COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is designed to assist you in your transition into the University of Florida. First Year Florida will emphasize the development of academic and personal skills that support success in college, as well as familiarize you with campus resources.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
First Year Florida educates new students to maximize their learning and development by creating environments which provide opportunities for:

- Engagement (with UF faculty/staff, upper-class mentor, fellow students)
- Awareness and respect of diversity
- Involvement
- Knowledge of resources
- Active participation in one’s own learning
- Healthy lifestyle
- Understanding of UF expectations

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.

LEADERSHIP MODEL
At the University of Florida we value true leadership. Throughout this syllabus you will find references to the UF Leadership Model. These references demonstrate that components of the Leadership Model can be identified in many places and activities on campus and that you have many opportunities to learn not only as a scholar, but as a person and leader during your time at UF. More information about the UF Leadership Model can be found at http://www.leadershipandservice.ufl.edu/leadership.html.

ACADEMIC HONOR CODE AND ACADEMIC HONESTY (Integrity)
University of Florida Student Honor Code:

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 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."

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/scor, and ask the instructors to clarify any expectations you do not understand.

**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), and 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.

**CIVILITY** *(Civil Discourse)*
Mature and respectful behavior is expected in this classroom when dealing with instructors and other students. Side conversations, sleeping, and reading other course material (or the Alligator, etc.) are not appropriate and may result in the student losing attendance credit for that day. Cell phones and pagers are NOT welcome in this classroom; please turn them off (or at least silence them) and put them away prior to the start of class.

**GATORLINK E-MAIL**
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 and should be checked daily!

**COURSE TEXTBOOKS**
College Success Strategies, 2012-2013 Edition; Author: Nist, available at the University of Florida Bookstore or at the Florida Bookstore
The Dressmaker of Khair Khana; Author: Lemmon; provided at Preview
F-Book; provided at Preview or by contacting the University Alumni Association

**ASSIGNMENTS/EVALUATION**
In-Class Attendance and Participation
Discussion and participation is not only critical to the learning that takes place in the classroom it will help you make the most of your FYF experience.

Because this class only meets once per week, there is really no such thing as a “freebie” when it comes to absences. If you do miss a class for some reason, it is your responsibility to obtain any material or assignments from a fellow class member. Excused absences include:

- **Required student participation in a University sponsored event:** These events will be excused with official documentation from the appropriate faculty or staff member. Documentation should be received PRIOR to the event.
- **Religious Holidays:** Religious holidays are always excused; however, please notify the instructors, in writing, within the first two weeks of class so that appropriate accommodations may be made.
- **Medical Emergencies:** Medical emergencies are excused with appropriate documentation from a health care provider.
- **Family Emergencies:** These emergencies are only excused with written documentation.

*Each unexcused absence from the classroom will result in 5 points deducted from the final grade. Points will also be deducted each time you are late to class. Two late arrivals to class will count as one absence.*

**Out-of-Class Attendance, Participation, and Assignments**
To supplement class discussions and actively engage you in opportunities at UF, attendance and participation will be required for a handful of out-of-class activities. Excused absences for the following activities follow the same absences guideline as noted above.

**UF Spring Fairs:** Choose one to attend and have your picture taken to include in your portfolio as proof of attendance.
- Student Organization Fair – January 17 & 18, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Reitz Union Colonnade
- Study Abroad Fair – January 30, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Reitz Union Colonnade Volunteer Organization Fair – February 7, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Reitz Union Colonnade
- Career Showcase – February 5 (Non-Technical) & February 6 (Technical), 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., O’Connell Center
Gator First Year Experience Common Reading Program Event Series – Our class will be attending two of the CRP events this spring. Bring your UF ID to the event as you will need to have it swiped to record attendance.

Being Muslim in America Today – January 30, 7:00 p.m., Reitz Union Grand Ballroom
Diversity in Entrepreneurship: Challenging Barriers while Changing the World – March 26, 7:00 p.m.
Reitz Union Grand Ballroom
Museum Nights – April 11, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Harn Museum of Art


Gator First Year Experience Workshop Success Series (50 minutes each) – 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/workshops 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. It is a good idea to get a handout or take a picture of yourself at the workshop for your portfolio.

Diversity Assignment (Inclusiveness) - You will arrange this on your own; details are in the College Success Strategies textbook pg. 294-295.

