



**RSP 111.001**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2016**

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<b>COURSE INFORMATION</b>
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**Materials :**

There are no required textbooks for RSP 111. However, this course will require assignments inside and outside of class, which requires written materials and digital access codes. All materials will be provided. Students are responsible for maintaining a "smashbook" journal for the semester which will be provided first class week.

**Course Description:**

RSP 111 serves as the first-year seminar for the Regents' Scholars Program. The course helps new students make the adjustment to the demands of university life. 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.) implementing leadership practices and theories and 4.) introducing students to the idea of being change agents of the institution. Student should 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 skills and knowledge in 4 major areas:

**LIFE SKILLS:**

Activities and readings focus specifically on understanding the importance managing time and setting priorities, refining decision-making and goal setting skills, increasing skills for working in groups, creating a greater understanding of overall 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. Discussions and assignments will also encourage efforts to get to know students in classes, meet new people with common interests, and 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.

<b>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</b>
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### **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. **(20% total)**

**Journal-** Each student will be responsible for maintaining a journal bringing it to class at scheduled times for "check-ins." Each student will receive a journal at the beginning of the semester and is responsible for keeping it in their possession. Each journal will consist of 15 structured entries, including a minimum of 3 campus events with reflection. **(60% 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 **20%** of your course grade will be determined by activities inside and outside of the classroom.

**Global Competency Aptitude Assessment (5%)**

**StrengthsQuest Assessment (5%)**

**House Activity (5%)**

**ePortfolio Set-up (5%)**

## Grading

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

A = EXCELLENT	90-100
B = GOOD	80-89.9
C = <b>AVERAGE</b>	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:

*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.

*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

#### Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>

**Turn off all cell phones. Texting during class is forbidden. Laptops for notetaking are not advised in this course.**

Further, students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

## **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13student/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

## **ADA Statement**

### **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

Email: [Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu](mailto:Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu)

Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

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

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-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.

## **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.