



## HC 200.01W: First Year Experience Course Syllabus Fall 2020

**Instructor:** Ms. Leanna Brown  
**Time and Location:** Wednesday 5:00pm-5:50pm on Zoom  
**Office Location:** Prairie Crossing Office 200A  
**Office Hours:** By Appointment  
**Office Phone:** 903.468.3057  
**E-mail Address:** Leanna.Brown@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

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will utilize the You-See-U virtual classroom in D2L and/or Zoom as our primary source of interaction. Thus, while we will not physically meet in a classroom, students will be expected to log on virtually and participate during the scheduled meeting time. **Please let me know, immediately, if you do not have the technological capabilities to participate in class.** I will want to work with you to address this issue as it is likely to impact you beyond this particular class. This class will be ran as a virtual 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 College student. 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: unless otherwise noted, all assignments are due by your class day and time on that date.**

##### Class Participation and Discussion

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). (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. To earn points toward participation, students will be expected to utilize both video and audio components. For each class period in which the student is engaging both with audio and video capabilities, 10 points will be earned toward the participation grade. Discussions in D2L will also be utilized for critical thinking, group exercises, and reflection. Each D2L discussion thread in which the student adequately participates will earn 10 points toward the participation grade. Discussions in this forum will serve to earn points toward the class participation/discussion portion of the HC 200 grade. In most cases, a full posting will include a post from you as well as a response to a peer's post. Please read each topic thoroughly to ensure you answer adequately to receive maximum points. Note: not all seven discussion posts must be completed. You may earn up to 150 points through both virtual meeting participation (with audio and video) and discussion participation. For example, 10 virtual meetings with A/V and 5 full postings could earn 150 points, or 9 virtual meetings with A/V and 6 full postings, etc. Each discussion will be open for two weeks. The instructor reserves the right to add additional activities/assignments that can contribute toward participation throughout the semester. ["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: 150**

### **Academic Planner:**

You will use the academic planner you have purchased 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. For example: Plant Assignment will go in the box for December 10. 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. **Points: 50 (Due week of Sept. 14)**

### **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. 28)**

### **Growth Event Paper**

Growth occurs when we are able to develop - in 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 reflection essay about a time this semester when you experienced growth. This could be relationally, 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. Please place your section on your paper. **Points: 75 points total (Due week of Oct. 12)**

### **Plant Assignment**

You will be given a seed and soil on the first day of class. 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. How did you start 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: 50 (Due week of December 7)**

## Grading

A total of 375 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 = 375-335  
B = 295-334  
C = 255-294  
D = 215-254  
F = 214 and below

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS, ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Students will need access to the internet, a word processor, a webcam, and sound/microphone capabilities to participate in virtual discussions.

## 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: [StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@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). Silence all cell phones. Texting during class is not permitted.**

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>

- (6)** A&M-Commerce requires the use of face-coverings in all instructional and research classrooms/laboratories. Exceptions may be made by faculty where warranted. Faculty have management over their classrooms. Students not using face-coverings can be required to leave class. Repetitive refusal to comply can be reported to the Office of Students' Rights and Responsibilities as a violation of the student Code of Conduct.
- (7)** Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.

<b>COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR</b>
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<u><b>Week</b></u>	<u><b>Topic</b></u>	<u><b>Activities and Due Dates</b></u>
Aug. 24	Introductions	Discussion 1 Opens, closes 9/9
Aug. 31	One Week In: Now what?	
Sept. 7	Communication	Discussion 2 Opens 9/9 – 9/23
Sept. 14	More Than Classes: Capstone Experiences	<b>Planner Assignment Due</b>
Sept. 21	Library Resources	Discussion 3 opens 9/23-10/7
Sept. 28	Academic Habits	<b>Plagiarism Certificate Assignment Due</b>
Oct. 5	Outdoor Adventure Activity	Discussion 4 opens 10/7-10/21
Oct. 12	Choosing a Major	<b>Growth Event Paper Due</b>
Oct. 19	Stress and Adjustment	Discussion 5 opens 10/21-11/4
Oct. 26	What's Next?	
Discussion 6 opens 11/4-11/18		
Discussion 7 opens 11/30-12/10		

**Please Note: Plant Assignment Due by Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>**

**The instructor will notify the class accordingly if this schedule changes.**