Teaching Team

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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.

Learning Outcomes

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.

Course Texts

College Success Strategies (NIST)
Available at the UF Bookstore.
(This text will be used as a general resource. It will be helpful to reference this text when preparing for group projects, resume, and budget assignments).

Double Take: A Memoir
Author: Kevin Michael Connolly
Provided at Preview
Other Materials

1. You will be required to purchase a journal. You may choose any size from 4” x 7” to 8” x 11” that fits with your personal style. Bring this notebook/journal to class each week. Personalize it. Cherish it. We will be doing a variety of artistic, expressionistic, and/or general writing activities within this notebook. You will share this journal at the end of the semester to show the understanding, creativity, and processing you have done throughout the class. As this is your personal journal, you can choose to paper clip certain pages together, if you do not feel comfortable sharing during our final class time.

Course Policies

2. University Honor Code – Plagiarism, cheating, and/or misrepresentation will not be tolerated in any form in this class. On all student work throughout this course, students are expected to uphold the University of Florida Honor Code, as defined in particular by the following pledge: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

3. Office hours – Office hours are available by appointment. Please make Jamie or me aware if you would like to meet outside of class time, and we will absolutely make time to meet with you.

4. Course schedule – What is provided in the syllabus is a tentative outline of course topics to be covered. Due to such situations as guest speaker availability, varying time for class activities, or other circumstances, certain changes may be made throughout the course. It is the responsibility of the instructor to give appropriate notice of such changes, and it is the student’s responsibility to take note of these changes.

5 Make-up work – All work is due by 5:00PM to CANVAS on the dates listed in the syllabus. No make-up work will be accepted without official documented evidence of extenuating circumstances. 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 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.

6. Cell phones – Class time is sacred time. Please turn off your cell phone before class starts. You may check your phones after class.

7. Class assignments & Technology – All assignments will be uploaded to Canvas by 5:00PM on day they are due. No assignments will be emailed or turned in during class. All uploaded assignments should be typed in Times New Roman, 12 point font with 1” margins, unless otherwise listed.

8. Students with disabilities – Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

9. 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.
Course Assignments

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.

Course Grading Scale (550 points total)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Minimum Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62%</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>59% or less</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assignment Descriptions

Class Participation: 15 Class Days, 10 points per day
Grading: 150 total points possible

This is a discussion-based course. Your presence in class is necessary for not only you, but the entire class, to gain knowledge and insight. Your viewpoint is valued and important. Class attendance will be taken each day. If you are more than 5 minutes late to class, you will not receive participation points for that day. Participation is measured by respect for your peers and a willingness to share. Missed participation points will double for every class more than 3 classes missed during the semester. (Ex. Three classes missed (10 points x 3 = 30 points deducted). Four classes missed (10 points x 3 = 30. 20 points x 1 = 20. 30 + 20 = 50 points deducted). Five classes missed (3 x 10 = 30. 20 x 2 = 40. 30+ 40 = 70 points deducted). If you do not feel comfortable sharing in group, please contact course instructor(s) and alternative arrangements will be discussed.

Reflection Papers and Journal Entries – 1 Reflection Paper & 1 Final Reflection Paper
Grading: 20 points each, 40 points possible

Throughout the class we will discuss many concepts related to cultural and individual awareness. Your personal perspective is important and welcome. Weekly Reflection papers and journal entries are an opportunity to integrate the week’s readings, class discussions, and class activities with your own life experiences. Reflection papers will be uploaded to Canvas.

1. Reflection Paper 1 Instructions (2 pages).
   Reflect on the available UF Resources described during our group presentations over the last few weeks.
   a. Describe which resources may be most helpful to you during your time at UF and why these resources are specifically helpful for you.
   b. Choose 3 resources and create a plan to use these resources between now and the end of Spring semester.

2. Final Reflection Paper Directions
   The final reflection paper is due the last day of class and incorporates any additional information you would like to share with the instructor on the class or what you learned. Questions you might like to include are:
   
   How did you like this class?
   What was your favorite activity/discussion?
   What was your least favorite?
   Suggestions for next semester?
   What did I learn from this class that I will use 10 years from now?
   Any additional ideas or thoughts
Journal Entries
Grading: 20 points each, 60 points possible
Journal entries are another way to express your personal ideas and experiences. Journal entries will be completed in your journal and shared during our 2nd to last class (December 1). Journal entries can include writing, art, poetry, sketching, and/or mixed media. Each journal entry should take approximately 1 hour to complete.

