



RSP 112
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2017

"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 May 2nd and 4th in the Rayburn Student Center.

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 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:

- A. **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
Gee Library- Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu
- B. **Student Conduct:** As stated in the student handbook: "All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." (See Student Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct, for more information.)
- C. **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. All cellular telephones, beepers and electronic devices should be turned off or set on silent mode before entering the classroom. Cell phones must not be visible and may not be checked during examinations. Students are also not permitted to leave the classroom and re-enter it during an examination. Be sure to have sharpened pencils, tissues and restroom needs taken care of prior to the beginning of the test.
- D. **Campus Concealed Carry 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. 10 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 ((<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). 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.