



**HC 200:03E First Year Experience  
Course Syllabus Fall 2019**

**Instructor: Dr. Ray Green**

**Time and Location:** R 8-8:50 A.M. Henderson 206

**Office Location:** Prairie Crossing

**Office Hours:** By Appointment

**Office Phone:** 903-468-3001

**E-mail Address:** raymond.Green@tamuc.edu

<b>COURSE INFORMATION</b>
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**Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings**

There are no required textbooks for this class. However, students will need to have access to a planner for this course (and for college in general).

<b>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</b>
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**Instructional Methods, Activities, and Assessments**

**Instructional Methods**

The plan is to run this class as a seminar class. By this I mean that I do not view my role as that of lecturer. Rather, the plan is to be a facilitator of discussion and analysis. The rationale for this format is the following: I do not believe that this is the type of information that you benefit from through memorization. Although behavioral science focuses (more often than not) on normative behaviors, what is important in this class are the experiences unique to you. Thus, I don't really care what the concerns are of a typical college student – I want to know what you are worried about. Thus, I need to hear your voice.

**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. Include a picture of you from an event – it can be in a big group as I hope you attend with your new friends! 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. If you are required to be at the event as part of an organization you cannot count it (e.g., if you are in the marching band you have to choose an athletic event other than a football game). *Neither Orientation nor the Welcome Back Bash can count for this assignment.* Students may submit paper at any time prior to the due date.

**Points: 75 points total (Due Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>)**

## **Planner Assignment**

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, I am going to ask you to plan out the rest of your semester. Take the syllabi from your classes in which you are enrolled (including this one). Put the major due dates from the syllabi in your planner (this can be paper or electronic). For example: Plant Assignment will go in the box for October 31. 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 there is no excuse as to why you don't have one. To turn in this assignment, you will need to set up a meeting with me **before the assignment is due**. **You must schedule an appointment – do not drop in and ask me to grade your assignment.**

**Points: 50 (Due by Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>)**

## **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 Oct. 3<sup>rd</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: 25 (Due Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>)**

## **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). **Points: 75 (Due Nov. 15<sup>th</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

<b>TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS, ACCESS AND NAVIGATION</b>
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Students will need access to a word processor to prepare all assignments in the course and an email account for submitting the papers to the instructor.

<b>COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES</b>
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### **(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:

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. 29 <sup>th</sup>	Introductions	
Sept. 5 <sup>th</sup>	One Week In: Now what?	
Sept. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Seeking Help <i>Guest Speaker</i>	
Sept. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Academic Advice	
Sept. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Library Session	<b>Meet at Library Planner Exercise Due</b>
Oct. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Trends in Industry	<b>Plagiarism Certificate Assignment Due</b>
Oct. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Outdoor Adventure	<b>Meet at Outdoor Adventure by 7:55am</b>
Oct. 17 <sup>th</sup>	International Studies	
Oct. 24 <sup>th</sup>	The Honors Thesis	<b>Event Paper Reflection Due</b>
Oct. 31 <sup>st</sup>	What's Next?	<b>Seed Assignment Due</b>

**Please Note: Resume Homework Due by Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>**