



## SLS1102: First Year Florida

**Class Meeting:** Section 11G0 - Tuesdays 9:35 AM-10:25 AM

**Location:** Keen-Flint Hall, Rm 0113

**Office Hours:** Made by appointment only; Schedule a time to meet via email



## Course Information

**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 develop the practical, social, emotional, and intellectual skills essential to 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.

**Required Texts:** First Year Florida Course Packet

**Technology:** This class will utilize Canvas for assignment submissions in conjunction with paper assignments. **All assignments will be due at 11:59 PM on Sundays at the specified dates listed in the Syllabus and on Canvas.**

If there is any difficulty submitting an assignment, please contact your instructor and peer leader to let them know. If laptops are necessary for a specific class, the teaching pair will let students know prior to the date.

All students are required to have a valid UF email account and must be able to access Canvas. You are responsible for regularly checking the SLS1102 Canvas site for the course calendar, required readings, announcements, and other course resources and materials. You should contact the UF help desk if you experience technological issues with Canvas. Do not contact your instructor or teaching assistant if you are having issues with Canvas without a ticket number from the UF help desk.

**Course Goals, Objectives & Outcomes:** 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 self-exploration and community belonging
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.

**Participation:** Our class time will be primarily discussion-based, consisting of group activities, presentations, and reflection. Therefore, it is imperative you arrive on time and stay actively engaged throughout class. You each have a unique perspective and personal experiences to enhance our discussions. We expect you to grant your full attention to whoever is speaking, including instructors, peers, and presenters. **Cell phone use will not be permitted during class time unless specifically stated.**



**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.



## Absence/Late Policy

All absences and late arrivals must be accompanied by an excuse in order to receive participation or tardy points. Students are counted as tardy after five minutes, with no exceptions. **Attendance is approximately 31% of your grade** and is integral to your success in this class. Excused absences include University-sponsored events, Religious Holidays with prior notice, and Medical/Emotional/Family Emergencies with appropriate 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>.

**Late Policy:** All work submitted past the due date, **Sundays at 11:59 PM**, will result in a 1-point reduction in your assignment grade for each day late, unless you have submitted 1) your academic accommodations **or** 2) a written request to your instructors detailing your reason for submitting your work late and a timeline for submission of late work.



## Academic Honesty

**Academic Honor System:** 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.

**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 honesty and integrity.**

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**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.



## U Matter, We Care Statement

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 helpful resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing Staff, and the Counselling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.



## 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
- ✓ Participate in classroom discussions and activities

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 you will be expected to be respectful of one another and any presenters during:

- ✓ Discussions
- ✓ Presentations
- ✓ Any other activities

**Respect and Understanding:** 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.**

We will also adhere to the following ground rules:

- ✓ Step in and Step out – Share your story and perspective but then give others an opportunity to respond and/or share.
- ✓ Use “I” statements.
- ✓ Vegas Rule – What happens in class, stays in class. *Slightly modified!* During class someone may share something really personal, ask a question, or say something that they wouldn’t want attached to their name outside this space. So, remember that **learning leaves, and the names stay.**
- ✓ Reserve the right to change your mind – If you say or think something and then later disagree with yourself, that’s a-okay!

## 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:

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
E	0-59

## Course Overview

Date/Topic	Overview of Weekly Topic	Complete Assigned Readings Before Class	<b>Assignment Due on Sundays by 11:59 PM</b>
1/13 – 1/19 Week 1 <b>Course Success</b>	-Instructor Intros & Icebreakers -Course Overview -Using Canvas	-Read Syllabus -Read First Year Florida Course Packet <b>pgs. 1-8</b>	-Complete Portfolio Artifacts Consent and Accommodations Survey <b>(10 pts extra credit)</b> -Submit Class Introduction Slide
1/20 – 1/26 Week 2 <b>Class Service Project &amp; Class Introductions</b>	-Class Service Project: <i>MLK Day of Service on Monday, 1/10</i> - Class Introductions		-Answer Discussion Board 1: Service Project Reflection <b>(50 pts)</b>
1/27 – 2/2 Week 3 <b>Campus Resources</b>	-Identify resources on Campus that can support you through our Campus Scavenger Hunt		-Submit Team Scavenger Hunt <b>(50 pts)</b>
2/3 – 2/9 Week 4 <b>Discover Gainesville</b>			-Complete the Gator Hangout Activity
2/3 – 2/9 Week 4 <b>Resumes &amp; LinkedIn</b>			--Submit 3 questions for the Student Experience Panel next week <b>(5 pts)</b> -Submit your Gator Hangout Reflection & Picture <b>(20 pts)</b>
2/10 – 2/16 Week 5 <b>Finding Involvement &amp; Experience at UF</b>	-Student Activities & Involvement (SAI) Presentation -Student Experience Panel	-Read First Year Florida Course Packet <b>pgs. 39-43</b>	-Submit your 4-Semester Experience Plan <b>(10 pts)</b> -Submit a screenshot of your LinkedIn Profile <b>(5 pts)</b>
2/17 – 2/23 Week 6 <b>Financial Planning</b>			<b>-Is there an assignment we can have them submit related to financial planning (10 pts)</b>
2/24 – 3/2 Week 7 <b>Time Management &amp; Study Tips</b>		-Read First Year Florida Course Packet <b>pgs. 10-21</b>	<b>-Is there an assignment we can have them submit related to time management &amp; study tips (10 pts)</b>
3/10 – 3/16 Week 8 <b>Class Choice</b>	-What is something you want to learn more about that we are not covering?		

