SLS 1501 (2 credits)
Honors Introduction to College Life
Florida Atlantic University
Fall 2013

Instructor: Heather M. Bishara  
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Office: 206 Student Union  
Office hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m., and by appointment  
Class meeting times: Monday, 3-450pm; Lab on Wednesdays, 4pm, locations to be distributed  
Class location: CU 128  
Blackboard Entry Page: http://blackboard.fau.edu

Required Texts:
1. Distinction Through Discover: A Research-Oriented First Year Experience by Jeffrey Buller, Ph.D. (available for free on Blackboard!)
2. An Edible History of Humanity, by Tom Standage
3. Various handouts may be posted on Blackboard
4. Reading Assignment schedule will be posted on Blackboard.

Course Description:
Required for first-year Honors students. This course is designed to increase the students’ success in college by assisting them in obtaining the knowledge and skills necessary to reach their educational objectives. Topics include the nature of postsecondary education, time management, test-taking, communication skills, study techniques, question-asking skills, and library use.

Course Objectives:
- Assist you in your transition to Florida Atlantic University & the Honors Program
- Assist you in developing and/or improving essential academic skills
- Assist you in making connections with your new community
- Assist you in becoming oriented to campus resources and facilities
- Assist you in your goal setting and short and long-term planning
- Assist you in developing analytical and critical thinking skills
- Assist you in exploring career and academic goals
- Assist you in improving your written and oral communication skills
SLS 1501 students will demonstrate university level skills in the following areas:

- Time management
- Academic goal setting
- College success strategies
- Critical thinking
- Question asking/information gathering skills

Classroom Environment:
Discrimination, harassment, or intimidation will not be tolerated. Everyone has the right to her or his own opinion, and should also remember that others also have the right to a classroom free from hostility, ridicule, or embarrassment, and an atmosphere conducive to learning. Every student is expected to participate in a responsible and mature manner that enhances education. Any conduct that disrupts the learning process may lead to disciplinary action.

Expectations & Philosophy of Teaching/Learning:
Students are expected to actively participate in class. I see my role in this process as that of a facilitator. I will introduce ideas and concepts and lead the discussion and/or introduce the activity, and occasionally, I may lecture. Students are required to do more than show up for class—you are expected to listen, ask questions, and offer insights. In doing so, we will learn from each other, as well as from the assigned readings. I expect and challenge you to keep an open mind and to think critically about the diverse viewpoints, ideas, and concepts discussed throughout the class.

What You May Expect From Me:
For my part, I will do my best to engage students in the material and make the subject matter understandable, and I will strive to create a safe environment for honest discussion. You may expect me to be prepared, to lead discussion, to be available for help, to meet with you at your request, to carefully review your work and to be fair in grading. The best way to reach me outside of class is by e-mail.

Classroom Etiquette:
In order to make the teaching/learning process a smooth one, I ask the following:
1. Arrive on time.
2. Stay until you have been dismissed.
3. If you need to arrive late or leave early for a particular (good) reason, please notify me.
4. I don’t care if you eat or drink during class, as long as it’s not a distraction.
5. Please do not hold side conversations during class.
6. Turn off all cell phones, watch alarms, and any other noise-making devices.

**E-Mail & MyFAU:**
FAU provides a computer account, FAUNet ID, which includes e-mail, to all faculty, staff and students. Student accounts are created automatically when they are entered into the student information database (Oasis).

The student e-mail quota is 20 MB. Your e-mail address is your FAUNetID followed by "@fau.edu." You can use MyFAU, the university’s web portal, to read your e-mail, or you can set up Outlook or other mail clients to access it.

If you don't know what your FAUNet ID is, you can use the Account Lookup page: [https://banner.fau.edu/FAUPdad/lwgkznum.P_Display](https://banner.fau.edu/FAUPdad/lwgkznum.P_Display)

The initial default password for MyFAU is your date of birth in mmddyy format. For example, if your birthdate is March 5, 1992, your default password would be 030592. Once you have changed your password, all systems will have the same password.

If you still cannot get into MyFAU or the network (including wireless) after changing your password in MyFAU, you may submit a ticket through the online Service Desk ([http://www.fau.edu/helpdesk](http://www.fau.edu/helpdesk)).

