

# First Year Florida

## SLS 1102

### Summer B 2023

First Year Florida: Enhancing Freshman Experience

Section Number: 12492/ Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00 – 3:15 p.m. / Turlington Hall 2303

#### 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 of Florida, promote engagement within and outside the classroom, and communicate university expectations.

#### Program Values

New Student and Family Programs aspires to be the premiere provider of innovative, transitional experiences for students and their family members. In pursuit of this aspiration, we are committed to four core values, which are:

- The provision of **support** for students and their communities.
- The promotion and protection of **diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice**, which involve, but are not limited to, the honoring of beliefs, attitudes, languages, interpersonal styles, and values of all individuals, as well as the creation of environments that are inclusive, respectful, and equitable ([North American Association for Environmental Education](#)).
- The **development** of our students' and their communities' personal, academic, and professional capacities, as well as of programmatic elements that provide effective, meaningful experiences that further said development.
- The pursuit of personal, academic, and professional **success**, however defined by the students and communities we serve.

#### Land and Labor Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the land we live and work on by naming the Timucua and Seminole Peoples, upon whose unceded and stolen territory the university now stands. We further acknowledge the enslaved peoples, primarily of African descent, whose labor was exploited to fund the construction of the East Florida Seminary School, the historical forerunner institution to the University of Florida.

## UF Covid-19 Statement

Following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC (Centers for Disease Control) guidance for Alachua County, UF recommends that members of our campus community and visitors wear masks in indoor public settings and on public transportation. Blue surgical masks are available in UF classrooms, libraries and other campus locations. If you feel sick, please stay home. Anyone who is experiencing COVID symptoms is encouraged to get tested. Subject to change due to State, Federal, & University guidelines. For additional UF Health COVID-19 updates, please visit <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/>

## 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.

Through participating in 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...

1. Connect with faculty, staff, and peers at the University of Florida.
2. Identify university resources and services that contribute to their personal and educational goals.
3. Recognize the purpose of reflection, critical thinking, and enriching educational opportunities within and outside the classroom.
4. Evaluate the effects of personal and communal well-being on student success and engagement.
5. Recognize the academic, conduct, and citizenship expectations of the University of Florida.
6. 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.
7. Identify personal means by which they can become engaged, active members of their respective communities.

## Required Readings

1. First Year Florida Course Packet – 2023 (Free and provided by us!)
2. Traditions Booklet (Free and provided by us!)

## Required Technology

This class will use Canvas for assignment submissions with some on-paper assignments. Also, read the syllabus to determine submission guidelines and specific instructions. Please silence your cell phones and or smart devices and put them away before the start of class. You may not use cellphones, smart art devices, or laptops during class or class activities. You may only use your cellphone and/or your laptop if you are given explicit instructions to use it for specific assignments or specific class activities. However, if you need to use your cellphone for urgent reasons, consult your FYF instructors before class.

## Absence/Late Policy

**Attendance is 25% of your grade and is integral to your success in this class.** Your active participation and engagement in First Year Florida will contribute to your success in this class and a stimulating class environment. Therefore, **your attendance is mandatory**, and your active engagement contributes to each class and will also contribute to your final grade.

All absences and late arrivals must be accompanied by an excuse to receive participation or tardy points. Students are counted as tardy after five minutes, with no exceptions. Excused absences include University Sponsored events, Religious Holidays with prior notice, and Medical/Emotional/Family Emergencies with appropriate documentation. You must notify both your class instructors via email if you will be absent or late. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found here.

**Students will be permitted to have ONE unexcused absence this semester, with no notice or explanation to the instructors. After the first unexcused absence, points will be deducted from the attendance grade. Students who do not use their free absence will receive ten extra credit points.**

## 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](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 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 you are not alone and 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 [here](#), and ask the instructors to clarify any expectations you do not understand.

***Preamble:** In adopting this Honor Code, the students of 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 the Honor Code.*

***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 accommodation 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 to 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

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.

Finally, disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Cell phones must be off or on silent before entering the classroom.

## 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 will be guided by the following grading scale:

Percentage	Points	Letter Grade
90-100%	360-400	A
87-89.9%	348-359	B+
80-86.9%	320-247	B
77-79.9%	308-319	C+
70-76.9%	280-307	C
67-69.9%	268-279	D+
60-66.9%	240-267	D
0-59%	0-239	F

## Breakdown of Course Points

Attendance	100 (10 Points Per Class)
Video Reflections	50 (10 Points Per Video)
Assignments	250 (See Breakdown in Chart Below)
Total Course Points	400 Points

