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.

LEADERSHIP MODEL
At the University of Florida, we value true leadership. The UF Leadership Model demonstrates the leadership can be identified in many ways on campus. More information can be found at http://www.leadershipandservice.ufl.edu/leadership.html

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.

ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTORS

Bolu Akinyemi
bakinyemi@registrar.ufl.edu – 352-294-3032

Bolu is the true definition of a “Global Gator”. She was born in Nigeria, travelled through Asia, West Africa, South America, and Europe before settling in Gainesville FL. She has a Masters in International Policy and used to work with organizations and institutions combating Terrorism Financing. Here at UF, she works with the Admissions and Registrar’s office where she’s reconciling her love of international relations with student engagement.

Olivia Reith
omreith@ufl.edu

Olivia Reith is the quintessential “local Gator”. Born and raised in Gainesville because both her parents were UF graduates, she was destined to be a Florida Gator. She is a Business major minoring in Statistics and Innovation. She is excited to be a Peer leader for a class that helps students become comfortable in her hometown as she is.

Office Hours
Bolu’s Hours: By Appointment.
Olivia’s Hours: By Appointment.
ACADEMIC HONOR CODE AND ACADEMIC HONESTY

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.

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/scrr, 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 INFORMATION VISIT: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/scrr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/

Our Mindset for Class

1. Class will be fun. Students will look forward to the class and the assignments.
2. Everything will be useful and have a purpose. We promise not to assign any busy work.
3. Participation is required in order to receive an A in the class. You do not have to talk the most, but we expect active listeners and participants.
4. Mature and respectful behavior is expected. That goes both directions.
5. Side conversations, sleeping, and checking electronics are not appropriate.
6. We are here to help, but we expect you to check the syllabus and/or Sakai before asking us assignment/grade questions.

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.

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. PLEASE DO NOT SEND EMAIL to your instructors via this site, but rather email to the emails listed on page 1 of your syllabus.

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 class. Participation points are earned in each class and if you are late, you will lose 1 point, beginning on your 2nd tardy. 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.

Technology

Students will be required to submit work and assignments via Canvas and must submit work in a timely manner. Email is not a substitute for submission of work in Canvas. Canvas gradescope will be monitoring the quality and amount of work submitted. Participation points are earned and missed participation will result in loss of points on the participation rubric. The class will utilize digital communication techniques and tools including updates, discussions, and in-class participation. These tools will be used to facilitate discussion and assessment of content. Additionally, these tools will be used to foster collaboration and communication among students. The instructor will provide guidance and feedback on the use of these tools. This class will utilize digital communication techniques and tools including updates, discussions, and in-class participation. These tools will be used to facilitate discussion and assessment of content. Additionally, these tools will be used to foster collaboration and communication among students. The instructor will provide guidance and feedback on the use of these tools.
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 as listed on page 2. If you have any major conflicts you will need to give both instructors at least a 3-day advance notice.

Common Reading Program Events

We will be attending one of the CRP events this fall as a class. Information will be provided at a later date. Be sure to 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 presentation. For a listing of all of the 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. You may also be given an orange slip to fill out & hand in for credit.

Diversity Assignment

This reflection is a two pronged assignment. Part One is a short reflection paper describing how you define diversity and an event, person, place or moment in your life that has shaped who you are today and your view of diversity. Part two is a free form response to the diversity activity in class. The reflection is due on July 30.

Discover Gainesville Project

At the beginning of the semester, you will be partnered with 2-5 classmates to participate in this project. Each week, one group will receive the class mascot. Each group 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 (check with your instructor for 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.

These pictures should be included in the final Photo Portfolio. 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, so that it can be passed on to the next group. Please make sure you are prepared for this at the beginning of the class period.
Faculty Interview
You will interview one of your faculty members (not a TA) that you have had this semester and/or instructs in the college that your major is in. You should give this faculty member ample notice prior to interviewing them, and don’t forget to thank them when you are done! Also, please be prepared with at least 3 of the following questions:

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 but a full 1-2 page paper (including responses), 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.

Getting to Know You Meeting
Connecting with others is a very important part of a person’s college experience, especially with your instructors. With that in mind, we would like to get to know all of you a little more. You will be asked to meet one-on-one, or small groups of 2-3, with one of your instructors, Bolu or Olivia, at some point during the semester. Whether it’s during office hours or over coffee, we want to get to know you all a little outside out of class. You will be responsible for contacting Bolu or Olivia to set this meeting. Please set at least a WEEK in advance. The semester is only six weeks, so set them up early!

