



RSP 111.001
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall, 2014

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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials :

There are no required textbooks for RSP 111. However, this course will require outside reading and you will be responsible for research projects throughout the semester.

Course Description:

RSP 111 serves the purpose of First-Year Success Seminar for the Regents' Scholars Program. The course helps new students make the adjustment to the demands of a university environment. In the context of Regents' Scholars, RSP 111 prepares students specifically for the demands of the program by: 1.) building a sense of community within the program; 2.) increasing awareness of global issues and events; 3.) introducing and implementing leadership practices and theories and 4.) introducing students to the idea of being change agents of the institution. Student should also leave RSP 111 with a greater sense of self, personal values and strengths.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will explore multiple dimensions of significant international problems through group research.
2. Students will develop individual research skills and their capacity for effective reasoning and critical thinking.
3. Students will demonstrate proficiency at gathering, synthesizing and presenting information visually and orally.
4. Students will explore multiple theories of leadership and develop an awareness of their own particular leadership style and personal strengths.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments:

Instructional Methods: Class consists of various styles of presentations, activities and interactions. Do not expect a lecture course but rather open discussion and activities accompanied by some material delivered in a traditional format. In RSP 111, students will be active participants regardless of the mode of instruction. Students should come to class ready to participate, both in terms of preparation as assigned and attitude toward class and colleagues.

Participation: Students must attend all class sessions unless they are able to present a valid University-recognized excuse with documentation. Though ninety percent of life is showing up, we want RSP students to demonstrate strength in the other ten percent; going the extra mile through active involvement and contribution to the class. You will be asked to stretch your comfort zones, engaging with your peers and the critical reflection of concepts and ideas presented in class. Active participation is expected. Should a student habitually miss class, documented or undocumented, the instructor has the right to begin docking the student's final grade, up to 3 points, for each unexcused absence. (10%)

Individual Presentation- tbd (15%)

In-Class Activities: This course is an activity-based course and most activities will be in class. Students are expected to fully engage in the day-to-day activities of the course, not just being present but participating. In-class activities are worth **75%** of your course grade will be determined by activities inside and outside of the classroom.

Global Competency Aptitude Assessment (5%)

StrengthsQuest Assessment (5%)

ePortfolio set-up & updated resume (15%)

Campus Events Reflections (10% x 3 events)

House Activity (5%)

Values Auction Reflection (10%)

Grading

Students' course grade will be calculated according to the following scale:

A = EXCELLENT	90-100
B = GOOD	80-89.9
C = AVERAGE	70-79.9
D = POOR	60-69.9
F = FAILURE	<60

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Instructor will expect each of you to participate in the class discussion/activities, as well as to carry your own weight in the group work activities. Office hours are available outside of class by appointment. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Attendance: Attendance is part of your participation grade for RSP 111. Excused absences include participation in a University-sponsored event, illness accompanied by a doctor's note, death in the student's immediate family, a verifiable court appearance OR any other similar circumstance in the view of the instructor. Excuses must be turned in, in writing, to the instructors upon return to class.

Social Contract: Early in the semester class members and instructors will delineate a set of classroom norms and rules that will govern class meetings. These will be the rules of conduct in RSP 111. All course members will agree to abide by the contract issued by the class.

Supplemental Instructions: In the course of your work on your individual project, you will be given additional written instructions that govern the look, content and scope of your project. These supplemental instructions have the same force as the syllabus for grading purposes.

Classroom Decorum: Because we will be dealing with controversial cotemporary social issues, and open mind and a mature attitude are important requirements for the course. Students are expected to be polite and courteous at all times. Courtesy also includes remaining off your cell phone once class begins. All persons entering the classroom shall be treated with dignity and respect regardless of age, race, sex, social class, religion, political views, sexual orientation, and/or lifestyle.

University Specific Procedures:

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library

Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week 1: Introductions, Syllabus & Class Picture

Week 2: Global Competency Aptitude Assessment & Social Contract

Week 3: Strengths Quest Activities- Individual & Group

Week 4: My Own Story Introduction, Start of Presentations

Week 5: Philosophical Chairs & Campus Resources/SQ

Week 6: Wellness Model Intro and Emotional Wellness

Week 7: Occupational and Social Wellness (ePortfolio & Career Development)

Week 8: Introduction to Values

Week 9: Communication

Week 10: Community Building Projects

Week 11: Stereotypes/ Global Awareness

Week 12: TBD

Week 13: Goal Setting & Motivation

Week 14: Final Presentation

Week 15: Final Presentations