

*Model Syllabus Fall 2017 (Rev 6/2017)*

**EDHE 105  
The Freshman Year Experience  
SYLLABUS**

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF LEADERSHIP & COUNSELOR EDUCATION

COURSE: EDHE 105 – Freshman Year Experience. This course is designed to help first-year students adjust to the University, develop a better understanding of the learning process, acquire essential survival skills, enhance academic skills, and begin the major/career exploration process. The course also introduces students to the mission, values, and constituencies of a comprehensive public university, and to ethical and social concerns that they may face as a member of this community.  
(3)

Instructor:

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I. REFERENCES:

**Primary Text**

*The Ole Miss Experience (7th Ed)* edited by Leslie Banahan.  
Nautilus Publishing Company, 2017, ISBN: 978-1-936946-96-9

**Supplemental Text**

*The A Game: Nine Steps to Better Grades—Special University of Mississippi edition* by Kenneth J. Sufka. Nautilus Publishing Company, 2011, ISBN: 978-1-936946-56-4

**Common Reading**

*Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. Penguin Random House, 2014, ISBN: 978-1-524796-98-3

**Other Course Materials**

All students will need an academic planning calendar to bring to each class meeting, along with a notebook, pen or pencil and highlighter.

Class assignments, calendar of events, documents, announcements, and grades will be posted on-line in Blackboard. Communication from the instructor will be by e-mail to your go.olemiss.edu e-mail account. It is imperative that you check Blackboard and your e-mail account each day.

## II. PURPOSE OF THE COURSE:

The purpose of this course is to introduce new students to:

1. University life, time management, budgeting and money management, decision making, goal setting, learning styles, listening and note taking, effective writing and speaking skills, reading strategies, exam and test taking strategies, critical thinking skills, healthy relationships, and salubrious living habits.
2. Campus resources, student services, and University history and traditions.

Additionally, the course will help students:

3. Become aware of their individual personality type and learning style preferences.
4. Become socially and academically integrated with the University.
5. Become involved with the Oxford/University community.
6. Begin the process of major or career selection.
7. Understand and value diversity.
8. Develop values and ethics that foster healthy human relationships.

## CORE CURRICULUM:

- A. **Time Management** (identifying your values and priorities/curricular-extracurricular balance/the commitments involved in joining student groups such as fraternities and sororities)
- B. **Inclusion** (the importance of diversity of all kinds/the UM Creed/civility)
- C. **Relationships & Communication** (roommates-family-faculty/conflict resolution/social media and networking)
- D. **Campus Resources and Local Knowledge** (Student services/career services/UM History and Traditions)
- E. **Wellness** (stress management/alcohol/self-care/managing money)

## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- Match personal academic goals with effective college habits;
- Develop strategies to balance social and academic goals;
- Describe our community's shared ethical standards, as articulated in the UM Creed (*General Education Outcome: Ethical Reasoning*);
- Analyze significant moments in UM history (*General Education Outcome: Analytical Reasoning/Critical Thinking*);
- Develop healthy relationships with peers, professors, and university staff;
- Demonstrate knowledge of student support services available at UM;
- Explore goals and requirements for several academic majors;
- Reflect upon learning experiences in order to refine personal academic goals;
- Analyze a complex issue while acknowledging multiple perspectives (*General Education Outcome: Analytical Reasoning/Critical Thinking*).

### III. Course Requirements

#### **A. Class Attendance**

You are responsible for coming to each and every class. In this class there is no such thing as an excused absence - you're either in attendance or you're not. Two (or Three) absences are allowed without penalty. Your final grade may be dropped one letter grade for each absence over two (or three). Unavoidable and extenuating situations will be taken into consideration at the discretion of the instructor.

#### **B. Examinations**

There will be three exams plus a final comprehensive exam in this class. Each exam will be worth 50 points. The final exam will be worth 100 points. Examinations will come from anywhere and everywhere - class discussions, assigned readings, handouts, text readings, the student newspaper, and guest lecturers. Exam format will be true/false questions, short answer questions, multiple choice questions, and essay questions. (250 points total)

### **C. Reflective Response Papers**

All students will be required to attend 5 campus events during the semester. These must be 5 different events and must be pre-approved by the instructor in each of the following areas:

One Volunteer Event - where you decide to volunteer somewhere and work for no pay helping to do something for the good of the University, Community, Church, Civic Organization, etc. You must work at least 3 hours.

