**FYEX 101 – First-Year Seminar – 1 credit**

**Section 00, Fall 2016, location & time**

**INSTRUCTOR:**

Name, email, office location, alternate contact info

**OFFICE HOURS:**

**PEER EDUCATOR (if applicable):**

Name, email

1. **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The purpose of the First-Year Seminar is to integrate students into the life and culture of Shepherd University and to prepare them with the foundations for academic success. The course addresses the Core Curriculum competencies of wellness, information literacy, and experiential learning.

1. **LEAP GOALS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES**

This course addresses LEAP (Liberal Education and America’s Promise) 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 your 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

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| **Course Objectives –**  This course is designed for you: | **Learner Competencies –**  After taking FYEX 101, you will be able to: |
| * to develop and enhance your academic skills | * + identify ways to improve academic skills such as time management, study & test taking skills, etc.   + explore various learning styles   + develop individual learning goals in the context of a liberal arts education and identify means for achieving these goals   + enhance competency in academic skills including: framing questions/posing problems, evaluating information, critical thinking, writing, oral communication, and collaboration |
| * to gain experiences in which you can relate to and value people of diverse cultural backgrounds | * recognize the benefits of diversity |
| * to understand how to balance the freedoms and responsibilities that are a part of University life | * + know the freedoms and responsibilities that are a part of life at a liberal arts university |
| * to understand your financial responsibilities | * + recognize the responsibilities of credit |
| * to understand the academic advising process | * + select a major or identify several areas of interest   + know how to register for classes and whom to go to for advisement |
| * to consider the options available when making decisions | * + synthesize information when decision making and problem solving   + understand the decision making process |
| * to explore campus and community issues, resources, culture and history | * + identify important offices and resources on campus and in the community   + identify important issues affecting students on campus and in the community |
| * to gain knowledge and understanding of and experience in community service | * + apply in volunteer environments the concepts of leadership and civic responsibility as discussed in course |
| * to help promote self-care (wellness) decisions that will improve the quality of life | * + identify and practice health-enhancing behaviors and reduce health risks to live safer, healthier lives;   + access, analyze, and evaluate health information, products and services in order to become health-literate consumers   + demonstrate awareness of environmental and safety hazards. |
| * to be able to identify, locate, and evaluate information | * + effectively and responsibly use and share information for the problem at hand |

1. **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Required Materials:**

* Gardner, John; Barefoot, Betsy:*Step by Step to College and Career Success*, Sixth Edition**.** Bedford St. Martins (2015), ISBN: 978-1-4576-7251-4.
* 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 required. For a list of events, see “Events” on [www.shepherd.edu/commonreading](http://www.shepherd.edu/commonreading).
* Calendar: Each student is required to have some type of a calendar or planner so you can more effectively manage your time and schedule. This may be electronic in form. Calendars are also available in the Shepherd University Bookstore.
* Shepherd Email and SAKAI:All students are required to check their Shepherd email accounts and course SAKAI pages DAILY.

**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.

**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.

1. **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>

[You may want to include a rubric to outline how assignments and attendance impact grade scale.]

**Course Timeline with Clear Assignments, Exam Schedule & 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**

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**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.