Learning in a Global Context - UNIV 1102
Course Syllabus
Spring 2015

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 TEXTS
Course Text: ISBN #:978-1-4652-1074-6


REQUIRED COURSE RESOURCE MATERIALS
TAMU-K Student Handbook
TAMU-K Honor Code
*You may obtain these resources at the 3rd Floor of SUB-Dean of Student’s Office (Must present Student I.D.)*

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGIES
TAMU-K Email Account
TAMU-K Blackboard Account
*For iTech tutorials, go to http://www.tamuk.edu/iTech/student_resources/tutorial_vids.html*
COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to...

- Identify the essential components necessary for a successful transition to TAMU-K
- Identify campus support networks key to student success at TAMU-K
- Contribute to a positive learning environment that will increase student engagement at TAMU-K

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be able to...

- Collect and organize ideas of others through effective sustainability research
- Articulate their ideas effectively through writing and speaking assignments
- Utilize higher level thinking strategies in college activities and assignments
- Apply social and emotional awareness to personal and professional relationships
- Appreciate the spectrum of diversity on campus and in the community
- Prepare an academic plan that best enables them to achieve their personal and occupational goals
- Identify strategies, networks, and opportunities that will effectively prepare them for their chosen field
- Experiment with strategies for physical wellness that will promote success during college and beyond
- Integrate strengths-based themes into relationships, careers and leadership

*Assessment of the learning outcomes will be determined based on class participation, pre- and post-course surveys, performance on written and oral assignments, and/or exams (tests, quizzes).

GRADING

A final grade for the course is assigned according to total points received for all activities and assignments. The grading scale for this class is as follows:

- **A** - 200 total points to 180 total points
- **B** - 179 total points to 160 total points
- **C** - 159 total points to 140 total points
- **D** - 139 total points to 120 total points
- **F** - 119 total points to 0 total points
## COURSE REQUIREMENTS  200 Total Possible Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ATTENDANCE</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class</td>
<td>30</td>
<td><strong>CLASS ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT:</strong> Attend class twice a week for 50 minutes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPS Mentoring</td>
<td>20</td>
<td><strong>GPS MENTORING REQUIREMENT:</strong> Meet with an assigned mentor 10 times/once a week for 30 minutes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelsey Timmerman (Common Read Author)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>February 25, 2015 (Wednesday) 6 p.m.—Jones Auditorium; Book Signing to follow ATTENDANCE REQUIRED</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Two (2) points will be deducted for each unexcused absence for class or GPS mentoring.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARTICIPATION</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Campus Events | 15     | Attend 3 campus events—worth 5 points each—one for each area:  
|               |        | a) Social Event (CAB, student organizations, athletics, etc.); 
|               |        | b) Health & Wellness Event ("Freshmen Gone Wild" or "Step Up", etc.); 
|               |        | c) Professional Event (career presentation/fair, prof. workshops, etc.) |
| Sustainability / Service Learning | 15 | Contribute to one service learning/sustainability project with UNIV course peers |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Assignments/Assessments/Quizzes | 40 Points | 10 points for each Assignment  
|               |        | 1. Assignment 12.1 Conducting an Information Interview (p. 328)  
|               |        | 2. Assignment 12.2: Creating Resume, Cover Letter, Personal Statement  
|               |        | 3. Assignment 10.2: Intercultural Interview (p.273)  
|               |        | 4. Assignment 9.1 Identifying Ways of Handling Interpersonal Conflict & 9.2: College Stress-Identifying Potential Sources and Possible Solutions (p.241) |
| StrengthsQuest Modules | 30 | Complete 3 modules worth 10 pts. each:  
|               |        | 1) Strengths in Career, 2) Strengths in Relationships,  
|               |        | 3) Strengths Based Service/Leadership |
| Common Read Part IV - Part V | 10 | Complete 2 *Where Am I Wearing* assignments worth 5 pts. each  
|               |        | *Assignment descriptions provided by instructor |
| Library Research | 10 | Students will visit the library to learn about researching and online databases and complete the Librarian’s assignment. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXAMS</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Students will complete a Mid-Term project/assessment worth 10 points.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Students will complete a Final project/assessment worth 15 points.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*See Due-Dates on Course Schedule*
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Late Work:
Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day assigned. If it is not ready at the beginning of class, 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 font with font size no larger than 12 points. Margins (top, bottom, sides) should be set at one inch.

GPS Mentoring Attendance:
Students will sign up to meet with a mentor ten times, once a week 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 mentoring program promotes student success by coordinating an array of services that are responsive to our students’ needs. A GPS mentor is assigned to each incoming student and will meet individually with the student for the first year. These 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 the following website:
http://www.tamuk.edu/studentsuccess/mentoring.html

Class Attendance:
Students will be required to meet twice a week for 50 minutes.
Tardy: Students who arrive at class ten minutes after the scheduled time for the class to begin may be counted as absent. The instructor has the discretion to excuse such absences if, at the end of the class meeting, the students provide to the instructor satisfactory explanation for their tardiness.

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 that will be willing to help you stay informed of course information:

Name: ___________________ Number: _______________ Email___________________

Name: ___________________ Number: _______________ Email___________________

Updated: January 26, 2015
SPECIAL NOTES

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/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: January 26, 2015