

# FIRST YEAR FLORIDA

## **SLS1102: Fall 2021**

**Section: 2F57**

**Meeting Time: Wednesday, Period 4, 10:40 am-11:30 am**

**Location:**

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### **Course Description:**

First year Florida is a course designed to aid students in a successful transition to the University of Florida. This course aims to help students develop the practical, social, emotional, and intellectual skills that are essential to a fulfilling four years at UF, provide a foundation for a well-rounded college experience, connect students to the university, promote engagement within and outside of the classroom, and communicate university expectations.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

First Year Florida is a course designed to aid students in a successful transition to the University of Florida. This course aims to help students develop the practical, social, emotional, and intellectual skills that are essential to a fulfilling four years at UF, provide a foundation for a well-rounded college experience, connect students to the University of Florida, promote engagement within and outside the classroom, and communicate university expectations.

As a result of taking this course, students will pursue four main learning outcomes, which are to...

1. Begin a successful academic transition to the University of Florida, which involves:
  - a. Exploring career and research options.
  - b. Utilizing advising resources.
2. Continue their transition into the broader UF community and develop their own personal senses of community, independence, and interdependence, which involves:
  - a. Exploring opportunities for student involvement and leadership.
  - b. Getting engaged with other students and participating in community service.
  - c. Learning about and applying principles related to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

3. Set a foundation for personal and communal health and wellness, which involves:
  - a. Exploring the nine domains of wellness, as defined by UF GatorWell: cultural, intellectual, occupational, physical, emotional, social, spiritual, environmental, and financial.
4. Learn how to navigate formal and informal institutions at the University of Florida, which involves:
  - a. Connecting with support services and resources, both offered by the University of Florida and the greater Gainesville community.
  - b. Developing a sense of self, both personal and professional, in the context of UF and beyond.
  - c. Developing communication and conflict-resolution skills.

Pursuant of these outcomes, students in this course will...

- Connect with faculty, staff, and peers at the University of Florida.
- Identify university resources and services that contribute to their personal and educational goals.
- Recognize the purpose of reflection, critical thinking, and enriching educational opportunities within and outside the classroom.
- Evaluate the effects of personal and communal well-being on student success and engagement.
- Recognize the academic, conduct, and citizenship expectations of the University of Florida.
- Begin to develop an awareness and respect for being a part of diverse communities, both at the University of Florida and in larger local, state, national, and international contexts.
- Identify personal means by which they can become engaged, active members of their respective communities.

#### **Required Text:**

FIRST YEAR FLORIDA COURSE PACKET (located on Canvas)

**Optional Text:** F-BOOK (provided at Preview or through the University Alumni Association)

#### **Technology Statement:**

As a student in this class, you will be expected to utilize Canvas for assignment instructions and submissions in conjunction with in paper assignments. All in paper assignments will be submitted via Canvas as well. Students in this FYF section are required to have access and to use their GatorLink account for all UF related communications.

#### **Attendance Policy:**

Attendance does make up a portion of your overall grade. Being present and participatory is critical to your success in this course. Students in FYF are expected to arrive to class on time. After five minutes from the beginning of class, students will be documented as tardy, no exceptions. All absences and late arrivals must be accompanied with a valid excuse in order to receive full credit for participation. Excused absences include university sponsored events, religious holidays, and medical/emotional/family emergencies. Excused absences may require proper documentation and prior notice to the instructor and peer leader via email.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies. These can be found

at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

#### **Accommodations:**

The University of Florida provides high-quality services to students with disabilities, and we encourage you to take advantage of them. Students with disabilities should provide appropriate documentation to the Disability Resource Center 9352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/>). Once registered, the student will receive an

accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should try and follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

### **U Matter, We Care:**

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care Initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another, and to reach out for help if a member is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at (352)392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available on campus including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing Staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center (CWC). Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

### **Academic Honesty Policy:**

At the University of Florida, an academic honesty offense is defined as the act of lying, cheating, or stealing academic information so that one gains academic advantage. University of Florida students are expected to neither commit nor assist another in committing an academic honesty violation. It is the student's duty to report observed academic honesty violations. Violations of the Honor Code and academic honesty, especially incidents of plagiarism or any referring to unauthorized material, will not be tolerated. Before submitting any work for this class, please read the policies about academic honesty at <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/>, and ask the instructors to clarify any expectations you do not understand.

All work submitted implies the UF Honor Code has been followed.

### **Preamble:**

In adopting this Honor Code, the students at the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the university community. Students who enroll at the university commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the Honor Code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon community acceptance and enforcement of this Honor Code:

"We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity."

