Course Time and Location:

Instructor: 
Office: 
Office Hours: 
Office Phone: 
E-mail: 

Course description: Freshman Seminar is a comprehensive course designed to enhance the opportunities for success for first year students. The goals of the course include encouraging habitual application of proven learning strategies as implemented through AVID in interdisciplinary and internationally focused academic study, increasing awareness of academic and student life resources, and developing proactive and social behavior. These insights and behaviors will help you successfully complete specific academic assignments in your classes and remain in good academic standing at TAMU-K. Course assignments require in-depth analysis and application and include extended readings, internet assignments, class discussions, and consistent student-instructor interaction and feedback concerning course content.

The course is required for all entering freshmen and transfer students with fewer than 20 semester credit hours. Students will not be allowed to drop this course.

Required Text


Common Read Information

Book Title: Burro Genius: A Memoir
Author: Victor Villasenor
ISBN #: 978-0060526139

Required Course Resource Materials:

- TAMUK Student Handbook
- Texas A&M-Kingsville Honor Code
  *3rd Floor of SUB-Office of the Dean of Students (Must present Student I.D.)

Required Technologies:

- A&M-Kingsville Email Account
- A&M-Kingsville Blackboard Account
**Course learning objectives:**

Students will be able to:
1) Identify the essential components necessary for a successful transition to Texas A&M University-Kingsville
2) Identify campus support networks that are key to student success at Texas A&M University-Kingsville
3) Contribute to a positive learning environment that will increase student engagement at Texas A&M University-Kingsville

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Student Learning Outcome:</th>
<th>Assessment:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Chapter 1 | Students will develop a set of powerful success strategies that can be used immediately to get off to a fast start in college and can use these skills throughout the college experience to achieve success. | • Journal Entry  
• Out of Class Assignment 1.1: Construct a Master List of Campus Resources  
• Case Study (optional) |
| Chapter 2 | Students will appreciate the meaning, purpose, and benefits of the liberal arts and will develop a strategic plan for making the most out of general education. | • Journal Entry  
• Out of Class Assignment 2.2: General Education Planning Form  
• Case study (optional) |
| Chapter 3 | Students will identify the key steps involved in setting and reaching personal goals, self-motivational strategies, and inner qualities. | • Journal Entry  
• Out of Class Assignment 3.1, 3.2, & 3.3: Goal Setting Written Assignments  
• Case Study (optional) |
| Chapter 4 | Students will understand the significance of managing time and learn a powerful set of time-management strategies that can be used to promote success in college and beyond. | • Journal Entry  
• Out of Class Assignment 4.1: Term at a Glance & 4.2: Personal Time Inventory |
| Chapter 5 | Students will understand the three key stages of the learning process with the help of a set of powerful strategies that promotes deep, durable, and retrievable learning. | • Case Study (optional) |
| Chapter 6 | Students will differentiate among the most commonly used tools to evaluate performance in college and systematic sets of test-taking strategies to improve test performance. | • Journal Entry  
• Out of Class Assignment 6.1: Mid-Term Self Evaluation & 6.2: Calculating your Midterm Grade Point Average  
• Case Study (optional) |
| Chapter 13 | Students will be able to acquire strategies for physical wellness that can be applied to promote success during the first year of college and preserve wellness during your later years in college and beyond. | • Case Study (optional)  
• Out of Class Assignment (Extra Credit): E-Check up for Alcohol & E-Toke certificate of completion |
**Grading:** Your final grade for the course is assigned according to the total points you receive for all activities and assignments. The grading scale for this class is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Points Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>200 to 180</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>179 to 160</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>159 to 140</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>139 to 120</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>119 to 0</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Course Requirements – 200 Total Possible Points**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirement</th>
<th>Assigned Points</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Attendance</td>
<td>20 points</td>
<td>• Students are required to attend class twice a week for 50 minutes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>***Students will be penalized 2 points each time they have an unexcused absence for class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer Mentoring Attendance</td>
<td>20 Points</td>
<td>• Students are required to meet with an assigned peer mentor 10 weeks out of the 16 week semester. The student must meet for a minimum of 30 minutes per session.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>***Students will be penalized 2 points each time they have an unexcused absence for peer mentoring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out of Class Assignments and Journal Entries</td>
<td>20 points</td>
<td>• Students will have a total of 5 out of class assignments and 5 journal entries worth 2 points each.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(These can be done with the assistance of a Peer Mentor. Whatever students do not finish with their mentor is homework.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshman Convocation/Fajita Fiesta Attendance</td>
<td>5 points</td>
<td>• Students will be required to attend the Freshman Fajita Fiesta/Convocation worth 5 points.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(September 3, 2013)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus Event Reports</td>
<td>10 points</td>
<td>• Students will be assigned 2 campus event reports worth 5 points each.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>5 points</td>
<td>• Students will be assigned 1 mid-term exam worth 5 points.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>10 points</td>
<td>• Students will be assigned 1 final exam worth 10 points.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Learning Project</td>
<td>10 points</td>
<td>• Students will be expected to contribute to 1 service learning project worth 10 points.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructor Requirements</td>
<td>100 points</td>
<td>***Each instructor will be responsible for developing a point scale for the remaining 100 points at their discretion.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Updated: August 2013*
**Additional Information:**

**Late Work:** Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the designated due date. If an assignment is not ready at the beginning of class on its designated due date, it is late. If you must be absent on a day an assignment is due, arrange to turn in the assignment early or secure prior permission for an extension. Late assignments are approved only in the rarest of circumstances. Please do not compound the problem of a late assignment by not coming to class.

