



**UNCO 111.001
Course Syllabus Fall 2015**

Instructors: R. Gabrielle McCormick, Honors College Graduate Assistant
Dr. Raymond Green, Dean of the Honors College

Time & Location: MW 10:00 -10:50 a.m., MRC 124

Office Location: Prairie Crossing

Office Hours: By appointment

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COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook and Other Necessities:

Moore, W. (2010). *The other Wes Moore: One name, two fates*. New York, NY: Spiegel & Grau Trade Paperbacks. ISBN: 978-0-385-52820-7.

This course will also require additional outside reading and activities throughout the semester.

Course Description:

First-Year Experience is a one-hour, required course for Leo Scholars. It is designed to create an easier college transition by assisting students in developing important academic, intellectual, and social skills. The course is outlined to strengthen the college and career foundations of students. Assignments and activities are intended to prepare students for the demands of the Leo Scholars program by: 1. Building a sense of community amongst peers; 2. Increasing student awareness of various components of the university and Commerce communities; 3. Introducing and implementing leadership practices; 4. Developing professional skills for employment upon graduation.

Student Learning Outcomes:

The following represent the learning outcomes by which students will be evaluated during the course.

- 1) Students will demonstrate critical thinking by asking and answering higher level questions and solving increasingly complex problems.
- 2) Students will improve their listening, speaking, writing, and reading skills.
- 3) Students will demonstrate habits of the mind that produce academic improvement across the semester. This will include organization, time management, note-taking, and study skills.
- 4) Students will acquire the knowledge and apply the necessary skills to successfully navigate university life.
- 5) Students will take ownership of their learning experiences and develop greater awareness of self and others.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional Methods, Activities, and Assessments

This class consists of various discussions, presentations, and activities. Class periods will not consist of pure lecture, but rather will be a chance for us to discuss and discover material, thoughts, and ideas. In UNCO 111, students are expected to participate regardless of the mode of instruction. Our goals are for you to serve co-creators regarding topics throughout the semester. Students will submit hard copies of all assignments, unless assignment requires otherwise; no email, faxes, etc.

Class Participation and Attendance: This course relies upon your participation. Thus, a portion of your grade will rely upon your participation in and outside of class. There are numerous elements that go into class participation: (1) Good attendance (according to University rules, students may be dropped from the class for excessive unexcused absences). If you miss a class, you will lose 10 points toward this component of your grade; (2) Contributions to class discussion; (3) Active participation in group exercises, service projects, presentations, and workshops; (4) Polite and civil interactions with all members of the class ["All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct)]. **Points: 200**

ePortfolio and Resume – Digital and Hard Copy: You will be required to complete an ePortfolio, along with a digital resume. In addition, you will submit a hard copy of your full digital resume, along with an abbreviated version (1-page resume). Your abbreviated resume will be in response to a job posting found in a newspaper or online. Please make sure you include the job posting as part of the assignment. **Points for ePortfolio: 50; Points for each Resume Type: 25; 100 Total**

Journal Entries: Each student will be required to submit three journal entries regarding various chapters in the Wes Moore text. Each entry must be a minimum of two, full-pages. The goal of the journal is for students to reflect over personal activities, challenges, and opportunities during their first year as college students on a university campus. This journal will help students connect their personal development and growth as individuals within the Texas A&M University-Commerce community. **Points: Entry 1 – 40 points, Entry 2 – 20 points, Entry 3 – 40 points; 100 Total**

Reflection Papers: All students will be required to attend at least 2 university/campus activities/events and write a 1-page critical thinking paper on each explaining how attending that event contributes to their being a more successful college student. **Points: 25 points each paper; 50 Total**

Your two topics must reflect on 2 of the following options (For even more clarity, you cannot use two "cultural events"):

- Cultural Events - Art show, Concert, Play, etc.
- University-Wide Event - Guest speaker, Colloquium, Convocation, etc.
- Athletic Event - Varsity Sport or Intramural Sport
- University/Campus Sponsored Event