One Cultural Event (museum exhibit, lecture, art exhibit, film series, etc.)

One Creed Week Event as Designated by Instructor

Instructor Designated Event

Fall Convocation

Within 5 days following each event the student will submit a reflective response paper describing the event and their reaction to it. The paper will be a minimum of 250 words. The paper should be light on description and heavy on reaction/reflection. (20 points per paper, 100 points total)

### **D. Personal Journal Submissions**

Each student will submit 5 journal writings (250 words minimum) during the semester. Each journal will be submitted to the instructor via e-mail. To fulfill this requirement, the student must activate his or her e-mail account at the University and send the e-mail from that account. If you do not have a computer, you can check and send e-mail from any computer on campus. Each journal is worth a maximum of 10 points and will be graded by how well you express your moods, emotions, feelings, reactions, and decisions about college life. You will receive a poor grade for journals that are only descriptive in nature, i.e., "... and then we went to \_\_\_\_\_ and got really \_\_\_\_\_ and that was great because \_\_\_\_\_ and then we \_\_\_\_\_ and came home."

All journal submissions will remain confidential. (5 journal submissions, 10 points each, 50 points total)

### **E. Faculty Member Visits**

Each student will arrange to meet with two of their professors to get to know them, discuss course content, and receive help and guidance. The faculty member visits must be completed before Mid-term Grades are due (October 9). The student will submit via e-mail a summary (250 words minimum) of the meeting including information about the professor, insights gained during the meeting, and future academic plans or interactions that were discussed at the meeting. (2 submissions, 50 points each, 100 points total)

## **F. Class Participation**

Each student will be evaluated by the instructor based on their class participation (or lack thereof), outside readings, quizzes, and whether the student comes prepared for class each day (i.e. do you have your text, paper, assignments, etc.). The evaluation of the student's participation will be done at each regular class meeting and posted in Blackboard for the student's information and reference. (100 points total)

## **G. Visits with Instructor**

Each student must complete at least 2 visits to the office of the instructor during the semester—one before Mid-term Grades are due (October 9) and one after Mid-Term Grades are due. These visits are informal and will be for us to talk outside of class about whatever we wish. The purpose is for me to get to know you better and vice-versa. This is something you should do in every class with every instructor. It is the responsibility of the student to make sure that the instructor records the visit in the grade book. (25 points each, 50 points total)

## **H. Common Reading**

Each student will participate in a group project based on the Common Reading selection. The groups will present their project to the class. (100 points total)

**I. Cell Phones are not to be active during class.** Failure to adhere to this policy will result in your dismissal from the class and an unexcused absence for that day.

## J. Grading Summary

Examinations	250 points
Reflective Response Papers	100 points
Personal Journal Submissions	50 points
Faculty Member Visits	100 points
Class Participation	100 points
Visits with Instructor	50 points
Common Reading Project	100 points

Total 750 points

Grades will be based on the following point totals:

750 - 675 points = A  
674 - 600 points = B  
599 - 525 points = C  
524 - 450 points = D  
449 and below = F

**ACADEMIC CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE:** Students are expected to adhere to the University of Mississippi Creed and the Standards of Honesty as described in Policy Code ACA.AR.600.001 and written in the M Book. If you violate the Standards of Honesty, you will be reported and subject to the appropriate sanction which may include expulsion from the University.

**DISABILITY ACCESS STATEMENT:** It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individual basis, reasonable classroom accommodations to students who have verified disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or meet course requirements. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations.

**TITLE IX COMPLIANCE STATEMENT:** The University of Mississippi is committed to protecting students from sexual discrimination, sexual assault, stalking, sexual harassment, and relationship violence. If you are affected by any of these issues, please reach out to the Title IX Coordinator at 662-915-7045. The University may be able to offer services and assistance. Also, the Title IX Coordinator may contact you if you write about or report any of these concerns to any faculty or staff members. (Faculty and Staff are required by law to report sexual discrimination, but **you** are **not** required to follow up on the report.) If you are dealing with any other issue involving unlawful discrimination, please contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Regulatory Compliance at 662-915-7735.