It is your responsibility to access your FAU email account regularly (at least twice per week). Although it is possible to forward your FAU e-mail to a personal e-mail account, please be advised that many Internet Service Providers, especially AOL, Yahoo, Gmail, and Hotmail, often consider FAU e-mail to be spam and thus block or delay the messages. To ensure that you receive your FAU e-mail, IRM recommends that you not forward it to any personal e-mail

**Blackboard:**
This course is Web assisted. Course information and documents are available on the course website via Blackboard.

Step 1: Direct your web browser to [http://blackboard.fau.edu](http://blackboard.fau.edu).
Step 2: Enter your Username and Password in the appropriate boxes.

Your Blackboard username is your FAUNet ID. This FAUNet ID will also be your Blackboard username for all Fall 2013 classes. If you don’t know your FAUNet ID go to [https://banner.fau.edu/FAUPdad/lwgkznum.P_DisplayID](https://banner.fau.edu/FAUPdad/lwgkznum.P_DisplayID)
Your password for Blackboard is the same one you use to access MyFAU.

The student e-mail address in Blackboard will be set as your FAU e-mail address, and you will not be able to change your e-mail address in Blackboard. All e-mail communication from and to your instructor for this course will be posted to Blackboard or sent only to your FAU account.

If you need assistance with any of the above, please let us know. The use of technology in this class is meant to make your life easier, not to intimidate you. I will gladly walk you through any or all of the process if you need assistance.

Course Requirements:
Who Am I, Where Have I Been, Why Am I Here, and Where Am I Going? — Create a blog entry on blackboard addressing these questions. Include any photos you would like to share, one of which must be a picture of you. You will present your blog, in presentation/powerpoint format, to the group in class on September 16. 10%

Participation/Attendance — This class is discussion-based. As such, your attendance is crucial. Failure to participate will have a negative impact on your grade in the course. Students are required to prepare for and attend all class meetings. Attendance will be taken. As a matter of justice, adjusting the grades of students who fail to attend class is warranted in virtue of their having done comparatively less of the objective work of the course. Reading assignments should be read prior to class. Participation in class discussions indicates proper preparation. For information about excusable absences please see below. 15%

Campus Connections — Campus life is rich with opportunities for you to attend cultural and social events. Often these events are free or at very little cost. The research on student success has demonstrated that students who become involved with their campus have an enriched academic experience, have a higher rate of retention, and express greater satisfaction with their higher-education experience. They tend to perform better academically, develop a large group of social contacts, and broaden their cultural interests. This assignment introduces you to organizations and activities available on campus that can provide you with an enriched experience. You will report on THREE campus connections that you’ve made throughout the semester. Further details will be provided in a separate handout. 20%

Career/Major Exploration — Complete a career development project and in conjunction with your experience FAU’s Career Center write a paper in which you explore some of your career planning. Details provided in separate handout. 10%
Group Treasure Hunt/Map—In small groups, you will explore the FAU campus. This assignment will help familiarize you with people, places, offices, departments and buildings on campus. The goal is for you to gain awareness of the resources and services at your disposal for college success. 10%

Group Community Service Project—As a member of the Honors Program at Florida Atlantic University, you are required to complete at least 20 hours of community service. This assignment calls for you to complete at least 5 hours of community service at an agency that you as a class “adopt” and plan a project with. You will complete a pre-reflection paper (at least 2 pages long), 10 hours of community service and a post reflection paper (at least 3 pages long.) This project should be geared around a food/hunger focus. 20%

Reflection Assignments—You will be asked to complete 3 two-page reflection papers throughout the semester (this is in addition to the Community Service Assignment.) These papers will be about course discussion/lectures and/or reading materials and should be at least 2 pages long. 10%

