



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

Instructor: Jennifer Hudson
Office Location: Prairie Crossing
Office Hours: By appointment
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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

There are no required textbooks for RSP 112. However, this course will require outside research and/or handouts/readings provided in class.

Course Description:

RSP 112 serves as a continuation of HC 200, the First-Year Success Seminar for the Honors and Regents Programs. The course helps 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.

The Global colloquia are scheduled throughout the semester to provide students the opportunity to discuss local, regional and world issues as well as other enlightening topics with faculty, professional staff and other invited guests. The overall goal is to provide an opportunity for students to see how others have invested themselves in global research and service, making connections to their own interests and aspirations.

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 35% of the course grade and will be documented through in-class activities, reflections and discussions. Activities and assignments for this grade will be noted on the course outline. (Just 3 Words project- 5%)

Individual Paper: Each student will be responsible for submitting a “This I Believe” statement at the conclusion of the semester. Details will be provided throughout the semester but the points are earned when the statement is read aloud in class and incorporates each student’s theory of leadership, life and purpose. **Worth 10%** of course grade.

Reaction Papers: Students will write reaction papers on TWO colloquia presentations. Make sure to write a proper reaction paper that contains an intellectual reflection on what took place during the colloquia. That reflection in writing should go beyond being merely a series of notes you take and write up. The paper may cover some of the following points:

- What was said that you agreed with? Or disagreed with?
- Can you connect an aspect of what you learned from the colloquium session to another event you have read about or heard about or observed or even experienced in your own life?
- What interested you the most? – Least?
- What would you have done or said differently?

Obviously, you do not have to answer all of the above questions. Nor do you have to respond to any one of them. What your paper should show is your mind at work—much like a book critic or movie critic does when she or he writes a review. Length? Two typed, double-spaced pages (around 500 words) submitted via email. **Each paper is worth 20%.**

“This I Believe”: Each student will be responsible for submitting a “This I Believe” statement at the conclusion of the semester. Details will be provided throughout the semester the statement should include how students have personally developed, how they are crafting their own vision for life as well as personal beliefs and passions. **Worth 15% of course grade.** This statement may serve as the basis for the student’s word choice in the “Just 3 Words” video.

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: 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

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.

Statement on 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 Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct). Turn off all cell phones. Texting during class is forbidden.

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

<https://goo.gl/hhFwkQ>

Statement on 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. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to <https://goo.gl/ACmhiJ>. 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.

Statement on Attendance: For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure 13.99.99.R01 <https://goo.gl/SfevNa>