

**TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**  
University College    Learning in a Global Context I    Fall 2014

**Course:** CRN#                      DAY:                      TIME:                      PLACE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Instructor:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Office:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Office hours:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mentor Assigned:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Day & Time** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Office:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

***Course Introduction***

Freshman Seminar is a comprehensive course designed to enhance the opportunity for success of first-year students.

The goals of this course are to encourage habitual application of proven learning strategies grounded in interdisciplinary and internationally focused academic study, increase awareness of academic and student life resources, and develop pro-active academic and social behavior. These insights and behaviors will help you successfully complete specific academic assignments in your classes and remain in good academic standing at TAMIU.

Course assignments require in-depth analysis and application, include extended readings, internet assignments, class discussion, and consistent student interaction and feedback concerning course content.

**VALUES OF THIS COURSE:**

FOCUSED ATTENTION  
PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY  
INTEGRITY  
RISK TAKING  
INTERNATIONAL AND DIVERSITY AWARENESS  
CONTRIBUTION

**CELLULAR PHONE USE IS PROHIBITED DURING CLASS TIME.**

**Required materials:**

- \* Reading the Globe Common Read Book : *Kaffir Boy* by Mark Mathabane.
- \*TAMIU pocket planner (given during 1<sup>st</sup> week of class)

The *Learning in a Global Context I & II* sequence (UNIV 1101 and UNIV 1102) will positively impact students' attitude and motivation as measured by the following learning outcomes:

In UNIV 1101 Students will:

1. Develop an awareness of the connection between international and multi-disciplinary issues and communicate that through oral discussion and written assignments and the Reading the Globe selection. (12 and 1)
2. Effectively organize their time by developing a personal planner that will include daily, weekly, and monthly plans. (9)
3. Apply academic text reading skills to increase their academic success. (4)
4. Apply note-taking skills to courses for which they are registered to increase their chance of academic success by employing two to three of the note-taking strategies discussed in class. (3)
5. Apply test-preparation strategies to courses for which they are registered that will increase the chance of academic success. The students will complete test preparation activities for at least two exams in other class(es). (6)
6. Develop an awareness of health and wellness through attendance during in class presentations (Student Health, Counseling Services). (13)
7. Improve technological competencies through the use of Angel. (Pre-Chapter)
8. Develop an awareness and understand the concept of ethics and academic integrity through attendance during in-class presentations (Student Affairs).
9. Understand the importance of appropriate academic etiquette as evidenced by behavior in the classroom or other public forums. (1)
10. Develop an appreciation for learning as evidenced by attendance at TAMIU speaker or performance events.

## ***Course Requirements:***

### **1. Attendance Policy:** Class Meetings

- \* expected at every class on time - 0 for non-attendance (accordance to the student handbook)
- \* tardy – daily grade no higher than 70% (since assignments are due at beginning of class, you will lose the opportunity to turn them in.)

### **2. Student Mentor Meetings:**

- \* You will sign up to meet for 30 minutes **every week** with a student mentor to:
  - 1) Evaluate the planning and completion of your academic responsibilities
  - 2) Discuss anything you wish which will enhance your ability to achieve your personal goals at TAMU.
- \* If you need to miss an individual meeting you must contact your student mentor **during the week of** the missed meeting and reschedule the meeting.
- \* All meetings are required and must be rescheduled for **THE SAME WEEK** if partial grade credit is to be received.
- \* Anything regarding your student mentor appointments such as appointment changes, rescheduling, or other matters, needs to be taken care of with your student mentor directly, or with Dr. Standage —ZSC 222 or by calling 326-2886.

### **3. University College Hours:**

- \* You are required to log at least **2 hours each month** (September, October and November 1) at the **University Learning Center, TRiO, or the Writing Center** in order to:
  - 1) Receive tutor assistance in any academic area.
  - 2) Complete homework assignments
  - 3) Develop successful academic habits
- \* University College hours may be increased or decreased depending on student's academic progress and the discretion of the faculty.
- \* Time spent at the **University Learning Center, TRiO, or the Writing Center** should be fruitful; if it is not, you may not receive credit for time spent.
- \* Other requirements may be forthcoming depending on individual circumstances, including class standing, test scores, etc.

(Please note – Athletic study hall is not applicable)

## UNIVERSITY COLLEGE SUPPORT CENTERS HOURS OF OPERATION

### University Learning Center: 326-2723

Monday -Thursday 8:00a.m. - 7:00p.m.  
Friday 8:00a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Saturday CLOSED  
Sunday 1:00p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

### Writing Center: 326-2883

Monday-Thursday 8:00a.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Friday 8:00a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Saturday CLOSED  
Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

### TRiO:

Monday – Friday 8:00a.m. – 5:00p.m.  
**Closed on weekends**

### Testing Center:

Monday – Friday 8:00a.m.–5:00p.m.  
**Closed on weekends**

### Advising & Mentoring Center:

Monday-Thursday 8:00a.m.-8:00p.m.  
Friday 8:00a.m.–5:00p.m.  
Closed on weekends

### University College Main Office:

Monday-Friday 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m.  
**Closed on weekends**

#### 4. *Homework Assignments:*

- \* All homework assignments must be completed and turned in on the date they are due, at the beginning of class, regardless of whether you are in class or not. If you miss class please contact a classmate to get missed homework assignments.
- \* No late homework assignments will be accepted even if you missed class the day it is due or assigned.
- \* Bring your assignments to class *ready to turn in.* (stapled) or turned in on Angel.