Take a moment to make the following pledge before submitting your assignments for this class:

"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

### **Classroom Expectations:**

As a student at the University of Florida, you will be treated and respected as an adult. Because this course is designed to help you make a successful transition to campus, please be willing to share your experiences, opinions, and informed points of view. Additionally, it is expected that you respect your classmates' personal opinions and values as well. It is expected that you will be present in every class, participate in open discussion, complete your assignments on time, and treat other members of this class and the University community with respect and courtesy. Disruptions of any kind will not be tolerated. Disrespect of classmates, your instructors, or any guest speakers will not be tolerated. Please make sure that you are not using your personal phones or devices during class discussions and/or activities.

## Course Evaluations:

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing an online evaluation. For other University courses, evaluations typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, however, FYF students will be given a specific time to complete this evaluation during class. Students in FYF will be asked to complete a separate course evaluation. This is time for you to provide direct and honest feedback on your Peer Leader and Instructor.

## Grading:

This course adheres to the UF Grading policy for assigning grade points. For more information, please visit: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

The grading scale for this course is as follows:

A	94-100%	C	73-76%
A-	90-93%	C-	70-72%
B+	87-89%	D+	67-69%
B	83-86%	D	63-66%
B-	80-82%	D-	60-62%
C+	77-79%	E	59%-below

## Assignments:

Class Attendance and Participation	225 (15 Points Per Class)
Diversity Project	100
Final Reflection Paper	100
Service-Learning Project	75
Journal	70
Involvement Fair Activity	50
Gator CareerLink and Resume Assignment	50
1:1 with Professor	15
<b>Total Potential Points</b>	<b>685</b>
Campus Activity	10
Syllabus Extra Credit**	5
<b>Total Extra Credit</b>	<b>15</b>

**\*\* For 5 Extra Credit Points: After reviewing the syllabus, email your instructor: introduce yourself. Make sure to include that you have read the entire syllabus and you'd like to claim your 5 EC points. You must send your email by 11:59pm on Tuesday, August 24 .**

Course Schedule:

Week 1: Welcome to the University of Florida			
Date	Description	Prepare Ahead	Assignment Due
8/25/2021	Welcome to UF! Course overview, introductions, & campus traditions	Read course syllabus	Email by <b>Tuesday, August 24</b> by 11:59pm for extra credit
Week 2: Campus Resources			
Date	Description	Prepare Ahead	Assignment Due
9/01/2021	Common issues faced by first year students & helpful resources	Read FYF Course Packet, pp. 10-12, 22-27 before next class	Journal #1: Write a letter to yourself about what you hope to accomplish at UF before graduation
Week 3: Academic Success			
Date	Description	Prepare Ahead	Assignment Due
9/08/2021	How to take charge of your academic success!  Guide to advising	Read FYF Course Packet, pp. 39-43 before next class	Journal #2
Week 4: Campus Community and Involvement			
Date	Description	Prepare Ahead	Assignment Due
9/15/2021	Student Involvement Panel		Journal #3
Week 5: Get to Know Gainesville			
Date	Description	Prepare Ahead	Assignment Due
9/22/2021	Becoming Familiar with Gainesville!	Read FYF Course Packet, pp. 43-56 before next class	Journal #4
Week 6: Health and Wellness (Part I)			
Date	Description	Prepare Ahead	Assignment Due
9/29/2021	Introduction to RecSports and Gatorwell		Journal #5  Journal check #1 due <b>Wednesday, October 6</b> at the beginning of class
Week 7: Health and Wellness (Part II)			
Date	Description	Prepare Ahead	Assignment Due
10/06/2021	Take control of your mental health: becoming familiar with the Counseling and Wellness Center	Read FYF Course Packet, pp. 29-37 before next class	Journal #6
Week 8: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion			

Date	Description	Prepare Ahead	Assignment Due
10/13/2021	Tour of MCDA	Read FYF Course Packet, pp. 60-66 before next class	Journal #7  Diversity Project due <b>Wednesday, October 20</b> by 11:59pm
<b>Week 9: Career Connections</b>			
Date	Description	Prepare Ahead	Assignment Due
10/20/2021	Tour of the Career Connections Center		Journal #8
<b>Week 10: Resume Workshop</b>			
Date	Description	Prepare Ahead	Assignment Due
10/27/2021	Presentation: Overview of Resume, Cover Letter, and LinkedIn		Journal #9  Gator CareerLink and Resume Assignment due <b>Wednesday, November 3</b> by 11:59pm
<b>Week 11: Service Learning</b>			
Date	Description	Prepare Ahead	Assignment Due
11/03/2021	Presentation: Brown Center for Leadership & Service		Journal #10  Service Learning Project due <b>Wednesday, November 10</b> in class
<b>Week 12: Service-Learning Project</b>			
Date	Description	Prepare Ahead	Assignment Due
11/10/2021	Present Service Learning Projects		Journal #11
<b>Week 13: All About Gratitude</b>			
Date	Description	Prepare Ahead	Assignment Due
11/17/2021	Leading up to Thanksgiving Break, let's visit the Arts & Crafts Center and show our fellow Gators how grateful we are.		Journal #12: Write two letters of gratitude: one to a fellow Gator and one to a family member/friend.
<b>Week 14: Thanksgiving Break</b>			
Date	Description	Prepare Ahead	Assignment Due
11/24/2021	No Class	Enjoy Break!	Relax!

