

Course Syllabus
UNIV 1301.041
First-Year Seminar (FYS)
Texas A&M University-San Antonio | Fall 2026

Instructor: Valeria Cazares Reyna, M.Ed

Office Location: Central Academic Building 103 (CAB)

Drop-in Hours: Tuesdays, 4PM

Instructor Email: vreyna@tamusa.edu

FYS Section: UNIV 1301.041

Day/Time/Location: Monday and Wednesday, 11 AM-12:15 PM, MADLA 224

Peer Leader: Ingrid Moncivaez

Course Description

By focusing on academic expectations, success strategies, and career exploration, this course equips first-year students with the skills needed for a successful transition to university life. Students will learn to access and utilize campus resources, develop self-awareness and personal agency, and practice habits that foster responsibility and engagement. The course also encourages active participation in the campus community as students build a foundation for their academic and personal goals.

Course Promises (Course Learning Outcomes)

This course makes a set of promises to you (assuming you fulfill the expectations below). By the end of the semester, you should be able to:

1. Exhibit growth in self-awareness, agency, and personal responsibility
2. Adapt and apply appropriate academic strategies to courses and learning experiences
3. Identify and apply strategies to effectively manage time and priorities
4. Identify relevant academic policies, processes, and resources relevant to academic success
5. Develop goal-setting strategies to enhance academic and career readiness.

Course Expectations

This course will only fulfill these promises if you promise the following in return:

Attend classes. This course will rely largely on class content and discussion. For this format to succeed, you must be present and on time. You will earn points throughout the semester by **attending class, arriving on time, participating in discussions and activities, and engaging with course content.** Students arriving 10 or more minutes late will be marked absent from the class session and will not earn attendance points for that day. Students who leave more than 10 minutes before the end of class without prior instructor approval may also be marked as absent. ***You may miss up to four classes. Five absences may result in you being dropped from the course.***

Be attentive and participate in class. I expect all students to actively participate during class both verbally and nonverbally. Participation does not simply mean speaking, although that is

essential. I realize there are a variety of ways students can participate (e.g., following discussions with your eyes and ears, asking questions, sharing, reading, writing, individual reflection, presenting, collaboration). I hope that you will strive to stretch yourselves beyond your preferred ways of learning and your comfort zone. I encourage you to contribute thoughtful comments and questions, as well as to listen carefully to your peers' contributions and respectfully respond to others' comments. The success of our mutual learning from each other depends upon preparation and active participation in all aspects of the course.

Complete required assignments in a timely manner. Assignments provide you with both informal and formal opportunities to articulate your responses to the issues and topics we will discuss. You will get the most out of the course if you turn in your work on time. Extensions require at least a full day's advance notice prior to due dates and approval from me. It is vital that you follow basic grammar rules in order to get full credit for assignments. No matter how short or long the response, make sure you check for grammar and standards of academic writing. All responses are a reflection of you and are intended to prepare you for academic and professional writing.

Late Work Policy: With the exception of the final project, you can request an extension on all assignments. I will have a Mid-term make and Final make up, where you will have a last opportunity to submit any missing assignments. Once assignments are closed on Blackboard after the Midterm and Final make up deadline, assignments will no longer be accepted at that point in time.

Assignments and Evaluations

To be successful in this course, you are expected to complete all assignments on time. Assignments must be submitted to the correct location to be considered on time. Assignments will be graded based on quantity and quality with rubrics for each assignment.

The majority of assignments will be completed during class. If you miss an in-class assignment, meet with your Instructor, Peer Leader, or a classmate to catch up on any work you may have missed.

Grade Breakdown

- **Daily assignments, quizzes, and reflections: 200 points/20%**
 - Student Profile; 20 points
 - AI-Career Exploration and Development; 20 Points
 - Motivation & Growth Mindset; 20 points
 - Focus 2 Completion + Reflection; 20 points
 - Pre-Reg Party Reflection; 20 points
 - GPA Reflection; 20 points
 - Living Wage Analysis; 20 points
 - Resume Draft/Cover Letter; 20 points
 - Mays Center Presentation Reflection; 20 points
 - Peer Leader Meeting Summary; 20 points
- **Projects: 600 points/60%**
 - My Story Presentation; 50 points
 - Passport to Success; 150 points
 - View the 3 project checkpoints (50 points each)

- o Strengths Presentations; 100 points
- o Time Management Project; 100 points
- o Career Mini-Project; 100 points
 - Focus 2 info + choose a career (research) based on their focus 2 scores + Living wage analysis + Resume/Cover letter + Handshake
- o Final Presentation; 100 points
- **Participation: 200 points/20%**
 - o Attendance and In-Class Engagement; 100 points
 - o Peer Leader Meeting; 50 points
 - o Attend Faculty Meeting; 50 points

Grading Scale:

900 – 1000 points = A

800 – 899 points = B

700 – 799 points = C

600 – 699 points = D

0 – 599 points = F

Extra Credit Opportunities

Throughout the semester, there will be ways to earn extra credit. These opportunities range from attending a campus event, meeting with a professor during office hours, or getting help from a tutor at the Academic Learning Center or the Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center (WLDCC). I will add 5 points to your Participation Grade if you take part in an extra credit opportunity + write a short reflection (1 paragraph) about your experience.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

University Email Policy and Course Communications: All correspondence between professors and students must occur via university email accounts. You must have your Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at helpdesk@tamusa.edu or at 210-784-HELP (4357). If you don't hear back within 48 hours, contact them again. They have many requests during the first part of the semester, so you may need to follow up with them.

Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us at the [website](http://www.dss.tamusa.edu) or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. All students are encouraged to discuss their academic accommodation with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

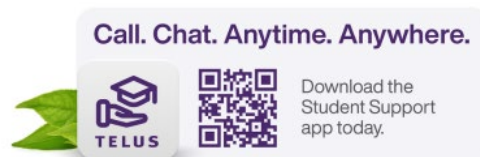
Academic Learning Center: All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing

tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202. Online tutoring is also available for after hours and weekend assistance.

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, visit our website, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. *Crisis support is available 24/7/365 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 or through the TELUS student support App.*

The TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including 24/7/365 support for in the moment distress, crisis support, an anonymous peer-to-peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.



Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification system. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>. More information on emergency response may be found at: [Emergency Operations Plan](#) and the [Emergency Action Plan](#). Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the wide variety of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual on our campus and within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees are to be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including

harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the University's Civil Rights Officer at 210-784-2061 or titleix@tamusa.edu.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking based on sex, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related sex-based misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable accommodations to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Young Jaguars can support parenting students with daycare if students meet this criteria: (1) must be enrolled in classes at Texas A&M-San Antonio in the current semester, (2) must be Pell eligible or a single parent, (3) child(ren) must be aged 3 to 12-years-old, and (4) child(ren) must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. Hours of operation is Monday-Thursday 3:30pm-9:00pm. For more information, please contact Young Jaguars at youngjaguars@tamusa.edu or call (210) 784-2636.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, [Student Code of Conduct](#), on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the [Student Code of Conduct](#) or visit the resources available in the [OSRR website](#)

Important Fall 2026 Dates:

Dates	Event
August 20	Tuition & Fee Payments deadline
August 24	First day of class
September 7	Labor Day Holiday – No Classes / University Closed

September 9	Census Date – Students not paid in full or enrolled in a payment plan by 4:59 pm may be dropped for non-payment
October 5 – October 16	Midterm grading period
November 13	Last day to drop with an automatic “W”
November 25	Study Day – No classes
November 26-November 28	Thanksgiving Holiday – No Classes / University Closed
November 30	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University
December 4	Last day of classes
December 5 – December 11	Final exams
December 15	Commencement

The complete [academic calendar](#) is available online

No Use of Generative AI Permitted

UNIV 1301.041 assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio’s standards of academic integrity.

Course Calendar

Week	Date	Topics	Assignments/Projects Deadline Due on Friday of the Week (Unless stated otherwise)
1	Monday, 8/24	– Introductions; Course Overview	Complete Student Profile; 20 Points (Due 8/28) Syllabus Quiz ; Extra Credit (Due 8/28)
	Wednesday, 8/26	– Canva/PowerPoint 101 – Intro to My Story Presentations	
2	Monday, 8/31	– Passport to Success Intro – In class work: My Story	My Story Presentation; 50 Points (Due 9/2-Before Class)
	Wednesday, 9/2	– My Story Presentations – Blackboard/Outlook Email Etiquette	
3	Monday, 9/7	No Class Labor Day	
	Wednesday, 9/9	– CliftonStrengths – My Story Presentations Cont.	
4	Monday, 9/14	– Resource Hunt	Strengths Presentation; 100 Points (Due 9/16-Before Class)
	Wednesday, 9/16	– Strengths Presentations	
5	Monday, 9/21	– Motivation and Growth Mindset	Motivation and Growth Mindset; 20 Points (Due 9/ 25)
	Wednesday, 9/23	– Degree Works	
6	Monday, 9/28	– Time Management – Mini-Career Project Intro	Pre-Registration Reflection; 20 Points (Due 10/2)
	Wednesday, 9/30	– Pre-Registration	
7	Monday, 10/5	– Time Management Cont. – Focus 2 Assessment	Focus 2 Assessment + Reflection; 20 Points (Due 10/7) Passport to Success # 1; 50 Points (Due 10/7) Time Management; 100 Points (Due 10/7)
	Wednesday, 10/7	– Online Assignment: Passport to success	
8	Monday, 10/12	– GPA	GPA; 20 Points (Due 10/16) Living Wage Analysis; 20 Points (Due 10/16)
	Wednesday, 10/14	– Living Wage Analysis – Mid-Term Make Up	

9	Monday, 10/19	— Handshake	Resume/Cover Letter; 20 Points (Due 10/23) AI-Career Exploration and Development; 20 Points (Due 10/23)
	Wednesday, 10/21	— Resumes and Cover Letters	
10	Monday, 10/26	— Mays Center Presentation	Mini-Career Project; 100 Points (Due 10/30) Mays Center Reflection; 20 Points (Due 10/30)
	Wednesday, 10/28	— Fake News	
11	Monday, 11/2	— Civic Engagement	Passport to Success # 2; 50 Points (Due 11/6)
	Wednesday, 11/4	— Final Project Introduction — Civic Engagement	
12	Monday, 11/9	— Imposter Syndrome	Faculty Meeting Reflection; 50 Points (Due 11/13)
	Wednesday, 11/11	— Fall Fest	
13	Monday, 11/16	— Final Make-up	Peer Leader Meeting Summary; 20 Points (Due 11/20) Passport to Success # 3; 50 Points (Due 11/20)
	Wednesday, 11/18	— PROWL Introduction + EOS Celebration	
14	Monday, 11/23	FYS Fall Break - No Classes!	
	Wednesday, 11/24		
15	Monday, 11/30	— Final Project Presentations	Final Project; 100 Points (Due 11/30-Before Class)
	Wednesday, 12/2	— Final Project Presentations	
16	Monday, 12/7	Finals Week	
	Wednesday, 12/9		

*Syllabus is subject to change on Professor discretion