



RSP 112
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2015

"Personal transformation can and does have global effects. As we go, so goes the world, for the world is us. The revolution that will save the world is ultimately a personal one."

- Marianne Williamson

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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

There are no required textbooks for RSP 112. However, this course will require extensive outside research and/or handouts/readings provided in class.

Course Description:

RSP 112 serves as a continuation of RSP 111, the 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 112 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 that they are change agents of the institution. This course will allow students to explore individual aspects of leadership development and theory while focusing on their strengths.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- 1.) Students will explore multiple dimensions of a 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. In RSP 112, 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. 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. **Participation is worth 20% of the course grade** and will be documented through in-class activities, reflections and discussions.

Group Presentation: The majority of the semester will be spent in small groups conducting research on a chosen topic. Topics will center on a global issue to be investigated and presented to peers, colleagues and university staff/faculty. The assignment will be broken down into several steps. Various aspects of the group presentation and research will total **80% of your course grade**.

Final presentations will be April 30th and May 1st in the SRSC.

Grading

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

A = EXCELLENT	90-100 Points
B = GOOD	80-89 Points
C = AVERAGE	70-79 Points
D = POOR	60-69 Points
F = FAILURE	less than 60 Points

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Instructors 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.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Attendance: Attendance is part of your participation grade for RSP 112. 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. 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%)

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

Student Conduct:

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).