



RSP 111.001
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2015

Instructors: Jennifer Hudson
Office Location: One Stop Shop 139
Office Hours: By appointment, please
Office Phone: 903-468-8686
Office Fax: 903-468-6077
Email Address: Jennifer.Hudson@tamuc.edu

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:

As with all first-year experience courses, this course is designed to broaden your skills and knowledge in 4 major areas:

LIFE SKILLS:

Activities and readings in this area focus especially on improving your understanding of the impact of establishing personal goals, your ability to manage time and set priorities, your decisionmaking and goal setting skills, your understanding of financial responsibility, your skills in working in groups, and your knowledge of wellness.

STRATEGIES FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS:

Assignments and exercises in this dimension emphasize critical thinking skills including the ability to see multiple sides of issues, identify solutions to complex problems, and evaluate the quality of opinions and facts, study skills including an understanding of your

academic strengths and learning styles; test preparation skills, research skills and finding items through the library; oral presentation skills and writing abilities, and the use of technology.

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS:

Coursework in this area seeks to expand your interaction with faculty and peers including your understanding of faculty expectations of students, your willingness to seek feedback from instructors, and your communications with instructors outside class as well as your efforts to get to know students in classes, your ability to meet new people with common interests, and your ability to establish close friendships with peers. In addition assignments will address your knowledge of campus policies, resources, and academic services specifically college/university rules regarding academic honesty, the grading system, academic probation policies, registration procedures, financial aid procedures, tutoring and advising services, and student success resources. Finally, experiences in the class will promote your involvement in on- and off-campus events and civic engagement activities

FOUNDATIONS OF GLOBAL LEARNING:

Readings, experiences, and assignments in this dimension of our course learning outcomes will address issues of ethics, leadership, citizenship, diversity and inclusiveness, and global perspectives

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%)

Journal- Each student will be responsible for maintaining a journal and turning it in at scheduled times. Entry prompts will be given throughout class. **(20% total)**

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 **70%** 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 (5%)

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*).