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FIRST YEAR FLORIDA

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**SLS1102: First Year Florida  
Section: Enhancing the First-Gen Experience**

**Wednesdays, Period 7 (1:55-2:45); Turlington B310**

**Instructor**



Sheraz Iqbal  
Instructor  
Graduate Intern, Office of  
First-Generation Student Success  
Office: 155 Tigert Hall  
Phone: 352-392-1265  
Email: sherazi@ufsa.ufl.edu

**Peer Leader**



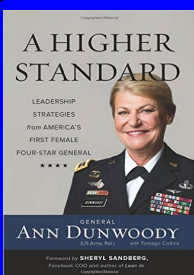
Tazianna Elysée  
Peer Leader  
BS English, 2018  
Email: tazianna@ufl.edu

**OFFICE HOURS: By appointment only**



## 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.



### *A Higher Standard*

Author: Ann Dunwoody

Provided at Preview

### Text:

### *College Success Strategies*

2015-2016 Edition, Author: Nist

Available at the UF Bookstore

F-Book



## TECHNOLOGY:

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. If you have technological issues with Canvas, it is your responsibility to contact instructors ahead of assigned deadlines.

## 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

**PARTICIPATION:**

As college students, you will be treated and respected as an adult. You are encouraged to share your ideas and express your opinions in class and you will be expected to respect other's opinions and values as well. You are expected to do your best work, meet assignment deadlines, and treat other members of the class and the University with courtesy and respect. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Cell phones must be off or on silent before entering class.

**ABSENCE/LATE POLICY:**

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 approximately 30% of your grade and 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. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: [tps://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx).

**RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING:**

Everyone in this course deserves to be treated with the utmost respect. Throughout our class discussions and activities you will be expected to be respectful of one another and of the presenters. Throughout the semester we will be discussing some challenging issues, and it is essential that you remain open-minded and respectful. We encourage everyone to share their opinions and beliefs, but students must not express those in a way that may be offensive or disparaging to others.

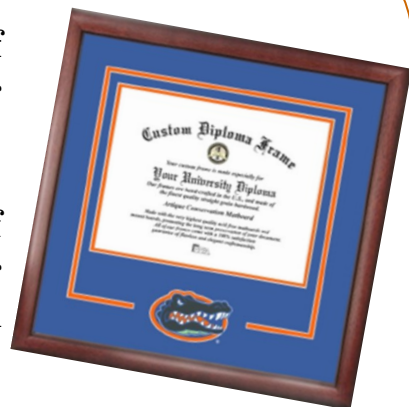
**U Matter, We Care Initiative:**

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care Initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another, and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing Staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

## ACADEMIC HONOR SYSTEM:

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 of 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."



Please note that violations of the Academic Honor System will not be tolerated. Before submitting any work for this class, please read the policies about academic honesty at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honestybrochure.htm>, and ask the instructor to clarify any of its expectations that 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 requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodations. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

## GRADING:

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>. Below is the course grading scale:

94-100 (A); 90-93 (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)