3/3 – 3/9 Week 9 <b>Academic Planning &amp; Course Registration</b>		-Read First Year Florida Course Packet <b>pgs. 22-27</b>	-Submit your 4-Semester Academic Plan <b>(10 pts)</b>
3/17 – 3/23 Week 10 <b>Spring Break</b>	-No Class this week		-No Assignments Due
3/24 – 3/30 Week 11 <b>Dimensions of Wellness</b>		-Read First Year Florida Course Packet <b>pgs. 43-45</b>	-Submit your Wellness Picture <b>(5 pts)</b> -Answer Discussion Post 2:Wellness Matters <b>(50 pts)</b>
3/31 – 4/6 Week 12 <b>Managing Your Stress</b>		-Read First Year Florida Course Packet <b>pgs. 45-51</b>	-Submit the Managing Your Stress Worksheet <b>(10 pts)</b> -Submit group project: Gator Game Day Traditions <b>(50 pts)</b> -Final Week to complete your 1:1 <b>(30 pts)</b>
4/7 – 4/13 Week 13 <b>Gator Game Day Traditions</b>	-Gator Football Game Day Traditions Group Project Presentations		-Submit your College Resume <b>(25 pts)</b> -Complete <a href="#">CHOMP</a> Assessments (All 9 Assessments). Submit a screenshot of your results <b>(20 pts)</b>
4/14 – 4/20 Week 14 <b>Applying to Opportunities</b>	-How to apply for opportunities (Part-Time Jobs, On-Campus Jobs, Programs, Internships, Graduate School)	-Read First Year Florida Course Packet <b>pgs. 60-66</b>	-Submit a screenshot of your Gator CareerLink Profile <b>(10 pts)</b> -Deadline to submit your Resource/Career Fair Attendance Reflection w/ Photo <b>(25 pts)</b>
4/21 – 4/27 Week 15 <b>Semester Wrap-Up</b>	-Final Class -End of Semester Presentations -Course Evaluations		-Submit your My Spring Semester Presentation <b>(25 pts)</b>

## Assignment Descriptions

Below are the descriptions for all required assignments included in the list above. A detailed description and/or rubric, including assignment requirements, are included in the weekly modules in Canvas. Assignment grades will be based on information included in Canvas.

At the completion of this course and all required activities and assignments, you can earn **550 points** that will determine your final grade plus **10 points extra credit**.

**Course Attendance (175 pts):** Attendance in weekly classes and course requirements will count as 45% of your final grade. Therefore, attending class and all course-required activities is important to your final grade.

**Class Attendance (75 pts):** Participating in class discussions and activities will count toward your final grade, please be prepared to attend class weekly and be as actively engaged in the class activities and discussions. You will receive **5 pts** for each class you attend.

Another part of attendance will be your participation in the following course requirements **(100 pts):**

**One-on-One (30 pts):** You must schedule a 30-minute one-on-one. 1:1's will take place outside of our class time to receive credit. One-on-ones are meant to connect with your instructors to discuss your academic, professional, and/or personal needs and goals. All 1:1's must be completed by Friday, April 4, 2025.

**Service Project (50 pts):** For our service project, we will volunteer during the MLK Day of Service on Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. Completing a service project is required for all First Year Florida classes and all FYF students must be present on the day of service.

You will then be required to submit your response to the Discussion on Canvas by Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Resource & Career Fair Attendance (20 pts):** Attending a career fair is a requirement for this course. You can attend any career and resource fair that is being hosted on campus this semester. You will be provided with a list of resources and career fairs taking place during the Spring Semester.

To complete this assignment, you must attend a Resource or Career Fair before November 5<sup>th</sup>. To prove you attended the Career Fair, you are to submit your **Resource & Career Fair Attendance Reflection and picture is due by April 20<sup>th</sup>**.

