



## HC 200: First Year Experience Course Syllabus Fall 2019

**Instructor:** Jennifer Hudson  
**Time and Location:** W 5-5:50 P.M. Prairie Crossing Media Room (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
**Office Location:** Prairie Crossing  
**Office Hours:** By Appointment  
**Office Phone:** 903-468-3067  
**E-mail Address:** Jennifer.Hudson@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 for discussion or assignments.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

#### Instructional Methods, Activities, and Assessments

##### Instructional Methods

This class is a seminar. Seminars are topical and revolve around discussion facilitated by an instructor and a small group of students. Discussion only works with participation. Therefore, it is important that you participate. You should have much to discuss since this course is specifically for first year students and intended to enhance your academic and social integration into college.

#### 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**

## **Academic Planning**

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. You will use an academic planner you purchased or maintain (online is fine, too!) to plan out the rest of your semester. Take the syllabi from each of your classes (including this one). Put the major due dates from the syllabi in your planner.

For example: Plant Assignment will go in the box for November 1. If you have lost a syllabus from a course, you can find it on the current schedule of classes ([www.tamuc.edu/schedule](http://www.tamuc.edu/schedule)). House Bill 2504 mandates that all syllabi must be posted by the first class day, so you will always have access to the information. You will bring it to class the week of September 16<sup>th</sup> to go over with the class along with the “time audit” sheet provided to you. **Points: 50 (Due week of Sept. 16)**

## **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: 50 (Due week of Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>)**

## **Growth Event Paper**

Growth occurs when we develop - our actions, thoughts, behaviors, or otherwise. All students grow during their first semester of college, sometimes unexpectedly. Undoubtedly, you will experience something that goes against your initial expectations of yourself or others. Write a reflective essay about a time this semester when you experienced growth- painful or pleasant. This can be relationally, professionally, academically, or personally. What situation or event were you confronted with? Did you embrace change initially or were you resistant? How do you feel the outcome of this growth relates to your experience as a college student, and how will it contribute to your success? Students may submit papers at any time prior to the due date. **Points: 75 points total (Due in class week of Oct. 14)**

## **Pay-It-Forward Activity**

You’ve worked hard and have earned an opportunity in your scholarship program. With that program, you have been afforded a wealth of support – whether that be financially, academically, or personally. Many students on campus find themselves facing challenges without support, specifically ones you may not have to face. In response to these issues, groups will discuss in class steps to trouble-shoot and respond to these situations through utilizing campus resources and services. After class, students will be responsible for submitting an individual reflection (max 250 words) to their group’s issue identifying opportunities to “pay it forward” to other University students. **Points: 50 (Due week of Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>)**

## **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: 75 (Due Week of Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>)**

## 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 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>

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR		
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<u>Class Meeting</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Activities and Due Dates</u>
Aug. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Introductions	
Sept. 4 <sup>th</sup>	One Week In: Now what?	
Sept. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Seeking Help	
Sept. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Positioning Yourself for Your Future Career	<b>Academic Planning Assignment Due</b>
Sept. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Cultivating the “Student Scholar” Identity	<b>Plagiarism Certificate Due</b>
Oct. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Studying for Tests	
Oct. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Group Dynamics & Leadership	
Oct. 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	International Studies Choosing a Major	<b>Growth Event Paper Due</b>
Oct. 30 <sup>th</sup>	Finishing the Semester	<b>Pay-it-Forward Reflection Due</b>

**Please Note: Plant Assignments Due by Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>**