



First Year Florida – SLS 1102 – Fall 2023

First Year Florida: Enhancing Freshman Experience
Section Number: 17011
Wednesday 1:55 – 2:45 p.m.
Matherly Hall 0015

Goals and Objectives

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 Readings:

- **First Year Florida Course Packet 2023-24**
- **[Other readings as instructors assign]**

Technology:

This class will utilize Canvas for assignment submissions in conjunction with on-paper assignments.

Absence/Late Policy:

Punctual attendance is an essential function of this class. As attendance is a large part of the student's grade in this class, all students will be expected to attend every session. Of course, there are cases where excused absences will be granted. The priority is that suitable documentation will be presented to the instructors. Students should refer to the Student Handbook for proper documentation.

"Fashionably late" does not exist in the classroom setting. Students who arrive to class more than five minutes after the start time will be counted as tardy. Each student is allowed 5 tardies. Each tardy over five counted as an absence. Both absence and tardiness will be excused with sufficient documentation.

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

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

U Matter, We Care Initiative

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 of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact 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 are available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing Staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

Academic Honesty:

An academic honesty offense is defined as the act of lying, cheating, or stealing academic information so that one gains academic advantage. As a University of Florida student, one is expected to neither commit nor assist another in committing an academic honesty violation. Additionally, it is the student's duty to report observed academic honesty violations. Violations of the Honor Code and academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Specifically, instructors will rigorously pursue incidents of plagiarism of any type or incidents of referring to any unauthorized material for any class requirement. 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.

The Honor Code: "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida."

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

ADA Statement:

The University of Florida provides high-quality services to students with disabilities, and we encourage you to take advantage of them. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Expectations of Classroom Behavior:

A code of conduct exists in the university setting that calls for a semi-professional level of interaction between faculty and students and amongst the students themselves.

As college students, you will be treated and respected as an adult. You are expected to do your best work, meet assignment deadlines, and treat other members of the class and the University with courtesy and respect.

Everyone in this course deserves to be treated with respect, should expect to be treated with respect, and is expected to treat others in kind. Throughout our class discussions, presentations, and other activities you will be expected to be respectful of one another and any presenters. Throughout the semester we will be discussing some challenging issues, and it is essential that you remain open-minded, present, and respectful. We encourage everyone to share their opinions and beliefs, but students must not express these in a way that may be offensive to or disparaging of others.

The classroom is a formal place for learning and distractions can interfere with this process. Cell phones must be off or on silent before entering the classroom. No text messaging during class. Students are encouraged to participate in classroom discussions, but not engage in side conversations during class time. FYF is a short class, and students should refrain from packing up until the class is over.

Course Evaluations:

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but First Year Florida students will be given a specific time to complete it during class. Students enrolled in First Year Florida will be asked to complete a separate course evaluation. This is a time for you to provide direct feedback on your Peer Leader and Instructor.

Grading Scale

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>. Below is the course grading scale:

A	94-100
A-	90-93
B	84-89
B-	80-83
C	74-79
C-	70-73
D	64-69
D-	60-63
F	≤59

Course Overview

Date/Topic	Description	Assignment Due
8/23: Welcome Week!	-Class introduction -Syllabus Review -Intro to UF/ Campus Safety	Questions About UF Survey
8/30: Intro to Gainesville/Things to do	-Hobbies/Activities -About the Gainesville Community -Bus System	About Me2 PowerPoint Slide -Extra Credit: Ride the RTS bus!
9/6: Study Tips and Time Management	-Study Tips/Time Management Presentation -Plan Your Week Activity	-Favorite Study Spot Reflection -1:1s sign ups by Friday
9/13: Getting Involved	-Involvement Panel	-Getting Involved Discussion Board
9/20: Learning Campus	-Campus Resource Scavenger Hunt	-Top 5 Resource Summary
9/27: Library Systems	-Visit Library West for Guest Presentation -How to use the libraries as an academic resource	-Favorite Library Discussion Board
10/4: Mental Health Awareness	-Discussion Based	N/A
10/11: Financial Literacy	2-Budgeting Tips -Managing your financial aid	1:1s done by this week!
10/18: Service-Learning Project Day	-Class at the bat house gardens -Helping to beautify the gardens for class's service-learning project!	-Service Learning Project Reflection
10/25: BCLS Changemakers Dabbling with Dialogue	BCLS Changemakers come in to teach for the day!	N/A
11/1 Registration Prep	-ONE.UF walkthrough -How to register for classes -Information on minors/certificates/advising	-8 Semester Plan
11/8: Career Exploration	Career Connection Center visit and guest presentation	-GatorWell eCheckUp To Go Assessment
11/15: Study Abroad	-Study Abroad Presentation w Students -Peace Corp	