**Writing Assignments:** All outside-of-class work must be submitted **typed**. You must use Times New Roman, 12 point font. Margins (top, bottom, and sides) should be set at one inch.

**Peer Mentoring Attendance:** Students will sign up to meet with a peer mentor **10 out of the 16** weeks during the semester for a minimum of 30 minutes with the following guidelines:

1. If you need to miss an individual meeting, you must contact your student mentor during the week of the missed meeting and reschedule the meeting.
2. Meetings once a week are required and must be rescheduled for **THE SAME WEEK** in order to get credit towards attendance.

The peer mentoring program promotes student success by coordinating an array of services that are responsive to our students’ needs. A peer mentor is assigned to each incoming student and will meet individually with the student for the first year. These weekly 30 minute meetings will cover a variety of topics and will also allow the new students a resource for any questions they may have. For more information please visit [http://www.tamuk.edu/studentsuccess/GPS.html](http://www.tamuk.edu/studentsuccess/GPS.html).

**Class Attendance:** Students will be required to meet twice a week for 50 minutes.

**Tardy:** Students who arrive to class ten minutes after the scheduled time for the class to begin will be counted as absent.

**Excused Absence:** If students know in advance that they will miss class for an excused absence, they must contact the instructor and make arrangements for missed work. Excused absences may include:

1. **Official** University activities, religious holy days, serious illness of the student, death in the immediate family (spouse, child, parent, grandparent, sibling, aunt, or uncle), and/or a verifiable seriously impairing accident involving the student.
2. For every absence, the student must present an excuse in **WRITING** with appropriate **verifiable** documentation to the instructor at the time the student returns to class.

**NOTE:**
If you have to be absent, it is still your responsibility to submit homework and missing daily assignments. Get the phone number and email of at least two classmates right now, so that you can keep informed of all the latest developments:

Name: ___________________________

Email: ___________________________

Name: ___________________________

Email: ___________________________
Disability statement:
Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in class, should register with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal laws, a student requesting special accommodations must provide documentation of their disability to the SSD coordinator. For more information, call (361) 593-3024 or visit Life Services and Wellness.

Academic misconduct statement:
You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Make sure you are familiar with your Student Handbook, especially the section on academic misconduct. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures.

Forms of academic dishonesty:
1) Cheating: deception in which a student misrepresents that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he/she has not mastered; giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the instructor on assignments or examinations.
2) Academic misconduct: tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a scheduled test.
3) Fabrication: use of invented information or falsified research.
4) Plagiarism: unacknowledged quotation and/or paraphrase of someone else’s words, ideas, or data as one’s own in work submitted for credit. Failure to identify information or essays from the Internet and submitting them as one’s own work also constitutes plagiarism.
5) Please be aware that the University subscribes to the Turnitin plagiarism detection service. Your paper may be submitted to this service at the discretion of the instructor.

Other Forms of academic misconduct:
1) Failure to follow published departmental guidelines, professor’s syllabi, and other posted academic policies in place for the orderly and efficient instruction of classes, including laboratories, and use of academic resources or equipment.
2) Unauthorized possession of examinations, reserved library materials, laboratory materials or other course related materials.
3) Failure to follow the instructor or proctor’s test-taking instructions, including but not limited to not setting aside notes, books or study guides while the test is in progress, failing to sit in designated locations and/or leaving the classroom/test site without permission during a test.
4) Prevention of the convening, continuation or orderly conduct of any class, lab or class activity. Engaging in conduct that interferes with or disrupts university teaching, research or class activities such as making loud and distracting noises, repeatedly answering cell phone/text messaging or allowing pagers to beep, exhibiting erratic or irrational behavior, persisting in speaking without being recognized, repeatedly leaving and entering the classroom or test site without authorization, and making physical threats or verbal insults to the faculty member, or other students and staff.
5) Falsification of student transcript or other academic records; or unauthorized access to academic computer records.
6) Nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other university records.
7) Any action which may be deemed as unprofessional or inappropriate in the professional community of the discipline being studied.

Non-academic misconduct:
The university respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires campus conditions that do not impede their exercise. Campus behavior that interferes with either
1) The instructor's ability to conduct the class
2) The inability of other students to profit from the instructional program, or
3) Campus behavior that interferes with the rights of others will not be tolerated.
An individual engaging in such disruptive behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Such incidents will be adjudicated by the Dean of Students under non-academic procedures.

Harassment/Discrimination:
Texas A&M University-Kingsville will investigate all complaints that indicate sexual harassment, harassment, or discrimination may have occurred by the facts given by the complainant. Sexual harassment of anyone at Texas A&M University-Kingsville is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action. A person who believes he/she has been the victim of sexual harassment, harassment, or discrimination may pursue either the informal or the formal complaint resolution procedure. A complaint may be initially made to the complainant's immediate supervisor, a department head, any supervisory employee, the Dean of Students (593-3606), or the Office of Compliance (593-4758). Regardless of who the complaint is filed with, the Compliance Office will be notified of the complaint so it can be investigated.

Six-drop policy:
If you are a freshman and you are enrolled in college for the first time Fall 2007 or later following graduation from high school, you are affected by this law. Senate Bill 1231 limits the number of courses that you may drop during your undergraduate career to six drops. If you need additional information on Senate Bill 1231 and how it affects you, please contact the Registrar's Office in College Hall, Room 105.

Updated: August 2013