

Course Syllabus

UNIV 1301.004

First Year Seminar (FYS) – Dual Credit

Texas A&M University-San Antonio | Spring 2026

Instructor: [Dr. Maria Faqier-Hardy](#)

Office Hours | Location: [M & W 9:00-9:30 am](#) | Book via email | Madla Rm 254

Instructor Email: mfaqj01@tamusa.edu

FYS Section: [UNIV 1301.004](#)

Day/Time/Location: [M W | 11:00 am – 12:15 pm](#) | Madla 2nd Floor Rm 254

Peer Leader: [Lani Ruley](#)

Course Description

This course is designed to assist first-year students in adjusting to university expectations through enhancing quantitative reasoning skills and acquiring essential skills for academic success.

Course Overview

This course is designed to assist first-year students in adjusting to university expectations, acquiring essential academic success skills, and exploring different career paths. The course focuses on accessing university resources, and developing self-awareness, agency, and personal responsibility. Students will also become active members of the campus community.

Course Promises

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 your academic success
5. Develop goal-setting strategies to enhance academic and career readiness.



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Course Calendar

This schedule is subject to change. Changes will be announced via Blackboard or during class, and may/may not be updated here

Date	Wk.	Day 1 (Monday)	Day 2 (Wednesday)	Assignments/Projects Due Dates* *Subject to change
Jan 19/ Jan 23	1	MLK Holiday	Introduction and Team Building	In Class: All About Me (Day 1)
Jan 26/ Jan 28	2	Syllabus and Course Tech Access (Blackboard/Email) Folder/Spiral setup	Canva/PPT Intro to My Story & Passport to Success	Online: W. Jan 28 - Syllabus & Course Tech Quiz
Feb 02/ Feb 04	3	<i>Take Clifton Strengths in class</i> <i>My Story Work Time</i>	Post My Story in BB AI: Appropriate Uses PL: Fake News	In Class: Clifton Strengths Assessment Results (Day 1) In Class: AI & Fake News Quiz (Day 2)
Feb 09/ Feb 11	4	College Discussion Boards	Begin Clifton Strengths Project Intro Thinking Maps	Online: W. Feb 11- My Story Slidedeck & Discussion Board
Feb 16/ Feb 18	5	Clifton Strengths Presentations Day 1	Clifton Strengths Presentations Day 2 Begin Time Management	In Class: Clifton Strengths Presentations (On assigned presentation day)
Feb 23/ Feb 25	6	Time Management Part 2	Resource Fair (Mays Center)	In Class (day of fair): Resource Fair Reflection
Mar 02/ Mar 04	7	PL: Resource Hunt	The Importance of Notetaking (Cornell Notes with Sketchnoting)	In Class: Time Management (Day 1)
Mar 09- Mar 13		SPRING BREAK		
Mar 16/ Mar 18	8	Writing Center Presentation (Passport to Success 1)	Motivation and Growth Mindset Reflection	In Class: Notetaking Assignment (Day 1) In Class: Motivation and Growth Mindset Quiz (Day 2) Online: F. Mar 20 Passport #1
Mar 23/ Mar 25	9	Focus 2 Assessment Introducing career mini project	Library Day (Passport to Success 2)	Online: M. Mar 29 Passport #2
Mar 30/ Apr 01	10	Review Focus 2 Results PL: Handshake	Living Wage Analysis (TX Reality Check)	Online: M Apr 06 - Focus 2 Research and Reflection (Day 1) In Class: Living Wage Analysis (Day 2)



Apr 06/ Apr 08	11	Career Mini Project Work Time	Career Mini Project Presentations	In Class: Career Mini Projects (before you present)
Apr 13/ Apr 15	12	Final Project Introduction GPA	Counseling Center (Passport to Success 3)	In Class: GPA Reflection (Day 1)
Apr 20- Apr 24	13	Mental Health & Mindfulness Reflection	PL: Imposter Syndrome Final Presentation Work Time	Online: M. Apr 20 Passport #3 In class: Mental Health & Mindfulness Reflection (Day 2)
Apr 27/ Apr 29	14	Finals Presentations Work Time	Finals Presentations	In Class: Final Presentations (on assigned date)
May 04/ May 06	15	Final Presentations	No Class	Online: M: May 04 Submit Final Presentation Slides In Class: Final Presentations (on assigned date)
May 11/ May 13	16	Final Exams (if needed) M May 11 10:00- 11:50 am	No Class	In Class: Final Exams if needed

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 an absence if you arrive 15 or more minutes after class has started. Excessive tardiness will also be penalized. You will receive points for attendance, and many in-class and out-of-class assignments will be contingent on information from class. To earn full participation points, you must attend class and actively participate. *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, and 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, to listen carefully to your peers' contributions, and to respond respectfully 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. Regardless of the response's length, ensure that you review it for grammar and academic writing standards. All responses are a reflection of you and are intended to prepare you for academic and professional writing.