“Double Take” Presentation
Students will be paired and teams and each team will be assigned a certain number of chapters to read from the “Double Take” memoir and will present on the takeaways from the assigned chapters. Remember to connect the lessons from the chapter to your experience here at UF.

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.

Photo Portfolio
You will have a photo portfolio due on the final day of class, August 6th. It will need to include a minimum of 8 photos documenting your first semester at UF. It can be created through any medium (PowerPoint, scrapbook, etc.) but you will have to present it to the class so be mindful.

Strengths Reflection Paper
After receiving your Strengths Report and discussing Strengths in detail in class, you will be required to write a 1-2 page paper on what you learned. Questions to answer could include (but are not limited to): what you think of your strengths, how you see your strengths on a daily basis, any strengths of your own you do not understand, etc. This paper will be due on Canvas by the start of class on July 2.

GRADING
325-350 (A); 314-324 (A-); 304-313(B+); 290-303 (B); 279-289 (B-); 269-278 (C+); 262-268(C); 244-261C-); 234-243 (D+); 223-233 (D); 209-222 (D-); 208 or below (E). A grade of Incomplete (I) will not be issued under any circumstance.
Mandatory Academic Integrity Module Completion Certificate
Mandatory Alcohol Education Program Completion Certificate
Budget calculators
Cover letter
Major’s reflection
Photo Portfolio
Diversity Reflection
Discussion Responses
Resume draft
Revised Resume
Class attendance

TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE
You can also earn 2 points extra credit by attending additional speaker series events or a university cultural event (performance at the Constanis Theater or Philips Center, attend more than the 1 assigned CRP event), and writing a reflection paper; or attending additional workshop success series program. You will also need to include some type of proof (i.e., event program, orange workshop slip, receipt, or picture) that you attended the event. A maximum of 4 extra credit points will be awarded.

COURSE TOPIC OUTLINE *Schedule is subject to change per advance notice from Instructors*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Topic</th>
<th>Class Activity</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>June 30; Class 1 – Welcome, Introductions, Expectations, Course Objectives, Intro to UF</strong></td>
<td>Welcome &amp; Syllabus, UF Trivia, Now that You’re in College (HS vs. College)</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assign Strengths Quest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>July 2; Class 2 - StrengthsQuest</strong></td>
<td>What are your Strengths? Strengths Activities</td>
<td>Strengths Report (Top 5) Due to Canvas by class time. Also bring printed Strengths Report to class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assign Strengths Quest interviews</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>July 7; Class 3 – Reconciling your Interests with your expectations</strong></td>
<td>Changing your major (from a student’s perspective)</td>
<td>Strengths Quest interviews responses due to Canvas by class time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Academic Advisor presentation (Lynn O’Sickey)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assign: Learning Style Inventory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assign: Advising Discussion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>July 9; Class 4 – Academic success</strong></td>
<td>Learning Styles Inventory, MBTI Assessment, Organization/Study Skills</td>
<td>Learning Style Inventory due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assign: Reflection on top three backup majors</td>
<td>Advising Discussion due on Canvas by class time. Post 1 original comment, and respond to at least two comments on the Advising presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assign: Faculty Interview</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>July 14th; Class 5 – Understanding UF Academic Policies</strong></td>
<td><strong>Class meets in the hallway of 222 Criser Hall</strong></td>
<td>Majors reflection due to Canvas by class time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Read the Registrar’s website</td>
<td>Faulty Interview write up due to Canvas by class time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Visit the Registrar’s Office</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assign Registrar Discussion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assign draft resume</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>July 16th; Class 6 – Professional Success</strong></td>
<td><strong>Class meets in the Career Resource Center on the First Floor J. Wayne Reitz Union</strong></td>
<td>Print and bring your draft resume to class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Registrar Discussion due to Canvas by class time. Post 1 original comment, and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Activity/Assignments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 21&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Class 7 – Money management and Financial accountability</td>
<td>Financial Management presentation&lt;br&gt;Finding jobs on campus (OPS, workstudy)&lt;br&gt;Assign: Budget calculator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 23&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Class 8 – Branding your college experience</td>
<td>Student involvement presentations&lt;br&gt;Student Leaders across campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 28th</td>
<td>Class 9 – Culture and Diversity</td>
<td>Privilege Walk, Diversity Discussion&lt;br&gt;Assign Diversity Reflection&lt;br&gt;Assign Diversity Activity Response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 30&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Class 10 – Managing Stress</td>
<td>Discussion on stress management&lt;br&gt;Presentation by Student Resource Center&lt;br&gt;Assign stress management and Student Resource Center discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Class 11 – Succeeding at UF</td>
<td>Tutoring services&lt;br&gt;Study groups&lt;br&gt;International Center Presentation&lt;br&gt;Assign Global Gator Discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 6</td>
<td>Class 12 – Photo Portfolios &amp; Potluck</td>
<td>Photo Portfolios, Identity (Values- What Makes You Tick?), TED Talks, Bucket Lists&lt;br&gt;Moving forward: the rest of your freshman year&lt;br&gt;Global Gator discussion due to Canvas by class time. Post 1 original comment, and respond to at least two comments on the stress management and Photo Portfolios due in Class or on Canvas by Class time.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Strengths Quest Interviews (30 pts.):** Email your Strength Quest results to two individuals who know you very well. One of the individuals should be a mentor who has known you for at least a year; the other individual may be a peer. Ask them to read over the descriptions of your top strengths and discuss how they have viewed those strengths display in you.

