a successful transition from high school to college; and other first-year students.

Our Objectives: For this course, it is our hope that you will be able to find a resource, major, and student organization, or two, on campus that you will enhance your collegiate experience.
Academic Honor Code and Academic Honesty

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.

Pledge: On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

The Honor Code

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.

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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code

Our Expectations for Class

1. Mature and respectful behavior is expected. Side conversations, sleeping, and using electronic devices are not appropriate.
2. Participation will play a key role in your success in this class. Please ask questions and engage in productive class discussions.
3. We are here to help guide you in becoming successful college students, but please check the syllabus before asking assignment or grade related questions.
4. All communication conducted via email will be sent using the Gatorlink email address.

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 needing academic accommodations should
1) Register with and provide documentation to Disability Resources (352-392-8565),
2) Bring a letter to the instructor from Disability Resources indicating that you need academic accommodations.
Please do this as soon as possible, preferably within the first week of class.

Absences/Late Policy

There is no such thing as a “freebie” when it comes to absences or being late. If you miss class you will lose your participation points for that week. If you are late, you will lose points based on how late you are to class. Excused absences are as follows: University Sponsored Event and Religious Holidays with prior notice and documentation; Medical/Emotional/Family Emergencies with appropriate documentation and communication.
Textbooks

**College Success Strategies (NIST)**
- Available at the UF Bookstore

**Double Take: A Memoir**
- Author: Kevin Michael Connolly
- Provided at Preview

**UF F Book**
- Provided at Preview or via the Alumni Association

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.

Schedule and Course Topic Outline

*This schedule is subject to change per advance notice from Instructors*

To supplement class discussion and engage you in opportunities at UF, attendance and participation will be required for some out-of-class activities. Excused absences for these activities will follow the same guidelines as missing a class. All assignments will be due on Mondays by midnight via Canvas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/25: Welcome, Introductions, Expectations, Course Objectives, Campus Resource Presentation Group Assignment</td>
<td>Welcome &amp; Syllabus</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/1: Creating Community, The Value of College, Involvement</td>
<td>Nist Appendix A: Campus Resources Nist Ch. 1: Now that You’re Here</td>
<td><strong>Campus Resource Presentation</strong> – Student Activities and Involvement <strong>Campus Resource Presentation</strong> – CWC &amp; GatorWell <strong>Due: Submit 1 question for Student Panel typed via email</strong></td>
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<td>9/8: Leadership, How to use your strengths to succeed</td>
<td>Nist Ch. 2: Active Learning: What’s in it for You?</td>
<td><strong>Due: Completion of Strengthsquest</strong></td>
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<td>9/15: Academic Success: Utilizing the Library, ISIS, and other useful tools/resources on campus</td>
<td>Nist Ch. 10: Strategic Reading Nist Ch. 11: Take Note! Lectures: A Different Kind of Text</td>
<td><strong>Campus Resource Presentation</strong> – Department of Recreational Sports <strong>Due: Gator CareerLink Profile Activation Assignment</strong></td>
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<td>9/19: Service Learning Project- Gator Plunge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Assignments</td>
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<td>9/22</td>
<td>Being a Successful Student</td>
<td>Nist Ch. 4: Professors, Tasks, and You&lt;br&gt;Nist Ch. 5: Getting Organized: Managing Yourself and Your Time</td>
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<td>9/29</td>
<td>Wellness: Nutrition, Time-Management, Stress-Management, Safety</td>
<td>Nist Ch. 9: Dealing with Stress</td>
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<td>10/6</td>
<td>Résumés, 1st Steps toward Goals</td>
<td>Nist Ch. 3: How You Learn</td>
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<td>10/13</td>
<td>Career Exploration</td>
<td>Nist Appendix B: First Year Student Tool Kit</td>
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<td>10/20</td>
<td>Values, Motivation &amp; the Paths you will Choose to Follow</td>
<td>Nist Ch. 6: Academic Learning, Attitudes and Interests Energy: Motivation for&lt;br&gt;Nist Ch. 7: Just What Do You Believe, Anyway?</td>
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<td>10/27</td>
<td>Diversity</td>
<td>Nist Ch. 8: Building Cultural Intelligence</td>
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<td>11/3</td>
<td>Common Reading Program</td>
<td>Complete Reading Double Take: A Memoir</td>
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<td>11/10</td>
<td>The University of Florida and its Traditions</td>
<td>Bring your F Book!</td>
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<td>11/17</td>
<td>Financial Literacy/Sharing Experiences</td>
<td>Nist Ch. 13: Speaking Effectively</td>
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<td>11/24</td>
<td>Open Class</td>
<td>Nist Ch. 14: Using Technology to Learn</td>
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<td>12/1</td>
<td>“So what? Now what?” Reflection</td>
<td><strong>Due:</strong> FYF portfolio</td>
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**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)

- 45 In-Class Attendance and Participation (3 pts. each class)
- 30 FYF Portfolio – Completed using POWTOON, Prezi, or other software
- 25 Diversity Assignment (3 page reaction paper to Campus Diversity Event)
- 25 Campus Resource Presentation
- 15 Faculty Interview Reflection Paper
- 10 Service Learning Project – Gator Plunge (Sept. 19)
- 10 Workshop Success Series – attend 2 (5 pts each)
- 10 Common Reading Program Events – attend 2 (5 pts each)
- 5 Fall Fair Attendance Paper – Submitted 1 week after attendance
- 5 “Why am I here” – 2 page reflection paper
Out of Class Attendance & Assignments

To supplement class discussion and engage you in opportunities at UF, attendance and participation will be required for some out-of-class activities. Excused absences for these activities will follow the same guidelines outlined in the attendance/late policy section of the syllabus. All assignments will be due at the beginning of the class period on the dates provided.

Common Reading Program Events
You must attend two Common Reading Program (CRP) events this fall. For a listing of all of the fall events, please visit www.dso.ufl.edu/nsfp/first-year-experience/crp/events-crp/.

Workshop Success Series
You will need to attend two workshops 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 professor. Get a handout and take a picture of yourself at the workshop for your portfolio.

UF Fall Fairs
You must attend ONE of the below and write a one page reaction paper on the event.

- **Student Organization Fair**  
  September 10: 11am-2pm  
  JWRU North Lawn

- **Study Abroad Fair**  
  September 16: 10am to 3pm  
  Plaza of the Americas

- **Volunteer Organization Fair**  
  September 16: 10am-1pm  
  Reitz Union Breezeway

- **Career Showcase**  
  September 29 & September 30, 9am – 3pm  
  O’Connell Center

Service Learning Project
Our class will be volunteering at **Gator Plunge on September 19, 2015**. It is your responsibility to register for this event and receive approval, for you to attend with the instructor. 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.
Reaction Papers
Various reaction paper entries will be assigned throughout the semester. When submitting papers, please submit using the following format: **Times New Roman, 12pt font, 1 inch margins, and double spaced.** Reaction papers, not submitted in this format will receive an automatic 2 point deduction. All reaction papers must be submitted on canvas and in hard copy format.

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.

Materials and Supplies Fees
Strengthsquest Fee: $10.00