**Readings/Videos:** The primary reading for this course will come from the First Year Florida Handbook. Supplemental articles, videos, and other sources of information will be provided on Canvas for those who want to learn more about a subject and develop a deeper understanding of the information we are covering. Participation in group discussions and completion of assignments will be used to assess if you are using these resources provided to you.

**Class Introduction Slide (10 pts):** This assignment gives you the opportunity to introduce yourself to your classmates and instructor in a creative and engaging way. By sharing a bit about yourself, you'll help build a sense of community and connection within the class.

Create one slide to introduce yourself to the class. Your slide should include the following:

- Your Name
- Your Major
- Optional Information (choose what you'd like to share):
  - o Your hometown

- Interests and hobbies
- Fun facts about yourself
- Anything else you'd like the class to know about you

We encourage you to be creative: Use visuals (pictures, colors, or graphics) to make your slide unique and reflect your personality. Keep it simple: This is a one-slide introduction, so focus on the highlights you'd like to share. Submit your slide on **Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>**. You will introduce yourself to the class on **Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>**.

**University of Florida Campus Scavenger Hunt (50 pts):** In this collaborative assignment, you and your teammates will work together to explore and discover various resources across the University of Florida campus that support student well-being. This hands-on activity is designed to help you familiarize yourselves with key services available to you as UF students and understand how they can contribute to your success and overall well-being. You will be given the Clues to the Campus Resources in class on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

### Objectives:

- Collaborate as a team to identify and visit essential campus resources.
- Find the resource
- Complete the required activity once you find it
- Capture a photo of the group in front of the resource
- Gather specific information about each resource, including services offered, location, and how to access them.
- Create a visual presentation in PowerPoint that includes group photos, showcases your findings, and demonstrates your understanding of the resources available to UF students.

**Gator Hangout (20 pts):** For this assignment, you will be randomly paired with another student in our class and will complete a fun activity together outside of class. When brainstorming activities think of ways to spend at least 30 minutes with your partner.

Some ideas to consider include:

- Have coffee at [Starbucks](#)
- Meet for [Breakfast or Lunch](#) or have Krishna Lunch in the Plaza of the Americas
- Participate in an activity through [RecSports](#)
- Go for a [walk on campus](#)
- Attend a [Gators Sporting Event](#)
- Hang out at the [Game Room](#)
- Explore your artistic and creative side at the [Arts & Crafts Center](#)
- Participate in a UF Tradition found in the F Books

Whatever you choose to do, take some time to get to know each other. The goal is for you to practice building connections with your peers. You must submit a picture and a reflection about your experience to show proof of your hangout.

Each member of the pair will be required to submit a reflection and picture by **Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>**.

**Resume (25 pts):** To complete this assignment you will be required to attend the Career Connections Center's Express Drop-In to have your current resume reviewed. (10 pts).

You will then be required to take the feedback given to you during EDI and make updates to your current resume. For this assignment, you will be required to submit your (1) original resume, (2) feedback sheet (either your original resume with C3 feedback or a notes sheet you took during the review with suggested changes), and (3) your updated resume **by Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.** (15 pts)

**LinkedIn Profile (5 pts):** Create/Update your LinkedIn profile. Submit a screenshot of the following by **Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>.**

1. Profile Picture
2. Name
3. Headline
4. Education Information

**CHOMP Self-Assessments (20 pts):** 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.

CHOMP is powered by Focus 2, a web-based major and career exploration tool that offers a variety of self-assessments in order to evaluate your level of career readiness and gain self-awareness in the areas of work interests, values, personality, skills, and leisure interests. You are also able to explore majors and occupations related to these different dimensions of self and how different majors at UF may connect to careers.

You will be required to complete CHOMP as a student in their first year at UF to satisfy the Career Prep Process hold on your account. To satisfy this class assignment you are to complete the following assessments below and submit a screenshot of your completed assessment by **Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM.**

- The 3 assessments below will correspond with Module 1: Self-Awareness Module
  - Values Assessment
  - Leisure Assessment
  - Personality Assessment
  - Skills Assessment
- The 2 assessments below will correspond with Module 3: Academic Success
  - Academic Strengths
  - Work Interest Assessment
- The 2 assessments below will correspond with Module 6: Career Readiness
  - My Career Planning Involvement
  - Am I Career Ready?

