**INTEREST GROUP SEMINAR – FYEX 102- 1 credit**

Name of Interest Group \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Location of Class (Room and Building) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Course Section \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Semester and Year \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Class Meeting Time(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Instructor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Instructor Contact Information \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Peer Educator Name and Contact Information \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Course Description**:

This one-credit course is centered on a common interest shared by a faculty or staff member and the students enrolled in the course. Students will sign up for an interest of their choice; together the students and faculty/staff mentor will explore the interest as well as discuss survival skills for incoming students. The course will consist of small group meetings. In addition to active, participatory experiences that enhance learning, students will complete a wellness activity and an information literacy activity.

Students must successfully pass a FYEX course in order to meet the core curriculum requirement.

**LEAP Goal:** This course addresses LEAP Goal No. 2: Intellectual and Practical Skills throughout the Curriculum.

**Learning Outcomes**:

* Learn strategies to help you survive and thrive during your first semester on campus and beyond;
* Understand yourself better as you transition into college life and develop critical thinking skills;
* Grow more comfortable interacting with and learning about people around you;
* Learn to identify, locate, evaluate and effectively and responsibly use and share information for a problem at hand;
* Learn to promote self-care (wellness) decisions that will improve the quality of life.

This course is a part of the First Tier (Initial Inquiry) of the Core Curriculum and addresses the following competencies:

Critical Thinking

Life-Long Learning

Wellness

Information Literacy

Experiential Learning

**Required Materials:**  (1) Interest specific materials may be required by the instructor; (2) Shepherd University Common Reading, ***Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption***, by Bryan Stevenson; ISBN-978-0-812-98496-5.Attendance at one common reading event during the semester is required. For a list of “Events,” see [www.shepherd.edu/commonreading](http://www.shepherd.edu/commonreading).

**Class Discussion Topics/Assignments or Activities:** In addition to active, participatory experiences that enhance learning and critical thinking, students will complete a wellness activity and an information literacy activity. Additional discussion topics may be infused during class meetings such as:

Goal Setting/Student Success Time Management Study Skills Homesickness/Roommate ProblemsTest Anxiety Diversity

Learning Styles Coping With Stress Academic Integrity

Peer Pressure/Making Good Decisions Common Reading Life-long learning

**Class Policies:**

* Attend class and be on time. You will lose participation points if you are more than 5 minutes late to class.
* Check your Shepherd email daily- you are responsible for all information delivered via your Shepherd email.
* Check your class SAKAI page daily- you are responsible for all information delivered via SAKAI.
* No cell phones permitted – turn them off when you enter the room; if you are seen using your cell phone during class, you will be asked to either leave or place the phone at a designated location in the front of the room.
* Be respectful of your peers in class and online. Be respectful to instructor and all guest speakers.
* Completion of assigned readings and other assignments/requirements/activities as determined by the instructor.

**Class Attendance:**

* You **MUST** attend your classes regularly and engage in the requirements for each class; otherwise, **your financial aid may be revoked** either partially or in full. This would result in an amount due by you to the University immediately. Please refer to [www.shepherd.edu/faoweb](http://www.shepherd.edu/faoweb) for more details. In addition, class participation and attendance is an important part of your grade for this course.

**Inclement Weather:**

* Students are encouraged to sign up for “RAVE alerts” (<http://www.shepherd.edu/university/rave/>) in order to be informed of campus closures or emergencies. Also, students are encouraged to check the Shepherd website for additional information regarding closings due to inclement weather ([http://www.shepherd.edu](http://www.shepherd.edu/)).
* In the event that you are unable to make it to class due to inclement weather, you must contact the instructor via email *before* class regarding your absence and making up any missed assignments. Assignments may be submitted before class via SAKAI in the event that inclement weather prevents you from making it to campus.
* In the event that the instructor needs to cancel class due to inclement weather, an email regarding this will be sent at least one hour before class.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

**Academic Honesty and Integrity**:

* Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Shepherd University Academic Integrity Procedures found in the **Shepherd University Student Handbook** (<http://www.shepherd.edu/students/studenthandbook.pdf>).

**Disability Support Services:**

* Disability Support Services at Shepherd University believes that every student should succeed, and works closely with students to meet their needs. Students requesting any disability related accommodation should contact the Disability Coordinator at 304-876-5689. This includes students with learning disabilities needing classroom accommodations, students requesting specific housing accommodations for health-related reasons, and all other disability accommodations. Accommodations need to be documented and provided to instructors. Please see <http://www.shepherd.edu/disability> for more information.

**The Academic Support Center:**

* Get a personal trainer for your mind—for free! Located in Scarborough Library 103, the center offers free tutoring and more! Call for more information: 304-876-5221; email: Missy Welsh at mwelsh@shepherd.edu; <http://www.shepherd.edu/ascweb>

**Grading Rubric:**

**A:**

Student has attended all classes

Student has engaged actively in the group sessions

Student has completed all reading and other assignments and activities for each class

Student is generally enthusiastic and works well with the group

**B:**

Student has missed one class, but completed a make-up assignment/activity

Student has engaged with the group

Student comes prepared to most classes

Student work with the group is above average

**C:**

Student has missed one class and has not completed a make-up assignment/activity

Student attends but lacks enthusiasm

Student at times comes unprepared for class discussion

Student is reluctant to engage in group activities

**D:**

Student has missed two classes

Student attends but is generally disgruntled about group interaction

Student rarely comes prepared for class

Student withdraws from group interaction

**F:**

Student misses 3 or more classes

Student does not get involved in group activities

Student never comes to class prepared

Student refuses to participate in group activities

Course Timeline with clear exam schedules, assignments and due dates:

Week 1

Week 2

Week 3

Week 4

Week 5

Week 6

Week 7

Week 8

Week 9

Week 10

Week 11

Week 12

Week 13

Week 14

Week 15

Last day to Add/Drop: August 26, 2016

Labor Day holiday: September 5, 2016

Fall Break: October 13-14, 2016

Thanksgiving Break: November 20-27, 2016.