Journal 1: Self and Other Awareness
Describe/create a journal entry that illustrates and describes 2 or more of the following:
   a. How you communicate with others.
   b. What makes you different than others in class.
   c. What makes you similar to others in class.
   d. Ways you would like to grow through taking this class.

Journal 2: Stress and Wellness
Describe/create a journal entry that illustrates and describes 2 or more of the following:
   a. Ways you relieve stress.
   b. Resources/new ways to work with stress you would like to incorporate into your life.
   c. New things/ideas you have learned in/out of class over the last 2 weeks that involve stress management and/or wellness.

Journal 3: Free Write/Express
Describe/create any topic or idea that is pertinent to you and your life right now.

Workshop Success Series
Grading: 30 points possible
Select 1 Workshop listed under the Workshop Success Series list online, attend the workshop, and take a photo of yourself at the workshop. Upload this photo to Canvas by 5:00PM on October 13, 2015 and fill out the Survey Link: http://studentvoice.com/ufl/workshopsuccessseries.

Fall Campus Fair
Grading: 20 points possible
Select one Fall Campus Fair to attend. Access materials (hand outs, swag, brochures, etc.) Take a picture of yourself at the campus fair with these materials and upload to CANVAS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RecStravaganza 2015</td>
<td>August 27</td>
<td>6 p.m. - 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Southwest Recreation Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-Time Job Fair</td>
<td>September 2</td>
<td>10 a.m. - 2 p.m.</td>
<td>JWRU Breezeway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Abroad Fair</td>
<td>September 16</td>
<td>10 a.m. - 3 p.m.</td>
<td>Plaza of Americas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Organization Fair</td>
<td>September 16</td>
<td>10 a.m. - 1 p.m.</td>
<td>JWRU Breezeway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Showcase</td>
<td>September 29 &amp; 30</td>
<td>9 a.m. - 3 p.m.</td>
<td>Stephen C. O'Connell Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate &amp; Professional Schools Fair</td>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>10 a.m. - 2 p.m.</td>
<td>JWRU Grand Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Fair</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>JWRU Breezeway &amp; Northwest Walkway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Organization Fair</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

First Year Florida Syllabus
Group Project/Presentation
Grading: 50 points possible
For this assignment, you will be working with three to four other students in the course. This assignment entails providing a 20 minute presentation and/or discussion outlining a specific type of resource available to students. Feel free to be as creative and unique as you would like! This is YOUR opportunity to lead the class and create a learning environment! Show short movie clips, lead group activities, plan art projects, involve music or motion, and help the class have fun while learning about new resources! We will provide you with a sign-up sheet during the first couple weeks of class so that you and your co-leader(s) can select a date and topic. Additional resources related to this topic are available online or in your College Success Strategies Workbook (Pgs. 201-214).

Book Awareness Paper & Event Attendance
Grading: 50 points possible
Read Double Take: A Memoir by Kevin Michael Connolly, attend 1 Common Reading Program (CRP) Event, and write a 2 page reflection paper describing:
1. Your reaction to Kevin’s story and the CRP event.
2. Ways you related to Kevin’s experiences or stories.
3. Any new awarenesses or understandings you learned from reading this book and/or attending the event.
4. Include a photo image of you attending the Common Reading Program (CRP) Event.

*Note: Attending a CRP event is a mandatory component of FYF. Proof you have attended this event will count towards 20 of the total 50 points for this assignment.*

Budget Assignment
Grading: 50 points possible
Download the sample budget document on Canvas. Take note of all of your purchases made in the month of October via your online debit card/credit card and cash transactions. Fill in a detailed budget outlining the money you have spent over the last month. Answer the following questions. Upload your completed budget document and question answers to Canvas.

Budget Reflection Questions:
1. Within which category did you spend the most money?
2. Within which category did you spend the least amount of money?
3. Did you spend less or more than expected in certain categories?
4. Do you have an intention to spend less money in the future in one or more categories?
5. Reflect on any new awarenesses or understandings you have made by completing this assignment.

Gator CareerLink Profile Activation Assignment
Grading: 50 points possible
Gator CareerLink is the portal to UF resources that can help you explore career paths, find ways to gain experience and begin preparing for your career now! By activating your account, you will have access to all the Career Resource Center’s services including job and internship postings, Career Planning appointments, an online mock interview module, and a calendar of all upcoming events and workshops. Activating your profile as a first-year student allows you to become familiar with the Gator CareerLink system and connects you to the CRC right away.