Common Reader Essay Contest: In lieu of a final exam, students will be required to submit a minimum of four, typed paged of text regarding the Wes Moore text for the Common Reader Essay Contest. **Points: 50**

Grading

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

A = EXCELLENT	450-500
B = GOOD	399-449
C = AVERAGE	348-398
D = POOR	298-347
F = FAILURE	<297

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Office hours are available by appointment outside of our scheduled class meetings. In addition, you can utilize your university email to ask questions and receive assistance.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Attendance: Attendance is part of your participation grade for UNCO 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.

Community Contract: Early in the semester class members and instructor will delineate a set of classroom norms and rules that will govern class meetings. These will be the rules of conduct in UNCO111. All course members will agree to abide by the contract issued by the class.

Academic Dishonesty:

Students who collaborate or attempt to collaborate during any assignment will receive grades of "0" on the assignment and possibly an "F" in the course. Likewise, students who plagiarize any assignment or portion of an assignment—even as small as one sentence—will receive a grade of "0" on the assignment and likely an F in the course! (See Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1,2,3]). Plagiarism occurs when students copy directly from a source—including but not limited to another student's paper, a book, or an electronic document—with or without citations. Budget your time and do your work! Students can lose financial aid and scholarships when they attempt shortcuts. This class is designed to be an open forum for student comments, questions, and discussions. The speakers and your classmates may help you broaden your knowledge and perceptions, so please give them the respect they deserve.

University Specific Procedures:

(1) ADA Statement

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](tel:9038865150) or [\(903\) 886-5835](tel:9038865835)

Fax [\(903\) 468-8148](tel:9034688148)

Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

(2) Statement on Nondiscrimination:

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Every effort will be made to adhere to the course schedule. However, unforeseen circumstances may require changes. In that case, changes will be announced via University email. Because of our class size, we may sometimes work through class materials faster while other lessons may merit a lengthier discussion.

Week 1: Aug. 31 st – Sept. 6 th	M: Introductions, Syllabus, and Community Contract W: Setup for Success
Week 2: Sept. 7 th – Sept. 13 th	M: NO CLASS (Monday 9/7) W: Your Digital Life and Footprint Journal Assignment #1 Due
Week 3: Sept. 14 th – Sept. 20 th	M: Time Management with Technology and Taking Notes W: Test Taking
Week 4: Sept. 21 st – Sept. 27 th	M: Resumes Round 1 – Electronic/Paper (Bring Laptops To Class) W: Balance
Week 5: Sept. 28 th – Oct. 4 th	M: Navigating University Life W: Library Visit (Class Will Meet Downstairs in Library)
Week 6: Oct. 5 th – Oct. 11 th	M: Scholarships Part 1 W: Scholarships Part 2 Reflection Paper 1 Due
Week 7: Oct. 12 th – Oct. 18 th	M: Goal Setting and Motivation W: Leadership and Mentorship/Wes Moore Discussion Journal Assignment #2 Due
Week 8: Oct 19 th – Oct. 25 th	M: Communication W: Honors
Week 9: Oct. 26 th – Nov. 1 st	M: Resumes Round 2 and Networking W: Creatively Conquer
Week 10: Nov. 2 nd – Nov. 8 th	M: Internships and Campus Jobs W: Budgeting and Financial Planning Journal Assignment #3
Week 11: Nov. 9 th – Nov. 15 th	M: Critical Thinking W: Campus Presenter - TBA Reflection Paper 2 Due
Week 12: Nov. 16 th – Nov. 22 nd	M: Major Success W: Honors Thesis

Week 13: Nov. 23rd – Nov. 29th

M: Valuing Diversity
W: Decision Making/Wes Moore Discussion

Week 14: Nov. 30th – Dec. 6th

M: Global Learning
W: Creating Change
Common Reader Essay Due

Week 15: Dec. 7th – Dec. 13th

TBA