

## **Freshman Success Seminar**

### **COURSE SYLLABUS- SEMESTER AND YEAR**

**Instructor: Kyle R. Williams**

**Office Location:** Whitley Hall Residential Education Suite

**Office Hours:**

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### **COURSE INFORMATION**

**CRN:** 80762

**Classroom:** Social Science 313

**Meeting time:** MW 2-2:50pm

### **Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings**

#### **Textbooks Required:**

Kleon, Austin. *Steal Like An Artist: 10 Things Nobody Told You About Being Creative*.

New York: Workman, 2012. (ISBN: 978-0761169253)

Accessibility: Available in the bookstore; on Amazon. \$6.74; \$6.40 Kindle

Wilson, Rayshawn. *Lionheart: Coming From Where I'm From*. Charleston, SC: Legendary Publishing Company. (ISBN: 13:978-0-9827-6321)

Accessibility: Available for purchase through RiseandRoar.com for \$18 (including shipping)

#### **Course Description**

UC 111 prepares students for optimal success at the university and beyond by motivating them to develop skills, knowledge and behaviors that will create confident, self-sufficient learners.

#### **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will be able to identify and describe relevant campus resources.
2. Students will be able to view themselves as engaged citizens within an interconnected and diverse world.
3. Students will be able to explain their responsibilities as a student.
4. Students will demonstrate critical thinking skills.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

#### Assignments:

**Campus Events Attendance:** College is about more than going to class—there are many events to attend on campus that will enhance your experience here. Watch your email, flyers on campus, and the menu on the main page of MyLeo for information about events on campus. Look especially for Global Events—you should load your reflection of these events into your ePortfolio toward your application of being a Global Scholar.

For this part of your grade, attend a campus event (athletic, club meeting, academic events, cultural events, speakers, et cetera). Bring an artifact of the event (a program, e-mail a selfie of you at the event, et cetera), then write a two-page paper in which you describe and reflect on the event.

1. Describe or summarize the event. What was the event? What was the purpose? Who attended? What was it like?
2. Reflect on the event. Consider some or all of the following questions: What did you learn at this event? What did you learn about the campus or people related to the campus? How can you implement what you learned to help you be successful in college? How can what you learned help prepare you for an interconnected world?

You must attend **five** events throughout the semester and write about each of them. Do not wait until the end of the semester to attend these events—they will be due throughout the semester.

#### Reflection Essay:

Throughout this semester, we will be reading *Lionheart: Coming from where I'm from*. This book is an autobiographical journey of the author Rayshawn Wilson. During this semester, you will be tasked with writing reflection essays based on prompts provided in class and through e-college.

#### Final Essay:

Can learning strategies for creativity actually help you be more creative? Choose one of the strategies detailed in Austin Kleon's book *Steal Like An Artist* and explore its possibilities for encouraging creativity. Experiment with one or more of the strategies for a period of time (for example, a week) and reflect on the effectiveness of that strategy.

Kleon's book uses anecdotes and examples to make his points. Be sure to do the same. Also be sure to refer to the book in your essay (quote and cite his essay). You can refer to Kleon's book by agreeing with one of his points, disagreeing with one of his points, building on one of his points, or even using one of his points to start your own argument about the value of education.

**Class Participation** Students must attend all class sessions and participate to the extent possible in each class activity. The activities in this course are designed to help you improve your communication skills

and increase your knowledge set in order to make you a more effective and successful college student.  
(100 points)

### **GRADING**

90%-100%= A, 80-89%= B, 70-79%= C, 60-69%= D, 59% & below= F

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Percentage of Grade</b>
Reflection Essays	40%
Campus Events Attendance	15%
Final Essay	25%
Class Participation	10%
GCAA	10%

### **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

UC 111 is a web-enhanced course. Delivery problems can result if technological requirements are not taken into consideration.

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course:

- Internet access/connection – high speed recommended (not dial-up)
- Word Processor (Microsoft Word)

Additionally, the following hardware and software are necessary to use eCollege:

- Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0, or 8.0). Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems. It is strongly recommended that you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login in to eCollege, click on the ‘myCourses’ tab, and then select the “Browser Test” link under Support Services.

This course will be facilitated using eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to:  
<https://leo.tamuc.edu/login.aspx>.

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc-commerce.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc-commerce.edu).

The main medium of communication for the University is through the University email system. It is expected that students within this class check their email on a regular basis. Only emails sent through the University email will be addressed.