**Discussion Boards (100 pts):** You will be required to complete 2 Discussion Boards this semester. The Discussion Boards will be used as an assessment of your learning of the content  
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covered in course modules. For each Discussion Board, you will be given a prompt that you will respond to in either written or video format. The 2 Discussion Board prompts are below:

- Discussion Board 1: *Service Project Reflection* due 1/26 @ 11:59 PM (50 pts)
- Discussion Board 2: *Wellness Matters* due 3/30 (50 pts)

You will also be required to read and respond to at least 2 of your peers' posts. You are encouraged to read the discussion posts from all your peers. There is a "liking" feature for posts, and I would encourage you to participate by liking the posts of your peers.

**Activities & Worksheets (35 pts):** Throughout the semester you will be given activities and worksheets for assignments that you must complete and submit on the due dates listed below and in the Course Overview and Canvas. These will be skills-based activities that we work on during class. You will then be required to finish completing the activity outside of the class by the due date.

The goal of these activities & worksheets is to teach you skills and strategies that can support your developing sense of self, student engagement, academic success, student success, and career readiness. Below are the activities and worksheets you will be required to complete & submit this semester.

- 3 questions for Student Experience Panel due 2/9 @ 11:59 PM (5 pts)
- 4-Semester Experience Plan due 2/16 @ 11:59 PM (10 pts)
- 4-Semester Academic Plan due 3/30 @ 11:59 PM (10 pts)
- Managing Your Stress Worksheet due 11/10 @ 11:59 PM (10 pts)

**Wellness Picture (5 pts):** Submit a picture of you doing something good for your mental health (going on a walk, listening to music, etc.)

**Gator CareerLink Activation (10 pts):** Gator CareerLink (GCL) is the portal to everything career at the University of Florida. Employers intentionally recruit in GCL to connect with talented UF students and alumni. Additionally, GCL provides incredible access to information about upcoming events, online resources, internships, co-ops, job shadowing, part and full-time job opportunities and more.

GCL is a free service provided for students and alumni. By activating your account, you will have access to all the Career Connections Center's (C3) services including job and internship postings, individual 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 is a requirement and allows you to become familiar with the Gator CareerLink system and connects you to the C3 right away.

All students in their first year on campus are required to activate their Gator CareerLink to satisfy a requirement for the Career Prep Hold on their account. To complete the assignment for this class, you are to complete the steps below and respond to the assignment that you have activated your profile and date completed.

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.

**Gator Game Day Traditions (50 pts):** In this group project, you will work together to research and present one of the many rich traditions that take place during Gator Game Days. Each group will choose a tradition, delve into its history, significance, and evolution, and present their findings to the class during Homecoming Week. This project aims to deepen students' understanding of UF's culture while fostering collaboration, research skills, and pride in the Gator Nation.

- Two Bits Cheer
- We Are the Boys
- I Won't Back Down
- UF Alma Matter

Groups will consist of 2-3 people (will be provided after Add/Drop Dates)

1. Create a Group Name
2. Research the following information
  - a. **Origin and History:** When and how did this tradition begin? What was the original purpose or meaning behind it?
  - b. **Cultural Significance:** How does this tradition contribute to the atmosphere at Gator football games?
  - c. **Evolution and Continuity:** Has this tradition changed over time? How has it been preserved or adapted to stay relevant in today's game day experience?
  - d. **Student and Fan Involvement:** How do students and fans participate in this tradition? What makes it a vital part of the game day experience in The Swamp?
3. Groups will organize their findings into a 5-8 minute presentation that includes the following information:
  - a. A brief introduction to the tradition, including its origins and key historical moments.
  - b. A discussion on the cultural significance and impact of tradition on the Gator community.
  - c. Visual aids such as photos, videos, or infographics to enhance understanding.
  - d. A creative element that engages the class, such as leading the class in the chant, song, or a participatory activity related to the tradition.
4. Groups are encouraged to rehearse to ensure smooth delivery and effective collaboration.

**Presentations are due on April 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM. Groups will present their project to the class on April 8<sup>th</sup>.**

**My Spring Semester Presentation (25 pts):** This is your opportunity to reflect on what you've learned and experienced during this semester in First Year Florida (FYF). This presentation will help you connect what you've gained from the course to your future goals while sharing a bit of creativity with the class.

For this assignment, you are to create a 2-3 slide presentation that includes the following:

1. Reflection on Learning
  - a. Highlight what you learned this semester in FYF and how you will use it moving forward.
  - b. Share one thing you learned about yourself during this experience.
2. Looking Ahead
  - a. Set and share one meaningful goal for next year (academic, personal, or professional).
  - b. Explain briefly how you plan to achieve this goal.
3. Picture that Represents Your Spring Semester
  - a. Include one picture that creatively represents your spring semester.
  - b. Your picture can be a meme, GIF, or another creative visual that captures the essence of your experience.

**Presentations will be presented during our final class on Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