**Strengths Quest Online Assessment (6 points):** Complete the Strengths Quest assessment. The assessment will take approximately 30 minutes. Upon completion of the survey please print out your top 5 strengths and upload a copy to Canvas.

**Learning Style Inventory (5pts):** Complete any Learning Style Inventory of your choice and be prepared to discuss the results in class.
Majors’ reflection (5pts): Each student will consider their Strengths Quest and Learning Style assessments and pick three other majors they would consider and write a reflection about why they picked these majors.

Faculty Interview (25 pts): Each student will select a current or faculty member with a background you are interested in and conduct a 30-minute interview. What you have learned as a result of the interview will be reported and evaluated in a two-page essay.

Resume draft and revision (30pts): Using resources from the Career Resource Center, each student is to draft a current resume to which they can build upon as they become engaged on campus.

Cover letter (10pts): Each student will look up a student employment position (keep in mind if you are Federal Work Study or OPS), and write a cover letter for the position. Take a screenshot of the job posting and post it along with your Cover Letter to Canvas by class time.

Budget calculators (20pts): There are several budgeting calculators online. A budget is to design a realistic plan for spending limited financial resources. A student budget requires flexibility to adapt to the changing circumstances of college life. Find one that best suits your spending habits. Identify and add up amounts from all sources of income, calculate your spending and bring your calculator to class. Also upload a version on Canvas.

Common Reading Program Event (10pts): We will be attending one of the CRP events this summer as a class. Refer to page 3 of syllabus for more information.

GatorMania (5pts): GatorMania is a campus-wide celebration that showcases the diverse cultures and educates incoming and returning students about the incredible resources at the University of Florida. This outdoor event is the largest summer event targeting all incoming freshmen and returning students and fosters a sense of pride in being a Florida Gator. It also provides all students with opportunities to get involved in the many social, cultural, academic, and professional organizations at the University of Florida. This year’s event is scheduled for Saturday, July 11th at 2pm and will be held on Flavet Field. Tabling for student organizations will be on the middle of the field along with the performances and showcases from cultural organizations. Food and games will also be available. Take pictures at the event and upload them to Canvas to receive credit.

Workshop Series (20pts): You will need to attend two workshops of your choice. Refer to page 3 of syllabus for more information.

Mandatory Academic Integrity Module Completion Certificate (5pts): Refer to page 4 for more information.

Mandatory Alcohol Education Program Completion Certificate (5pts): Refer to page 4 for more information.

Photo Portfolio (100pts): Refer to page 4 for more information.

Diversity Reflection (20pts): Refer to page 4 for more information.

Discussion Responses (20pts): Each discussion post is worth 5 points. You are to post your own original response to the question. Then comment on responses from two other students.

“Double Take” Presentations (10pts): Students will be paired and teams and each team will be assigned a certain number of chapters to read from the “Double Take” memoir and will present on the takeaways from the assigned chapters. Remember to connect the lessons from the chapter to your experience here at UF.

Class attendance (48pts): Provided you attend every class, you automatically earn 48 points. As you miss classes, points are deducted. Refer to the attendance policy on page 2.