

First-Year Experience

SLS 1501, Fall 2013, Section #U01C

Mondays & Wednesdays, 8:00am - 8:50am, Room GC 276

<http://sls1501fall.wordpress.com/>

<http://www.gatorjbone.com/>

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Required Textbooks:

1. *The First Year: Making the Most of College*, 7th ed. Andrews and Lunsford, 2013.
2. *Wine to Water*, Doc Hendley, 2012.

(This Common Reading book was provided to you when you attended Orientation).

Doc Hendley at FIU: October 22 at 2pm in WUC 221 (BBC) and October 23 at 12pm in GC Ballrooms (MMC)

Purpose: FIU recognizes that a university education takes place both inside and outside of the classroom. SLS 1501 introduces students to the university and promotes and supports academic, intellectual, personal, and social growth and success. The course presents the skills and competencies necessary for first-year students' transition to the university, including developing effective study skills; understanding University Core Curriculum, major, and career choices; managing time, finances, responsibilities, health, and wellness; developing social relationships and appreciating the diversity of our campuses and communities; and preparing for global citizenship.

Learning Outcomes

Students who complete this course are expected to learn:

- Strategies and resources that promote and support academic success.
- The complex issues and choices confronting a college student.
- How to navigate the University environment.
- The basic academic policies, requirements and procedures.
- That diversity and differences should be embraced and celebrated.

General Class Expectations:

- Be on time for class.
- It is expected that you attend and participate in class discussion.
- Respect the values and diversities of those around you.
- Please turn cell phones, pagers, and laptops off.
- Prepare for class (i.e. reading material, papers, and projects).
- Dress appropriately (no pajamas, bathing suits, etc.).
- My role as your instructor is to facilitate an environment that fosters learning, participation, and the transition to University life. Students who exhibit behaviors that prohibit this will be expected to adjust their behavior accordingly.

Course Requirements

Summary Table

Attendance and Participation	20 points
Common Reading Assignments	15 points
Readings, Homework, In-Class Assignments & Quizzes	20 points
Campus Involvement Papers	10 points
Resume	10 points
Blog Posts/WordPress Site	<u>25 Points</u>
	100 points

Attendance and Participation (20 points)

Attendance and participation are mandatory. This includes bringing your textbook and syllabus to every class. Students will be granted 2 absences during the semester. Each additional unexcused absence will result in a subtraction of half a letter grade from your final grade. Showing up for class more than 15 minutes late will be considered an absence (The Michael Sharp Rule). In the event of an emergency, an exemption may be granted, but it is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor as soon as a conflict occurs. It is the student's responsibility to complete the assignments given in class and still abide by the proper due dates. Additionally, all students are required to participate in class. Your success in this class will depend on your preparedness, interest, and enthusiasm for this class.

Common Reading (15 points)

Quiz (5 points)

Essay (10 points) Select an event or theme from the book that you can identify with, and explain how it applies to your college transition. The paper should be two typed pages in length, double-spaced.

Readings, Homework, In-Class Assignments & Quizzes (20 points)

The textbook is both a workbook and a collection of useful readings. It is required that each student purchase a copy of this text. Assignments from the textbook are not to be photocopied or turned in on notebook paper. Only the original copy from the textbook will be accepted. All homework assignments are due at the beginning of the class period and will NOT be accepted late.

Campus Involvement Papers (10 points)

All students are required to complete 2 campus involvement event papers (i.e. sporting event, speakers, workshops, plays, etc.). These activities cannot be required for another course. The papers must be 1 page, double-spaced. The following are expectations for the assignment:

- Describe the event/ activity.
- Why you chose this particular activity.
- Describe your experience.
- How did you benefit/what did you value from your experience.

WordPress Website (25 points)

Each student will create and maintain a website, which will be created through [WordPress](#).

- You must make at least one entry per week. Specific entries may include (but are not limited to):
 - Your transition into college (how are you adjusting, handling, etc.).
 - Issues in your personal/professional life as it directly affects your education.
- Each entry should be no less than 100 words.
- You will also post specific assignments to your website.

Resume Preparation (10 points)

Each student will prepare a professional resume based on his or her career objectives. The resume will be created using the resources provided by the university, the Internet and classroom discussions.

