



## HC 200: First Year Experience Course Syllabus Fall 2018

**Instructor:** Mrs. Brittney Yager  
**Time and Location:** F 1-1:50 P.M. Prairie Crossing Media Room (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
**Office Location:** Prairie Crossing  
**Office Hours:** By Appointment <https://calendly.com/brittney-yager>  
**Office Phone:** 903-468-3103  
**E-mail Address:** Brittney.Yager@tamuc.edu

### COURSE INFORMATION

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

There are no required textbooks for this class. However, students will be given appropriate handouts and articles as needed.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

#### Instructional Methods, Activities, and Assessments

##### Instructional Methods

This class will be ran as a seminar course with numerous discussions and critical thinking. It will not be a typical lecture course. The skills and concepts you learn in this course shouldn't be merely memorized – they should be put into practice in your daily lives. Those practices require us to discuss your experiences during implementation. We will talk about what concerns, worries, struggles, and stressors you are facing as a college student and as an Honors or Regents Scholar in particular. I want to hear you so I can facilitate your transition into higher education.

All assignments, schedules, and due dates are subject to change.

#### Assignments

##### Class Participation and Attendance

As you read above, this course relies upon your participation. Thus, a portion of your grade will rely upon your participation in discussions. 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 grade; (2) Frequent, and preferably intelligent, contributions to class discussion; (3) Active participation in group exercises; (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: 125**

##### Event Paper

All students will be required to attend at least 3 university/campus activities/events and write a critical thinking paper comparing and contrasting the events. Explain how attending the events contributes to your being a more successful college student. If you were advertising for A&M-Commerce, how would you market this experience to prospective or current students? At least one event should be attended with a group of HC/RSP classmates. The events should be a “cultural event” (art show, concert, play, etc.), a “university-wide event” (guest speaker, colloquium, convocation, etc.), and an athletic event (varsity sport or intramural sport). Only one of each type may be attended; please do not turn in a paper for multiple athletic events or cultural events. *Neither Orientation nor the Welcome Back Event can count for this assignment.* At the end of the semester, the best paper from all sections will be featured as a post on our Honors College/Regents Scholars public Facebook pages. Students may submit papers at any time prior to the due date. Please place your section on your paper. **Points: 75 points total (Due week of Oct. 22)**

### **To-Do List**

Most freshmen college students struggle with time management, working on assignments a few days before the due date rather than structuring their homework schedule at the beginning of a semester. Thus, we suggest that all students keep a weekly (or daily) to-do list. Your assignment is to turn in your to-do list for the week of September 10th, showcasing the strategies you’ve learned from your Mentor House discussion. Indicate which items you completed and which you did not. On a separate sheet, discuss the reasons for failing to achieve some of your goals and what you could do to increase the likelihood of completing them in the future. “I will try harder” is not a satisfactory answer – think about concrete improvements that you can make to your time management skills. Please place your section on your paper. **Points: 50 (Due week of Sept. 17)**

### **Plagiarism Certificate**

Plagiarism is a serious offense with lasting consequences. You will visit <https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/> for a tutorial on “How to Recognize Plagiarism”. Visit each section on the left hand side, including IU Definition, Overview, Cases, Examples, and Practice. Once you feel you have mastered the material, take the Certification Test. Your age group is “I’m an undergraduate college student or advanced high school student”. You will need to register an account to take the test, using a valid email address. When you pass the test, your certificate will be emailed to you. Forward the email to your instructor before your class time on the due date. **Points: 75 (Due week of Oct. 1)**

### **Plant Assignment**

You will be given a seed and soil on the first day of class, as well as instructions on how to care for it. The assignment is to take it home and see what happens. Toward the end of the semester, you will submit a one-page reflection of your experience of the process. Was it difficult to take care of your plant? Did it grow? Did you find yourself forgetting about it, or did you look forward to it each day? What did you take away from this assignment? How can you relate it to your academic career? **Points: 25 (Due week of Nov. 5)**

### **Resume**

Construct a 1-page resume and a cover letter in response to a job posting found in a newspaper or online (include job posting with your assignment). You will also be required to update/create a LinkedIn Profile and ePortfolio. Please place your section on your paper. **Points: 75 (Due Dec. 3)**

### **Grading**

A total of 425 points is available this semester. Final grades are based on the total number of points earned during the term in accordance, generally, with the following levels of proficiency:

- A = 425-381
- B = 380-339
- C = 338-296
- D = 295-253
- F = 252 and below

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS, ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Students will need access to the internet, a word processor, and printer to prepare all assignments in the course.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### **(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 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/)  
<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.

### **(3) "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](#)

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

**(4)** 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 (<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.

**(5) 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/13Students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

<b>COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR</b>
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<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Activities and Due Dates</u>
Aug. 27 <sup>th</sup>	Introductions	
Sept. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	One Week In: Now what?	
Sept. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Adjustment to College Counseling Center Presentation	
Sept. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Library Resources Meet in Library classroom (behind Starbucks in Library)	<b>To-Do List Exercise Due</b>
Sept. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Note-Taking	
Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Outdoor Adventure Activity	Meet at Outdoor Adventure (past softball fields on the loop)
Oct. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Studying for Tests	<b>Plagiarism Certificate Assignment Due</b>
Oct. 15 <sup>th</sup>	International Studies <i>Guest Speakers</i>	
Oct. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Choosing a Major	<b>Event Paper Due</b>
Oct. 29 <sup>th</sup>	What about Honors?	
Nov. 5 <sup>th</sup>	No class	
Nov. 12 <sup>th</sup>	What's Next?	<b>Seed Assignment Due</b>

**Please Note: Resume Homework Due by Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**The instructor will notify the class accordingly if this schedule changes.**