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 provided in Blackboard. 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.*

Grading

Grade Breakdown

Participation and Engagement	
Class Attendance	100
Notetaking Checks (5 x 10pts)	50
Folder Checks (5 x 10pts)	50
	200

Projects	
My Story	50
Passport to Success	150
Strengths Presentations	100
Time Management	100
Career Mini-Project	100
Final Reflection Presentation	100
	600

Daily Work	
Student All About Me	20
Syllabus & Course Tech Quiz	20
AI & Fake News Quiz	20
Notetaking Assignment	20
Motivation and Growth Mindset Reflection	20
Focus 2 Completion and Reflection	20
Resource Fair Reflection	20
Living Wage Analysis	20
GPA Reflection	20
Mental Health & Mindfulness Reflection	20
	200

Grading Scale:

- A = 900 – 1000 points
- B = 800 – 899 points
- C = 700 – 799 points
- D = 600 – 699 points
- F = 0 – 599 points



Extra Credit Opportunities

Throughout the semester, there will be many ways to earn extra credit. These opportunities range from attending a campus event to meeting with a professor during office hours or seeking help from a tutor at the Academic Learning Center or the Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center (WLDCC). Extra credit points vary, and the maximum points will be 50.

Folder and Notetaking Check Policy

To support your success as a college student, this course includes periodic assessments of your organizational habits. Learning to maintain structure and organize academic materials is a key component of being a successful student and a professional responsibility.

The instructor will perform random, unannounced checks of both your course folder and your spiral/notes throughout the semester. There will be a total of five (5) folder checks and five (5) note/spiral checks. Each check is worth 10 points, totaling 100 points for the semester (50 points for folders and 50 points for notes). These checks are conducted in person during class time. If a check is missed due to an absence, it cannot be made up. These checks ensure you are developing the academic strategies and time/priority strategies necessary to manage complex course loads and maintain academic persistence.

Late Work Policy

Except for the final project, you can request an extension on all assignments. I will give you 3 extra days to complete assignments when you request an extension beforehand. Assignments are closed on Blackboard after the extension deadline and will no longer be accepted at that point in time.

Student Support and Services

Academic Accommodations for Persons 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](#) or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their academic accommodations 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 calling (210) 784-1307,



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emailing tutoring@tamus.edu, or visiting the Central Academic Building, Room 202. Online tutoring is also available for after-hours and weekend assistance.

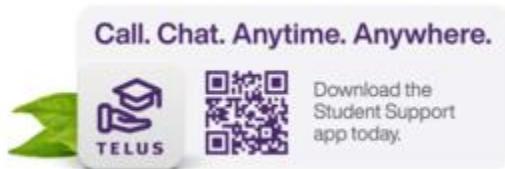
While tutoring hours may change based on tutor schedules and availability, the current tutoring hours for MATH in the ALC are as follows:

	Appointments available	Walk in Tutoring – No appointment needed
MONDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
TUESDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
WEDNESDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
THURSDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
FRIDAY	8 am – 5 pm	11 am – 4 pm

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://tamus.bbcportal.com/>. More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found [here](#). ***Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911.*** Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.



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Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended by the published Census Date (the first week of class). Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend prior to the published Census Date (the first week of class) will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Jaguar Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center (WLDCC): The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. The Writing Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center in JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment.

Students wanting to work in realtime with a tutor can schedule an “Online Appointment.” Students wishing to receive asynchronous, written feedback from a tutor can schedule an “eTutoring” appointment. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our [website](#). The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing writingcenter@tamusa.edu.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a [CARE report](#) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources. A food pantry is available on campus; click [here](#) for hours and contact information.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots’ Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.



University Policies

AI: No Use of Generative AI Permitted: UNIV-1301 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.

Email - 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.

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-



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old, and (4) child(ren) must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. For more information, please contact Young Jaguars at youngjaguars@tamusa.edu or call (210) 784-2636

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



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information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamus.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.

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, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, 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 students' 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, sexual orientation, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.



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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 (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/documents/Student-Handbook-2022-23.pdf>) or visit the resources available in the OSRR website (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academic-integrity.html>).

Important Spring 2026 Dates:

January 13	Tuition & Fee Payments deadline
January 19	Martin Luther King, Jr. – No Classes
January 20	First day of class
February 4	Census date
March 23-March 6	Midterm grading period
March 9-March 14	Spring Break
April 3	Study Day – No classes
April 17	Last day to drop with an automatic “W”
May 1	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University
May 4	Last day of classes

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

This syllabus was created to give students guidance on what may be covered during the semester and will be followed as closely as possible. Please note that the instructor for this course reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus at any point during the semester.



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