Research Project—As a members of the Honors Program and as a university student in general, research will play a large part in your academic career. With that in mind, you will be assigned a research project that reviews your current research skill, your resources on-campus and your ideas for how you will incorporate the Undergraduate Research programs of FAU in to your academic career. More details will be given to you during the semester. 4 pages long, 15%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements at a Glance:</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who Am I?</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>9/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation/Attendance</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus Connections</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>9/9, 10/7, 11/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career/Major Exploration</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>11/13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Treasure Hunt/Map</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10/28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Service Assignment</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>9/30 (pre-paper)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflection Assignments</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>12/4 (post paper)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Project</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>9/23, 10/21, 12/2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Grade Scale:
The following grade scale will be used:
A+=98, A=94, A- 90, B+=88, B=84, B- 80, C+=78, C=74, C- 70, D= 64, F=50 or below

Late Work & Incompletes:
Late papers will not receive anything higher than half credit for the project. Please note that grades of Incomplete (“I”) are reserved for students who are passing a course but have not completed all the required work because of rare and exceptional circumstances.

Academic Integrity:
Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the University community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Florida Atlantic University Code of Academic Integrity. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work with the exception of any collaborative assignments/projects which will be identified as such in the course materials.

Plagiarism/Cheating: All work submitted is expected to be your own with the exception of group work (see above). Plagiarism includes presenting as one’s own efforts the work of someone else without properly acknowledging the source. Always cite your sources, even if you are not directly quoting them! Plagiarism is also the recycling of your own work, e.g. turning in the same paper to fulfill requirements for more than one course.

Plagiarized work will result in permanent dismissal from class and a grade of “F” in the course. Your action will be reported to the College and University. You may be subject to penalties as addressed in University policies on the issue of plagiarism. FAU has zero tolerance for plagiarism, intentional or not. Be responsible and be honorable.
Students with a Documented Disability:
In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) -- in Boca Raton, SU 133 (561-297-3880); in Davie, LA 240 (954-236-1222); or in Jupiter, SR 110 (561-799-8010); and follow all OSD procedures.

FAU Attendance Policy:
Students are expected to attend all of their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as defined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance. Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations, or participation in University-approved activities. Examples of University approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances, and debate activities. It is the student's responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absence, and within a reasonable period of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Student must provide instructor with verification (e.g. a doctor’s note) for an absence to be excused.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE INSTRUCTOR TO ACCOMMODATE INSTRUCTIONAL AND/OR STUDENT NEEDS.

SLS 1501
Instruction/Assignment Schedule

August 25
Introduction to class; Philosophy of Learning & 5 Essential Tools

August 28
UHP Welcome Meeting, GS 118

September 2
NO CLASS, LABOR DAY!

September 4
What I Wish I Knew.... Panel Discussion
September 9
Connections through Community Service
*Due: Campus Connections Paper #1*

September 11
Peer Mentor Session

September 16
Presentations of Who AM I project
*Due: Who Am I? Why Am I Here? Where Am I Going?*

September 18
ALL UHP Session, GS 118

September 23
Learning Preferences
Setting Goals
*Due: Reflection Paper #1*

September 25
Library Services & Research

September 30
Distinction Through Discovery, the Undergraduate Research Experience
Creative Thinking
*Due: Pre-Reflection Community Service Paper*

October 2
Peer Mentor Session

October 7
Money Matters & Time Management
*Due: Campus Connections Paper #2 due*

October 9
All UHP Session, GS 118

October 14
Communication, Civility & Diversity

October 16
Career Planning Session
October 21
Decision Making & Emotional Intelligence
*Due: Reflection Paper #2*

October 23
Peer Mentor Session

October 28
Mid-Semester Appraisals & Campus Treasure Hunt Presentations
*Due: Campus Treasure Hunt Presentations*

October 30
Peer Mentor Session

November 4
Making the Most of Your College Experience
*Due: Campus Connections Paper #3*

November 6
Leadership Lessons & Assessment

November 11: NO CLASS, VETERANS DAY

November 13:
Peer Mentor Session
*Due: Career/Major Exploration Project*

November 18:
Being Well

November 20:
All UHP Session, GS 118

November 25:
Research Project Presentations
*Due: Research Projects & Presentations*

November 27:
NO CLASS

December 2:
Transitioning Past the First Year
*Due: Reflection Paper #3*
December 4:
Class Wrap-Up & Reflection
Due: Post Reflection: Community Service