11/22: Break/No Class	N/A	N/A
11/29: Housing Search	-Guide to off-campus living/apartment hunting presentation	
12/6: Farewell Hangout	-Plaza of the Americas Hangout and First Semester Reflection!	-Activity Fair Reflection

Assignments

Points Possible	Assignment	Due Date
100	Attendance	N/A
35	Participation	N/A
5	Questions About UF Survey	9/3
20	About Me PowerPoint Slide	9/10
15	Favorite Study Spot Discussion Board	9/17
15	Getting Involved Discussion Board	9/24
10	Gator CareerLink Activation	10/1
10	CHOMP Assessment	10/1
25	Top 5 Resource Summary	10/8
75	1:1 Meeting	10/22
50	Service-Learning Project Reflection	10/29
50	8 Semester Plan	11/12
15	Study Abroad Discussion Board	11/19
15	Favorite Library Discussion Board	11/26
10	GatorWell eCheckUp Assessment	12/3
50	Activity Fair Reflection	12/10
+5 Extra Credit	Ride the RTS Bus!	12/10
Total Points Possible	500	

Assignment Description

Unless otherwise noted, all assignments should be uploaded to the class Canvas page and the designated Canvas assignment. All assignments are due by midnight ET on the date listed in the syllabus

Discussion Board Posts:

The discussion board is the way to exchange ideas, learn from your classmates and get to know each other better. Each student is expected to fully participate in the discussion boards.

Each discussion board assignment is worth 10 points. Please think of these posts not as busy work, but rather as an opportunity to explore and build on the class instruction, thereby learning in the process. Participation is a matter of not only quantity of posts (having a presence), but also quality of posts. Quality posts:

- **Are substantive in content.** While it's nice give brief feedback like "thanks" and "good idea" to your classmates and such messages are not discouraged, they do not count toward your graded contributions. On the flip side, you're not expected to write mini-essays or monologues. Posts should be relevant to the topic being discussed, introduce a new point of view or piece of information or otherwise further the discussion.
- **Are thoughtful and well composed.** Spelling and grammar both count.
- **Are responsive either to the initial question or to someone's reply.** Posts should be a **minimum of 150 words** and should include one original post and at least one reply to another student's post.

Reflections:

Over this course, students will be tasked with completing individual reflections outlining their takeaways from certain subjects covered and discussed in class. This ensures that as a student you stay engaged and retain value from the lessons discussed.

Two reflections are assigned to be completed regarding the topics of the Service Project and the Activity Fair. These are two events that are important to the First Year Florida course, therefore it is expected that:

- The students produce a couple thoughtful points about **their experience attending these events**. What were your thoughts going into it? Were your expectations defied? Would you be willing to participate in an event like this again?
- Secondly, **what were the major takeaways** you got from attending and participating in both a Service-Learning Project and an Activity Fair? Was their helpful information that you gathered at the Activity Fair? Was there an insightful lesson that you gathered from your work in the service project?
- These reflections should be a more in-depth depiction of the students' experiences and major takeaways from both. Meaning, it is expected for the student to produce **at least 300-500 words** that outline a couple of main points and ideas of the experience.

Questions about UF Survey:

One of the major goals of this course is to provide students with knowledge in regard to UF's campus and the resources it offers. Therefore, the students are tasked with providing questions about their curiosities and unknowns about UF. Some topics that could be inquired about include:

- How to get around campus
- Where to go on campus for a particular service on campus
- Housing do's and don'ts
- Other clubs/organizations/programs you're interested in

Students will compose three questions that they wish to ask and then submit them in the Google Form posted on the class Canvas page.

1:1 Meeting with Instructor(s):

Part of the value of this course is the opportunity to connect directly with a peer mentor and/or member of the UF faculty/administration on a greater level so that you have someone you can contact with questions and concerns. Instructors and Peer Leaders have gone through an extensive training on first-year student transition and ways to support students in and outside of the classroom. In particular, the Peer Leader understands what it is like to be a new student on this campus and is here to help you. Having access to a mentor can be an invaluable tool in your academic success.

The one-on-one meeting is designed to jump-start the relationship building process and give students greater access to their co-instructors without the distraction of the in-class experience. One-on-ones are scheduled for 30 minutes, but can go longer as needed, at a location that is comfortable for both participants. These are some things that students can discuss during their one-on-one:

- Challenges and successes with coursework so far, and how you are adjusting to UF as a whole.
- Any other questions regarding the individual's curiosities about UF that have yet to be covered in class
- Hobbies/Interests that the student feels comfortable sharing with the mentor (these 1:1s are a chance to get to know you better!)
- 1:1s are a good time to bring up personal struggles that you have had trouble navigating either personal or academic. As mentors, we are here to guide you and point you to the correct resources.