Service Learning Project & Reflection Paper (Social Responsibility, Collaboration) – Our class will be volunteering at TBD. 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.

Advising Appointment – You will schedule this on your own; see College Success Strategies textbook pg. 253-255 to prepare for your meeting.

Mock Interview Assignment – In class we will be conducting mock interviews with professionals and students from around campus. After this you will receive a take home assignment to be completed for a future class. This assignment will be common interview questions that you need to answer to the best of your ability.

Faculty Interview – You will interview one of your faculty members (not a TA) that you have had this semester. You should give this faculty member plenty of notice prior to interviewing them, and don’t forget to thank them when you are done!

Questions to consider for your interview (but feel free to add your own):

- How did you choose your particular field? Did you ever want to do anything else?
- What type of research do you do? What ways do you see yourself or colleagues being creative or innovative in their field?
- What ways have you seen students on this campus use their creativity to better UF or Gainesville?
- What were your greatest concerns when you were a freshman?
- How do you think the freshman experience has changed since you were a freshman?
- What skills do you think students must have in order to succeed in college?

Following the interview you will write a 2-page reflection about what you learned from your interview, what you got out of the experience, and how you might plan to interact with more faculty members. This reflection is not a transcription of your interview, although you may refer to answers your faculty member gave in your reflection as needed. You will be evaluated on writing style and clarity as well as ability to adequately reflect on the interview experience.
Flat Albert (Discover Gainesville) Project - At the beginning of the semester, you will partner with another class member to participate in this project. Each week, one group will receive the Flat Albert. Each pair is responsible for choosing an option for both of the following:

1) A Gainesville landmark, restaurant or other attraction beyond the borders of the UF Campus to visit, that everyone else should know about. (Chain restaurants are not allowed. Check with your instructor for location exceptions).

2) A Location on campus that everyone should know about.

There are many options on campus, within walking distance of the campus, or are accessible via the RTS Bus System.

You will receive 4 total points for this project for taking at least 3 pictures at each of your sites. One picture from each location must include all partners and the mascot. Each group will have 5 minutes at the beginning of every class to present their sites and pictures to everyone else. Make sure you bring the mascot with you back to class. Please make sure you are prepared for this at the beginning of the class period.

You will receive an additional 2 points toward this project for writing a review of the location, off campus, that you visited. The review should consist of the following:

- ½ page description of the site including but not limited to the following
  - What you did/ate
  - How much it cost
  - Hours of operation
  - Any other pertinent information

- ½ page describing what you actually thought of the place you visited

Each partner will submit their own individual review of the site, although the logistics section may be the same. Your paper should be submitted at the beginning of your presentation.

Student Organization Search/Internship Search & Resume Building

This assignment will require you to research either a student organization that you are interested in joining or a potential internship that you would like to complete. Both options will require you to write a 1-2 page paper and a one page resume. You will need to do only one of the following options.

Option 1 Student Organization Search – There are hundreds of student organizations here at the University of Florida. Some of them require you to apply and be accepted to them, while others are open to anyone who is interested. For this option please select an organization that you are interested in and write no less than a 1-2 page paper about how joining one of these organizations could help you in your future endeavors. Also create a resume that could be used to join this organization (1 page minimum).

Here are some UF resources to help find student organizations:

- Student Organization Fair – January 17 & 18 (11am-3pm) over 200 RSO’s represented
- Gator Connect – UF’s Student Activities and Involvement’s online system for registered Student Organizations. https://ufl.collegiatelink.net/organizations

Option 2 Internship Search – Some majors require an internship experience to be completed to graduate. For this option you will select an internship posting in your field or that you are interested in, cut and paste the internship requirements into a Word Document and then write at least a 1-2 page paper on what you would need to do to get this internship and how it would help in your future endeavors. Also, create a resume that could be used in applying for this internship (1 page minimum).

Here are some resources to help find internships:

- The Career Resource Center (CRC) has a resource called Gator Career Link which is a compilation of internship and job listings http://www.crc.ufl.edu/students/studentInternshipsExternships.html
- Simply Hired http://www.simplyhired.com/
- Career Builder http://www.careerbuilder.com/

Note: For both options the CRC provides an example of what a resume should look like. For this assignment please do not use outside help except this example as we will be working on these in class. http://www.crc.ufl.edu/assets/files/guides/ResumePreparation.pdf
**Capstone** – Your “capstone” assignment for this course is your FYF Photo Portfolio – details are in the College Success Strategies textbook pg. 291-292. This assignment is completely determined upon your completion of other requirements in this course so be sure to plan ahead.