All course communication, including the submission and grading of assignments, will be completed through the e-college system.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

### Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Students will be expected to interact with the instructor(s) in class or via electronic means in an appropriate manner. All instructor contact information is listed on this syllabus and should be used.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### Course Specific Procedures

#### Attendance Policy:

Roll will be taken each class day and students are expected to attend all scheduled class periods. Each section of this course is scheduled for 16 weeks of twice weekly meetings of 50 minutes each. Students should make arrangements to be in class on time and to stay until the class is dismissed. Attendance is part of your grade for UNCO 111. (100 points)

For students with excused absences, which 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, written documentation must be turned in to the instructor immediately upon return to class.

Each absence in this course will result in a point reduction on your final attendance grade according to the chart below.

Absences	0	1, 2	3, 4	5, 6	7, 8	9,10	11,12	13,14	15,16	17,18	19,20
Grade	100	94	88	82	76	70	64	58	52	46	40

Absences	21,22	23,24	25, 26	27, 28	29, 30
Grade	34	28	22	16	10

### Academic dishonesty/ Plagiarism:

Instructors at Texas A&M University-Commerce do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion. Here is the university policy”  
<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13student/academic/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

### **Grievance Procedure:**

Students who have concerns regarding their courses should first address those concerns with the assigned instructor in order to reach a resolution. Students who are unsatisfied with the outcome of that conversation or have not been able to meet individually with their instructor, whether in-person, by email, by telephone, or by another communication medium, should then schedule an appointment with the Department Head, Dr. Tabetha Adkins.

Where applicable, students should also consult University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.05 (“Student Appeal of Instructor Evaluation”).

### **Other course policies:**

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

*Cheating:* Plagiarism, appropriating or otherwise using the work of others or yourself, avoiding or aiding others in avoiding class requirements or other activities that contravene ordinary standards of academic integrity will not be tolerated. This includes submitting your own work on more than one assignment in this class. Students who cheat will be punished one or more of the following: point penalty, failure of the assignment in question or failure for the course. If you are in doubt about whether or not your conduct constitutes cheating, you had better ask the instructor. Do not find out the hard way.

*Late Work:* No work will be accepted late unless it is accompanied by a written excuse considered acceptable by the University. Specifically, this includes participation in a University-sponsored event, illness accompanied by a doctor’s note, death in the student’s immediate family, or a verifiable court appearance. Instructor reserves the right to deduct points for late work regardless of reason.

## **UNIVERSITY SPECIFIC PROCEDURES**

### **Students with Disabilities information**

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, Gee Library, Room 132 (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835 phone (903) 468-8148 fax Email: [Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu](mailto:Rebecca.Tuerk@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.)

## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

This schedule may be adjusted to accommodate for student learning needs.

Bring the assigned reading to class with you to supplement discussion. Printed or digital copies are both acceptable.

Date	Unit	To do before class	Due In Class
Week 1	Introductions, syllabus discussion		
Week 2	GCAA Assessment for campus QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan)	Read e-mail from Dr. Shonda Gibson about GCAA assessment	
Week 3	Academic Success  In class: University Support Services 30 second expert activity	Learning Style activity or Cornell Notes reading  How to Talk to a Professor power point	
Week 4	Syllabus review	Syllabi and Planning activity	First Campus Events Attendance Reflection Essay due
Week 5	College computer literacy	Find and watch and/or read online tutorials about how to use word processing program (like Word); a slide show program (like Power Point); a spread sheet program (like Excel). If you own a computer, find tutorials for the software on your computer.	
Week 6	Title 9	Watch this video: <a href="https://vimeo.com/105143665">https://vimeo.com/105143665</a>	Second Campus Events Attendance Reflection Essay due
Week 7	GCAA Results Discussion	Read GCAA report from the assessment completed in week 2. Bring to class.	
Week 8	Registration	Activity for Registration	Third Campus Events Attendance Reflection Essay due

Week 9	Wellness		
Week 10	Financial literacy	Read FASFA	Fourth Campus Events Attendance Reflection Essay due
Week 11	Critical thinking		
Week 12	Common reading	Read <i>Steal Like An Artist: 10 Things Nobody Told You About Being Creative.</i>	Fifth Campus Events Attendance Reflection Essay due
Week 13	Time management/ career services (or switch with financial literacy)  [Career services will come to your class if you give them ample notice.]		
Week 14	Work on final assignment-essay on common reading	Waiting to hear back from Wendy on this	
Week 15	Make-up week		Final Essay due
Finals Week	Meet to reflect, share best sections of final essay, etc.		