"About Me" Slide:

Students will complete a single slide on the program of their choice. This slide will include images or words that represent or describe them. Once complete students will submit their slide to the designated Canvas assignment. During an assigned future class, students will be asked to give a short thirty-second overview of their slide in front of the class.

Top 5 Resource Summary:

Students will use the knowledge they have gained from class, the campus resource scavenger hunt or the FYF Resource Guide to pick their top five favorite resources that UF offers. With these, students will write a short one to two sentence description of what each resource provides.

8 Semester Plan:

Students will learn to use tools such as the degree audit to develop their personal eight semester plan that outlines the courses, they will need to take to complete their respective degrees. This plan should include critical tracking courses, electives, as well as any courses needed to complete any desired minors or certificates. Upon completion, students will submit their plan, as well as proof they met with their advisor to discuss their semester plans. Both items will be submitted to the designated Canvas assignment.

Gator CareerLink Profile Activation Assignment:

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.

Setting Up Your Gator CareerLinks Account:

1. Go to <https://career.ufl.edu/services-resources/gator-careerlink/>
2. Click on the "LOGIN TO GATOR CAREERLINK" button.
3. You will be directed to a UF Authentication page. Type in your GatorLink username and password.
4. Fill out the questions that come up to add to your profile. You'll be able to edit this later as well.
5. Click on "Jobs" at the top of the page. You will be prompted to complete your personal and academic profile, as well as your privacy settings.

GatorWell eCheckUp Assignment:

Alcohol eCheckUp: <https://echeckup.sdsu.edu/usa/alc/coll/UFLA/#!/>

Cannabis eCheckUp: <https://echeckup.sdsu.edu/usa/mj/coll/UFLA/#!/>

If you have problems activating your account, please email GCLHelp@ufsa.ufl.edu with your name, UF ID # and description of technical problem

Career Connections Center CHOMP:

CHOMP is an online, interactive, self-guided career and educational planning system designed to help you make decisions about your future career goals and education plans.

<https://career.ufl.edu/careers-interests/chomp/> This is an opportunity to explore deeper into your major or work towards understanding a different area of study. You can make an

individual Career Planning Appointment to better understand your assessment results and how you can use them to make more informed career decisions.

The Service-Learning Project:

As a class, we will decide on and create a service opportunity for us to complete together. This can be on or off-campus. The options vary from hosting a Food Drive with the UF Field & Fork pantry, pulling weeds at Wilmot Gardens, assisting at Grace Marketplace, etc. The choice is ours!

To receive credit on this assignment, you must:

1. Participate in the selection of a service project location.
2. Attend the service project with the class.
3. Complete the individual portion of the service project (see below).
4. Bring your project to class to share with others what you learned and how you would spread awareness to others.
5. Participate in the class debrief [Instructors decide what the debrief looks like, e.g., group discussion in class, Canvas discussion board, etc.].

The individual portion of the service project entails:

****During the academic term, the Center for New Student, Parent, & Family Engagement will send out a link to your enrolled course students with a Qualtrics link to complete the survey component of their Service-Learning project experience.***

Activity Fairs:

Activity fairs are great opportunities for new students to connect with other students, faculty, staff, and various campus resources.

Possible fairs you can attend include:

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

You are required to attend at least one and are encouraged to attend more if you are interested. Dates and links for the fair will be posted to Canvas. Students are asked to submit a photo/selfie of themselves at the fair to showcase their attendance at the event.

GatorWell eCHECK UP TO GO Assessment:

The eCHECK UP TO GO program has been added to the syllabus as a requirement to help provide students with personalized, in-depth feedback of alcohol/cannabis use and information. Students will only need to take the alcohol or cannabis program, but not both. It takes approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. If you would like to follow-up with a professional regarding their results, make sure to record the 12 digit student ID that you are given during the program and contact GatorWell. There's a Certificate of Completion that you'll receive once done that you'll be able to ask to be submitted via Canvas in order to give them credit for this assignment.

The program is designed to assist students in utilizing a risk-education approach and helping them examine their own behavior in a non-judgment environment. Some aspects of the program include helping students identify substance use strategies that work for them and helping them build skills to utilize them in real-life application settings.

<https://echeckup.sdsu.edu/usa/alc/coll/ufla/#!/> is the website to start the assignment. Please email GatorWell, gwgatorwell@ufsa.ufl.edu for any questions you have about the Echeck-up To Go Program.

Extra Credit – Riding the RTS Bus:

There will one opportunity to earn 5 points of extra credit in this course. All that is needed is a picture riding the RTS bus that is submitted in canvas by the 12/10 due date.