## COURSE TOPIC OUTLINE:

Date/Topic	Reading To Be Discussed	Assignment Due This Day
August 24 <b>Overview</b>	• A Higher Standard, Ch. 1	None
August 31 <b>Discover UF</b>	Nist. Appendices Team Discussion {Insert name}	• A Higher Standard, Ch. 2
September 7 <b>Involvement Fair</b>	<i>Meet at the Involvement Fair</i>	• <i>Complete Academic Integrity and Alcohol Education Module</i>
September 14 <b>Academic Workshop</b>	Nist. Ch. 11 Team Discussion {Insert name}	• Reflection Journal One • A Higher Standard, Ch. 3
September 21 <b>Budgeting</b>	Nist. pp. 220-226 Team Discussion {Insert name}	• A Higher Standard, Ch. 4 • <i>Estimate how much money you have for every month</i>
September 28 <b>Stress</b>	Nist. Ch. 9 Team Discussion {Insert name}	• A Higher Standard, Ch. 5 • <i>Bring in two ways you try to relax</i>
October 5 <b>UF Traditions</b>	F-Book Team Discussion {Insert name}	• A Higher Standard, Ch. 6
October 12 <b>Reitz Tour</b>	<i>Meet at the Reitz Union (Starbucks)</i>	• Reflection Journal Two
October 19 <b>Involvement Panel</b>	Team Discussion {Insert name}	• A Higher Standard, Ch. 7 • <i>Bring two questions about campus involvement, time management, or academic success</i>
October 26 <b>Off-Campus Life</b>	Team Discussion {Insert name}	• Faculty Interview Assignment • A Higher Standard, Ch. 8
November 2 <b>First-Generation Organization</b>	Team Discussion {Insert name}	• A Higher Standard, Ch. 9
November 9 <b>Career Resource Center</b>	<i>Meet at the CRC</i> Nist. pp. 236-242	• Create Gator CareerLink Account • Reflection Journal Three
November 16 <b>UMatter We Care</b>	Team Discussion {Insert name}	• A Higher Standard, Ch. 10
November 23 <b>Thanksgiving Break</b>	<i>No Class</i>	• Service Learning Project Reaction Paper • <i>Work on Final Project</i>
November 30 <b>Mystery</b>	Team Discussion {Insert name}	• A Higher Standard, Ch. 11
December 7 <b>Finals/Wrap-Up</b>		• <b>Final Project</b>



### Assignments:

Assignments	Point Value	Due Dates
In-class attendance, participation, and preparedness (ie alumni map, sample budget, questions for presenters) (15 classes @ 5 pts. each class)	75	Thursdays @ 1:55PM
Two Double Take Team Discussion (15 pts. Each)	30	Assigned
20 minute appointment w/ Leslie or Sheraz	15	Before Spring Break
Common Reading Program	20	TDB
SAI Involvement Fair	15	September 7
Reflection Journals (3 papers @ 10 pts. each)	30	September 14 October 12 November 16
Faculty Interview	30	October 26
Gator Career Link Assignment	30	November 16
Service Learning Project	30	November 30
Final Project	50	December 7
Extra Credit:	+10	TBD
<b>Total Points Possible</b>	<b>325</b>	

### 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 Instructors.

## Assignment Explanation:

### **A Higher Standard Team Discussion** (30 points)

You and a partner will be assigned specific chapters from the book, *A Higher Standard*, and facilitate a class discussion between 5-10 minutes about what the reading covered

### **20-Minute Appointment with Instructors** (15 points each)

First meeting between September 5 and October 3

Second meeting Between October 3 to November 24

To receive 15 points (each), please schedule a meeting with each instructor. The first meeting, please be prepared to discuss what are you looking forward to during this semester and what are you apprehensive about.

The second meeting, please bring a copy of your resume. Refer to pages 235-236 in your textbook for resume writing information. Also be prepared to discuss some goals that you have for your UF career. During this meeting, you will get to know one of your instructors as well as receive feedback about your resume.

### **Common Reading Programs/Workshop Success Series**

(20pts CRP/15pts WSS)

You must attend the Common Reading Program (CRP) and one workshop from the Workshop Success Series (WSS). If you cannot attend a mandatory event and have been granted an excused absence, you must attend an alternative event that you suggest and that is pre-approved by Leslie or Sheraz. Please bring your Gator 1 ID card to the CRP events to document attendance. 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.

**Date of CRP:** <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/nsfp/first-year-experience/crp/events-crp/>

## Assignment Explanation:

### **Service Learning Project** (30 points)

This will be a great opportunity for you to get involved with your new community and begin to give back to the city of Gainesville. We will be going as an entire class and you are expected to attend unless you are granted an excused absence in which case you will be required to complete a service project with another FYF class (see below for further details).

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. The service project will have two components: the actual project and the reaction.

*Reaction* (10 points) (at least one page, no more than 2)

Due by November 30, submitted on Canvas

We want to know what you’re taking away from completing this service project. In what ways did you make a difference? How did you contribute to other’s learning through this project? What did you learn about the community? Do you anticipate weaving service projects into your time at UF?