			Journal check #2 due <b>Wednesday, December 1 in class</b>
<b>Week 15: Study Abroad</b>			
Date	Description	Prepare Ahead	Assignment Due
12/01/2021	Presentation: Study Abroad Center		Involvement Fair Activity due <b>Wednesday, December 8 by 11:59pm</b>
<b>Week 16: Last Class and Wrap Up</b>			
Date	Description	Prepare Ahead	Assignment Due
12/08/2021			Final Reflection Paper due <b>Wednesday, December 15 by 11:59pm</b>

### Assignment Descriptions:

#### 1) Journal Entries (5 points each + 10 points for creativity)

Every weeks, students will be expected to create a physical journal and write entries responding to a prompt posed by the instructor or as a free-write. These journal entries are also a space where students can share any additional information or interests with instructors. These entries will remain private and will only be made accessible to the instructor and Peer Leader. Students are able to be as creative as they would like with these journals. There will be two journal checks throughout the semester.

#### 2) Diversity Project (100 points)

Every student will be required to engage in an interview, tour, or event to help you gain knowledge and understanding of a culture or identity that is different from your own. Students are expected to interview someone or attend a cultural event sponsored by the University of Florida. After this experience, students will write a short summary (2 - 3 pages, double spaced) answering the following questions:

- What is the population you selected to observe?
- How does this group differ from your identity, background, or experience?
- Reflect on how this experience made you feel. What did you learn?
- How does this experience apply to your role as a student at the University of Florida?

***\*Due Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> by 11:59pm***

#### 3) Gator CareerLink Profile Activation and Resume Assignment (50 points)

Gator CareerLink is the portal to UF resources that can help you explore career paths, find ways to gain experience and begin preparing for your career now! By activating your account, you will have access to all the Career Connection Center's services including job and internship postings, Career Planning appointments, an online mock interview module, and a calendar of all upcoming events and workshops. Activating your profile as a first-year student allows you to become familiar with the Gator CareerLink system and connects you to the C3 right away.

**Part 1:** To activate your profile and receive credit for your, follow these simple steps:

1. Go to <https://career.ufl.edu/>

1. Click on Gator CareerLink Student Login.
2. You will be directed to a UF Authentication page. Type in your GatorLink username and password.
3. Next, click on "My Profile."
4. Fill out both the Personal and Academic profile as much as possible. You must complete all fields with a red asterisk in order to have an active profile. Make sure to save your information.
5. Once your profile is complete, click on "My Jobs."
6. Find and print an internship, part-time, full-time or volunteer experience you would be interested in applying for now or in the future. To receive credit for this assignment, turn in the printed job description to your FYF instructor. You do not actually have to apply for the position- this is just for practice.

## **Part 2: Resume Draft**

Students will interact with members from the Career Connections Center to learn about the various professional development services provided on campus. Students will use what they learn about resume building to submit a rough draft of their resume. Resumes must include the following:

- Contact information
- Education
- Relevant employment experience
- Relevant involvement/volunteer experience
- Skills
- *Optional*- a headshot

***\*Due by Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> by 11:59pm***

## **4) Involvement/ Activity Fair Assignment (50 points)**

Each student will select an activity to attend this semester from the following list:

- Recstravaganza
- Study abroad fair
- Involvement fair
- Career fair
- Housing fair
- Majors and minors fair

Make sure to meet with at least two organizations or offices and conduct a brief "interview" with them about what they are doing. You will turn in a recording of your interview, explaining where you went and what you learned. Make sure to ask for permission before recording and be as creative as you would like with the assignment. The file will be uploaded to Canvas.

***\*Due Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> by 11:59pm***

## **5) Service Learning Project (75 points)**

The University of Florida consistently upholds the value of the "Gator Good." This demonstrates our passion to give and serve others in the community. As a part of this course assignment, our class will decide on and attend a service project location together to give back to the community. To earn full credit for this assignment, students must follow and complete the following steps:

- Participate in the selection of a service project location
- Attend the service project
- Create a flyer/notice/brochure highlighting the location we attended to spread awareness of the organization and ways to get involved with them
- Bring your project to class on Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> to share with others what you learned and how you would spread awareness of this service organization

***\*Due November 10<sup>th</sup> in class***

## **6) Final Reflection Paper (100 points)**

Students will submit a final paper (500 words) reflecting on the information learned throughout the FYF course. Students may address the following questions:

- How did you feel at the beginning of the semester?
- Were you nervous about transitioning to UF? What were you most nervous/excited about?
- What topics or activities covered in this course do you think helped you most?
- What did you learn?
- Did anything surprise you?
- What was your favorite activity? Who was your favorite guest speaker?
- How will you apply what you have learned in FYF to the rest of your college/professional career?

***\*Due Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> by 11:59pm***