**DO NOT WORK ON ASSIGNMENTS DURING CLASS THAT WERE DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS.**

#### 5. *Professor Meeting:*

- \* **BEFORE mid semester**, you will set up and complete a Professor Meeting with one of your instructors, preferably those in your learning community or as instructed by your UNIV instructor. These meetings will help you:
  - 1) develop an academic partnership with your instructors
  - 2) gather the information requested on the Professor Meeting form

#### 6. *Planner/Organizer:*

- \* You are to maintain a planner/organizer for the purposes of time management. These will be reviewed and graded by your student mentor. Further information regarding these requirements will be forthcoming.

7. ***Class Participation:***

- \* You are expected to participate in all class discussions/activities.
- \* Instructors can only assume students have not completed assignments if they fail to participate in class discussions/activities.
- \* Instructors and students are expected to respect the ideas of one another.
- \* Instructors and students are expected to maintain a positive attitude toward one another.

8. ***Campus Events Attendance:***

- \*You will be required to attend and document your attendance at four (4) campus events. You may choose the events from the University event calendar in at least three (3) different categories.  
**(Course required events are not applicable, such as Convocation, Cultural Awareness Day, Reading the Globe Speaker ....)**

9. ***Formal Paper Requirement:***

\*You are required to write and submit a minimum of one (2) formal paper, 750 - 1000 words in length, 12 point font, Times New Roman, must follow APA format.. Essay will be evaluated using TAMIU'S *Write on!* rubric

**PROMPT:** How has reading *Kaffir Boy* increased your understanding of racial discrimination and your role as a responsible world citizen? Provide evidence from the book as well as from your personal reflections on this topic.

Grading for paper : first draft 5%, peer review 5%, and final draft 10%

10. ***Group Project:***

- \* Students will complete a group project concerning issues in the common read. Each group will consist of 305 students. Students will present their project to the class. Each presentation will be 7-10 minutes long, each student MUST have a speaking part in the presentation.

11. ***Social Responsibility Essay:***

- \* Student will complete a short answer test that will cover cultural issues in the common read as well as the common read curriculum. The common read curriculum will address cultural issues in the country where the common read is set. The short answer test will “demonstrate students’ intercultural competency and civic knowledge by engaging effectively in local, regional, national, and global communities.

12. ***Ethics/Honesty:***

- \* Should a faculty member discover that a student has violated the Honor Code, the faculty will report the student offense accompanied by documentation to the Office of Student Affairs. Appropriate disciplinary action will take place in consultation with the faculty and the Chair and/or Dean of College. Academic appeals can be forwarded to the Honor Council through the Office of Student Affairs

**13. Course Grading and Evaluation:**

Class attendance/participation .....	10%
Weekly Individual meetings with student mentor.....	15%
University College hours.....	10%
Homework/ quizzes/class presentations/professor meeting/campus events .....	15%
Social Responsibility Essay .....	10%
Formal Paper.....	20%
Group Project .....	20%
<b>Total grade.....</b>	<b>100%</b>

**14. Early Alert Program:**

This class has been selected to participate in the “Early Alert” program. The “Early Alert” program is designed to promote student success and retention through coordination and communication between students, instructors, support faculty and staff. If you begin to experience difficulties in the course (in terms of assignments, test scores, participation, or attendance) a referral will be sent to an advisor through the Early Alert system. Once a referral has been made, an advisor will send an email message to your TAMIU and personal email account.

The email message will notify you of the reason for the referral and ask you to meet with an advisor. You and the advisor will work together to create an action plan to address any difficulties that you are having in the course. This action plan may involve taking advantage of various campus support services, such as the University Learning Center and the Writing Center.

Since the “Early Alert” program provides essential notices by email, a course requirement is that you check your TAMIU email account frequently and respond quickly if you receive an email message from an advisor. By remaining in this course, you agree to these terms and to participate in the “Early Alert” program.

**15. ADA Compliance:**

Texas A&M International University seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford students an equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with the Director of Student Counseling and to contact the faculty member in a timely fashion to arrange for suitable accommodations. For more information, contact the Office of Disability Services for Students (DSS) via phone at 956.326.2230, on-line at <http://www.tamtu.edu/wellness/disability.shtml>, or by visiting the staff at the University Success Center room 138.