Evaluation:

Final grades for the course will be based on a points system using the following scale:

(A)	95 – 100 points	(B-)	80 – 82	(D+)	67 – 69
(A-)	90 – 94	(C+)	77 – 79	(D)	64 – 66
(B+)	87 – 89	(C)	73 – 76	(D-)	60 – 63
(B)	83 – 86	(C-)	70 – 72	(F)	59 points or less

Early Alert Program

In an effort to help you succeed, students who perform below academic standards in class may be referred to the Undergraduate Education Academic Advising Center for further assistance. This includes students who have not been attending class, submitting homework assignments, or passing quizzes and tests.

Institutional Values: The first-year seminar is intentionally kept at 25 or fewer students, and creating a classroom environment that reflects FIU's core values is the shared responsibility of instructor and students:

- *Truth—in the pursuit, generation, dissemination, and application of knowledge*
- *Freedom—of thought and expression*
- *Respect—for diversity and the dignity of the individual*
- *Responsibility—as stewards of the environment and citizens of the world*
- *Excellence—in intellectual, personal, and operational endeavors*

Academic Misconduct Statement

Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly to demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Academic Misconduct includes: Cheating – The unauthorized use of books, notes, aids, electronic sources; or assistance from another person with respect to examinations, course assignments, field service reports, class recitations; or the unauthorized possession of examination papers or course materials, whether originally authorized or not. Plagiarism – The use and appropriation of another’s work without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student’s own. Any student who fails to give credit for ideas, expressions or materials taken from another source, including internet sources, is responsible for pla

The instructor retains the right to modify this course syllabus for any reason throughout the semester provided that:

- a. Fair and adequate notice is given to enrolled students either by email, or online publishing.**
- b. Modifications to the syllabus are not arbitrary or capricious.**
- c. Students are not unfairly disadvantaged by mid-semester changes to grading standards, attendance standards, or performance measure**

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

Topics and assignments are subject to change

Class Date	Topic	Assignments
August 26	Introductions & Expectations	Discussion in class: Syllabus Buy the textbook!
August 28	Getting Started: An Introduction	Read: Chapters 1 Due: WordPress website address
September 2	Labor Day – University Closed	NO CLASS
September 4	Navigating the University	Read: Chapter 2 Due: 2.1 & 2.2
September 9	Freshman Assessment	Location TBD
September 11	Studying Effectively Presentation by Center for Academic Success	Read: Chapter 3 Due: 3.1, 3.2
September 16	It's All Academic Group Advising Presentation	Read: Chapter 4 Due: 4.1 & bring PDA
September 18	Using the Library Wine To Water Quiz Presentation by Library Instruction – GL 245	Read: Chapter 7 Due: Common Reading Essay
September 23	Diversity in a Diverse Context	Read: Chapter 9
September 25	On Time	Read: Chapter 5 Due: 5.1, 5.2
September 30	Stress, Stressing, Stressed Out	Read: Chapter 6 Due: 6.1
October 2	Leadership and Community Standards Presentation by Center for Leadership & Service	Read: Chapter 10 Due: 10.1 & 10.3
October 7	Becoming a Global Citizen Presentation by Office of Global Learning	Read: Chapter 11 Due: 11.2
October 9	Relationships: Healthy, Harmful, or Hazardous Presentation by Victim Empowerment Center	Read: Chapter 8 Due: 8.1 & Campus Involvement Paper I
October 14	Controlling your Finances Presentation by Office of Financial Aid	Read: Chapter 12 Due: 12.1

October 16	Maximizing Your Health Presentation by University Health Services Center	Read: Chapters 13 Due: 13.1
October 21	Mental Health and Its Impact on Academic Success	Read: Chapter 14 Due: 14.1
October 23	Exploring, Developing and Managing Your Career Wine To Water – Doc Hendley at FIU	Read: Chapters 15 Due: Campus Involvement Paper II
October 28	Resume Preparation	
October 30	Interviewing Techniques	Due: Interview questions
November 4	Putting it all Together	Read: Chapter 16 Due: 16.1
November 6	Letters of Reference	
November 11	Veterans Day – University Closed	NO CLASS
November 13	Cultural Exchange	Due: Resume