Part 1: To activate your profile and receive credit for this assignment, follow these simple steps:
1. Go to www.crc.ufl.edu
2. Click on Gator CareerLink Student Login.
3. You will be directed to a UF Authentication page. Type in your GatorLink username and password.
4. Next, click on “My Profile.”
5. Fill out both the Personal and Academic profile as much as possible. You must complete all fields with a red asterisk in order to have an active profile. Make sure to save your information.
6. Once your profile is complete, click on “My Jobs.”
7. Find and print an internship, part-time, full-time or volunteer experience you would be interested in applying for now or in the future. To receive credit for this assignment, turn in the job description to Canvas. You do not actually have to apply for the position- this is just for practice.
Part 2: Create a current resume outlining your name, contact information, objective, education/scholastic achievement, action verbs, leadership, awards/affiliations, and skills. Use information shared during class, speaker presentation, online resources, and College Success Strategies Workbook. **Upload completed document to Canvas.**

If you have problems activating your account, please email GCLHelp@crc.ufl.edu with your name, UF ID # and description of technical problem.

**Class Service Project**
**Grading: 50 points possible**

As a class, we will volunteer for a local service organization on a specific date. **Date and Time: TBA.** Additional details concerning this assignment will be discussed during the first day of class. At that point in time, the syllabus will be updated on Canvas to reflect this information. Points will be awarded based upon attendance of service project event.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 25</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Syllabus and Hello</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>Group Dynamics/Getting to Know You</td>
<td>Icebreaker games &amp; Group Cohesion</td>
<td><em>Bring Journal to Class</em>&lt;br&gt; <em>Double Take: Pgs. 1-26</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 8</td>
<td>Self-Awareness</td>
<td>Portrait activity</td>
<td>*Sign up for Group Projects in Class&lt;br&gt; <em>Double Take: Pgs. 27-46</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>Diversity/Other Awareness</td>
<td>Diversity Surprise Activity!</td>
<td>*Double Take: Pgs. 47-80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 22</td>
<td>Communication/Relationships</td>
<td>Communication Activity</td>
<td><em>Journal Activity: Self and Other Awareness Due</em>&lt;br&gt; <em>Double Take: Pgs. 81-96</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 29</td>
<td>Resources I: Organizations/Academic</td>
<td>Group Project Presentations Group 1&amp; 2</td>
<td>*(Start Researching Budget info for month of October)&lt;br&gt; <em>Double Take: Pgs. 97-130</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 6</td>
<td>Resources II: Organizations/Academic</td>
<td>Group Project Presentations Group 3 &amp; 4</td>
<td><em>Fall Campus Fair Attendance Due</em>&lt;br&gt; <em>Double Take: Pgs. 131-154</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 13</td>
<td>Resources III: Organizations/Academic</td>
<td>Group Project Presentations Group 4 &amp; 5</td>
<td><em>Workshop Success Series Attendance Due</em>&lt;br&gt; <em>Double Take: Pgs. 155-172</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 20</td>
<td>Wellness Resources &amp; Stress Management</td>
<td>Stress &amp; Wellness Group Activity</td>
<td><em>Reflection Paper 1 Due</em>&lt;br&gt; <em>Double Take: Pgs. 173-200</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 27</td>
<td>Wellness Continued</td>
<td>Stress &amp; Wellness Group Activity Continued</td>
<td><em>Journal Activity: Stress and Wellness Due</em>&lt;br&gt; <em>Double Take: Pgs. 201-229</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 3</td>
<td>Time Management</td>
<td>Clock Activity</td>
<td><em>Book Awareness Paper &amp; CRP Event Attendance Due</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 10</td>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>Budget Activity</td>
<td><em>October Budget Assignment Due</em>&lt;br&gt; <em>Journal # 3: Free Write/Express Due</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 17</td>
<td>Resume</td>
<td>Resume Discussion</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>November 24</td>
<td>Class Votes on Topic Today</td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Resume Assignment Due</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>What I’ve Learned/Who Am I?</td>
<td>Self-Reflection Activity</td>
<td><em>Journals Due (Checked in Class)</em>&lt;br&gt; <em>Online Course Evaluations</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 8</td>
<td>Good Bye Celebration and Potluck</td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Final Reflection paper Due</em>&lt;br&gt; <em>Online Course Evaluations</em></td>
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</tbody>
</table>