### **Reflection Journals** (10 points each)

Three papers will be assigned throughout the semester. Refer to Canvas page for more details. Each assignment will be slightly different in nature. You will submit the reflection papers on the Canvas site.



## Assignment Explanation:

### **Gator CareerLink Profile Assignment** (30 points)

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 your, follow these simple steps:

Go to [www.crc.ufl.edu](http://www.crc.ufl.edu)

Click on Gator CareerLink Student Login.

You will be directed to a UF Authentication page. Type in your GatorLink username and password.

Next, click on "My Profile."

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.

Once your profile is complete, click on "My Jobs."

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 printed job description to your FYF instructor. You do not actually have to apply for the position- this is just for practice.

**Part 2:** Instructor can personalize to do a Career Focused lesson plan, activity or have students attend specific services within the Career Resource Center. Please update with your preferences.

*If you have problems activating your account, please email  
[GCLHelp@crc.ufl.edu](mailto:GCLHelp@crc.ufl.edu) with your name, UF ID # and description of technical  
problem*

## Assignment Explanation:

### Faculty Interview (30 Points)

For this assignment, you must interview a faculty member who teaches in a discipline of interest to you. Don't forget to take a picture with the faculty member for your photo portfolio. On October 26 you will turn in your summary using Canvas.

Your name \_\_\_\_\_ Professor's name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of interview \_\_\_\_\_ Subject area \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) How did you choose your particular field? How old were you when you decided to go into it? Did you ever want to do anything else?
- 2) Where did you go to school? What activities were you involved in?
- 3) What do you like best about teaching? What do you like the least?
- 4) Do you have a philosophy of teaching?
- 5) What were your greatest concerns when you were a freshman?
- 6) How do you think the freshman experience has changed since you were a freshman?
- 7) What skills do you think students must have in order to succeed in college?
- 8) How would you describe the ideal student?

Please include 3 additional questions that you develop

Summary: Please summarize (in a few well-developed paragraphs) your experience of interviewing this faculty member. Was it what you thought it would be? What did you learn from this experience? Was there anything that surprised you?

## Assignment Explanation:

### Final Project (50 points)

At the end of the semester, you will turn in your First-Year Florida final project highlighting your experience in this class and during your first semester of college.

This assignment requires that you show us how you have chosen to meet 3 of the objectives listed below:

- ◆ Engagement (with UF faculty/staff, mentor, fellow students, etc.)
- ◆ Awareness and respect for diversity
- ◆ Involvement
- ◆ Knowledge of resources
- ◆ Active engagement in one's own learning
- ◆ A healthy lifestyle
- ◆ An understanding of UF expectations

In covering (3) objectives, we would like for you to think from the standpoint of an incoming freshman. Your project should reflect what you have learned and should also be a tool in advising a new UF student what they can expect and how to get the most from their experience from this course.

For this assignment we would like you to be as creative as possible and we will require you do some sort of digital project. You may use one or many incorporated mediums to create your portfolio and display what you have learned in this class and during the course of the semester. For example:

- 1) You may create a 2-3 minute video highlighting what you've learned
- 2) You may develop a PowerPoint with photos, descriptions, as well as audio
- 3) Write a script for a 2-3 minute video (equates to 2-3 page double-spaced, courier font, 1 inch margins). Include another 1-2 page description about the video of what screen shots you would use if producing the video. Also include pictures (hard copy) that you would incorporate.
- 4) Put together a scrapbook indicating what you have learned

## Assignment Explanation:

### Final Project (continued)

Regardless of the medium you choose, the final project must be comprehensive and include the following:

- 1) Referencing at least three of the objectives above and clearly explain what you learned about the objectives during this class or during your first semester as a whole.
- 2) A summary of the value of First-Year Florida.
- 3) At least three pieces of advice for a future first-generation student.

You may choose to work individually or with one other classmate to produce an outstanding final project.

Remember, this is a compilation of your whole semester – therefore, you must be working on this the entire semester, not the day before it is due! Please do not hesitate to ask questions regarding this project, as we want to help you produce something you are proud of.

**Top projects** will likely be highlighted on the First-Generation Student Success website so please turn in your best work.