**Reaction Papers** – Various reaction paper entries will be assigned throughout the semester. In order to obtain full credit for the reaction papers, papers must:

- Meet reaction papers entry deadlines (*late reaction papers will receive half credit at most*)
- Be at least one page, (unless otherwise specified) typed, double spaced, 10-12 point Times New Roman font, and have margins no larger than 1" top and bottom and 1" left and right
- Focus on the topic assigned
- Be attentive to grammar, syntax and flow in journal entries

Be sure to type the question to be answered or the topic to be addressed in the assignment on the top of your entry, along with your name and date. A sample format for the reaction papers assignments is in the College Success Strategies textbook pg. 293. Reaction papers should be turned in on the date specified for the assignment.

**GRADING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>In-Class Attendance and Participation (2.5 pts. each class)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Portfolio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Diversity Assignment (2 pts. for proposal, 5 pts. for paper)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Discover Gainesville Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Resume – Student Org/Internship Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Service Learning Project (3 pts. for attendance, 2 pts. for reaction paper)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Reaction Papers (2 pts. each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Common Reading Program Events – attend 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Workshop Success Series – attend 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Advising Appointment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Faculty Interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mock Interview Assignment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Student Organization Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Library Orientation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE**

510

Grading Scale: 93-100 (A); 90-92 (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)

A grade of Incomplete (I) will not be issued under any circumstance. For additional information about grading policies please visit: [www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html](http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 7</td>
<td>Class 1 – Welcome, Introductions, Expectations, Course Objectives</td>
<td>Welcome &amp; Syllabus Introduce Flat Albert (Discover GNV) Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 14</td>
<td>Class 2 – Financial Management, Career Choices, &amp; Resumes</td>
<td>College Success Strategies Appendix A: Knowledge for Life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 21</td>
<td>No Class</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 28</td>
<td>Class 3 – Interview Skills</td>
<td>TBD, Mock Interviews and Assignment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 4</td>
<td>Class 4 – The University of Florida and its Traditions, Intro to Strengths</td>
<td>The F Book, <em>The Dressmaker</em> Section 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 11</td>
<td>Class 5 – StrengthsQuest – Why your Awesome</td>
<td>Strengths Reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 18</td>
<td>Class 6 – Values, Motivation &amp; the Paths you will Choose to Follow</td>
<td>College Success Strategies Ch. 7: Just What Do You Believe, Anyway?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 25</td>
<td>Class 7 – Being a Successful Student</td>
<td>College Success Strategies Ch. 5: Getting Organized: Managing Yourself and Your Time &amp; College Success Strategies Ch. 6: Academic Energy: Motivation for Learning, Attitudes and Interests,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 4</td>
<td>Spring Break – No Classes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 11</td>
<td>Class 8 – Learning Styles</td>
<td>College Success Strategies Ch. 3: How You Learn, <em>The Dressmaker</em> Section 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 18</td>
<td>Class 9 – Academic Success</td>
<td>College Success Strategies Ch. 4: Interacting with Your Professors &amp; College Success Strategies Ch. 10: Take Note! Lectures: A Different Kind of Text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 25</td>
<td>Class 10 – Reading Between the Lines: A Closer Look at Studying</td>
<td>Suggested Reading: College Success Strategies Ch. 11-15; College Success Strategies Ch. 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 1</td>
<td>Class 11 – Well-Rounded Health</td>
<td>College Success Strategies Ch. 8: Dealing with Stress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 8</td>
<td>Class 12 – <em>The Dressmaker of Khair Khana</em></td>
<td>The Dressmaker Section 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 15</td>
<td>Class 13 – Living a Full Life &amp; Technology and the Classroom</td>
<td><em>College Success Strategies</em> Ch. 2: Active Learning: What’s in it for You? &amp; College Success Strategies Ch. 15: Using Technology to Learn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 22</td>
<td>Class 14 – Class Wrap-Up and Reflection</td>
<td>Faculty Interview Assignment Due</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>