## Course Schedule

Date	Icebreaker	Topic	Description	Assignments Due
July 6	Three of a Kind	Orientation	Syllabus & Course, Instructor About Me Presentations, Study Habits, ONE.UF Navigation, Assign Campus Resource Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Syllabus Quiz</li> <li>Introduction Survey</li> <li>Video Reflection #1</li> </ul>
July 11	Getting to Know You Bingo	Getting to Know You	Canvas Orientation About Me Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>About Me Presentation</li> </ul>
July 13	Name Dual	Campus Resources	Campus Resource Group Presentations, Resource Jeopardy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Campus Resource Group Presentation</li> <li>Canvas Profile</li> <li>Video Reflection #2</li> </ul>
July 18	Choose 2 of 3 Questions to Answer	Professional Development	Visit to the Career Connections Center in the Reitz for Resume Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resume Draft</li> <li>Portfolium Account</li> </ul>
July 20	86400	Academic Enrichment	Time Management Presentation, Study Abroad Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gator Careerlink Activation</li> <li>Video Reflection #3</li> </ul>
July 25	This or That: Hobbies & Interests	Living in Gainesville	Roommate Relation Tips, Discovering Gainesville Jeopardy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daily Schedule</li> <li>Study Abroad Assignment</li> </ul>

July 27	Make Campus Maps	Exploring Campus	Scavenger Hunt via Goosechase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Panel Questions</li> <li>• Video Reflection #4</li> </ul>
August 1	Rant or Rave	Personal Maintenance	DRC Presentation, Mental Health Resources	No Homework
August 3	Rock, Paper, Scissors Tournament	Budgeting, Finances & Involvement	Panel with UF Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Resume</li> <li>• Video Reflection #5</li> </ul>
August 8	Act & React	Changemaker Chat	Changemaker Chat, Service Project Debrief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service Project Reflection</li> </ul>
August 10	Song of the Semester	Final Class	Paper Plate Activity, Snacks, Debrief on Semester	No Homework

## Breakdown of Assignment

Assignment	Points Possible
About Me Presentation	25
Syllabus Quiz	10
Interest Survey	5
Canvas Profile/Name Coach	10
Campus Resource Group Presentation	25
Resume Draft	10
Portfolium Account	10
Gator Careerlink Activation	10
Study Abroad	10
Daily Schedule	10
Panel Questions	5
Final Resume	10
eCheckup To Go	25
Panel Reflection	10
One on One	25
Service Project	50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>250</b>

## Assignment Descriptions

**About Me Presentation** – Complete a 3-4 slide, maximum two-minute presentation about yourself. It must include: your name, pronouns, major, hometown, favorite colors, likes, dislikes, 2 truths and a lie (pertaining to yourself), and at least 5 photos that you are in!

**Syllabus Quiz** – Take a short quiz to ensure that you understand the policies and assignments established by the syllabus.

**Introduction Survey** – Take a short survey to inform your instructors about your interests and desires for this course. Being completely honest and elaborative on the survey will allow us to cater the course to students.

**Canvas Profile** – Update your profile on Canvas with a photo (of yourself), pronouns, and a short biography. You will also be recording the pronunciation of your name using NameCoach. This will help your instructors get to know you better during your time at UF.

**Video Reflections** -We will have weekly Flip assignments where you will create a short video response (60 to 90 seconds) to prompts based on the theme for the week. In addition to your response, you will also need to comment on 2 classmates' video responses.

**Campus Resource Group Presentation** - In groups of three you will embark upon researching, visit and prepare a power point presentation of your findings of one UF Resource. Your presentation should include the following information: Name of the resource, a group picture at the UF resource department/building sign, the location, a summary of what they do, what benefit are they to students. And anything else you can think of. 3-5 slides will suffice.

**Daily Schedule** – You will complete a schedule for your upcoming week that must include any upcoming assignments, meetings, working/club obligations, or other items you must allot time to.

**Resume Draft** - You must create a resume prior to our resume workshop with the Career Connections Center. Create this resume to whatever parameters you may like. If you have a recently updated resume, feel free to submit that.

**Portfolium Account** - You will also be creating a Portfolium e-portfolio that you will be able to share with potential employers.

**Gator Careerlink** - 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. After Class take CHOMP, our Career Help or Major Planning tool. With CHOMP you can explore potential majors and careers through the convenience of this online tool.

**Final Resume** – Using the information established by our resume presentation at the Career Connections Center, update your resume and improve it.

**Panelist Questions** – Prepare at least three questions you want to ask the students on the panel can answer regarding budgeting, involvement, or their time at UF.

**eCheckup to Go** - The eCHECK UP TO GO program is designed to help provide students with personalized, in-depth feedback on 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 asked to submit this via Canvas in order to receive 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](mailto:gwgatorwell@ufsa.ufl.edu) for any questions you have about the eCheck-up To Go Program.

**Panel Reflection** – Provide a minimum 200-word reflection on what you learned (or didn't learn) from our panelists regarding finance or involvement at UF.

**One-on-One** - You will be required to schedule an interview with your instructors. These will last approximately 30 minutes and are an integral part of making sure you are adjusting well to college life. We will put out our availability, and you must sign up for a time that fits best with your schedule.

**Service Project & Reflection** - The University of Florida consistently upholds the value of the “Gator Good”. This demonstrates our passion for giving and serving others in the community. You should participate in the selection of a service project idea/activity/location and participate in the actual service project. Upon completion of the project, you will provide a 250–300-word summary of your reflection of your participation in this project.

### **Enrichment Opportunities (Extra Credit)**

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 encouraged to attend at least one or more if you are interested. Dates and links for the fair will be posted to Canvas.

Additional opportunities will be provided throughout the semester.