

Course title and number:	First Year Experience (ECON 285 – Directed Studies)
Term:	Fall 2023
Meeting time:	Tuesday, 3:40 pm – 4:30 pm (50 mins)
Physical Meeting location:	LASB 172 (Liberal Arts Social Sciences Building)

Course Description and Prerequisites

The purpose of Hullabaloo U is to create a welcoming and affirming environment for each new student and to introduce new students to Texas A&M and the economics department and major. Students will develop self-efficacy, self-awareness, and a sense of purpose; become actively engaged in the learning environment inside and outside of the classroom; and become socially integrated within the university and economics department communities.

Prerequisite: Major in Economics

Learning Outcomes or Course Objectives

I. Discover and Connect with Texas A&M University and the Department of Economics

As a result of this course, students will...

- a) Develop positive relationships and a sense of community with peers, staff and faculty.
- b) Identify and use appropriate campus resources and engage in opportunities that contribute to their learning within and beyond the classroom.

II. Develop the skills to achieve personal and academic goals

As a result of this course, students will...

- a) Apply appropriate academic success strategies to their courses and learning experiences.
- b) Identify and apply strategies to effectively manage time and priorities.
- c) Identify academic resources to support their academic success and timely progress towards a degree.
- d) Examine and develop strategies that promote wellbeing and explain how wellness impacts their academic, financial and personal success.

III. Understand and promote mental wellness

As a result of this course, students will...

- a) Be able to recognize and describe healthy relationships, wellbeing, and mental wellness.
- b) Identify resources and strategies that help support healthy relationships, wellbeing, and mental wellness.

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Taewon (Terry) Hwang
Telephone number: 214-991-3159
Email address: twhwang@tamu.edu (please use the header "[HU]" in your email titles)
Office Hours: Tuesday, 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm (right after class) ; or by request
Office location: LASB 261

Peer Mentor Name: Ellie Hall
Phone number: 817-863-0732
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Peer Mentor Name: Ryleigh Phillips
Phone number: 830-500-0461
Email address: ryleighk@tamu.edu

Course Readings and Materials

Supplemental readings/articles/videos/materials provided through Canvas.

Grading Policies & Scale

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

1. Attendance/Participation	40 %	80 pts	5 pts each (14 class meetings, peer mentor meeting, and instructor meeting)
2. Kognito Mental Health Training	10 %	20 pts	
3. Life Map & Goals	10 %	20 pts	
4. Careers in Economics Presentation	10 %	20 pts	
5. Aggie Bucket List Challenge	20 %	40 pts	
6. Dear New Aggie Letter	10 %	20 pts	

Points Grading Scale (200 available points):

Satisfactory/Passing: 160-200 points (80%)

Unsatisfactory/Failing: 0-159 points

Several social and academic opportunities will be organized throughout the semester and **you can earn 5 bonus points for your attendance** and participation at each (**Department Welcome, Department Advising Session, Department Tailgate**). A max of 10 bonus points can be earned throughout the semester, though you are encouraged to attend all events you are able!

Late Work: Three assignments (Life Map & Goals, Careers in Economics, and Aggie Bucket List Challenge) are to be prepared outside of class but shared with classmates during class on the assigned date. As such, late work for these assignments will not be accepted and you will earn limited participation points on these class days if you do not complete the assignment prior to class. The Kognito training and New Aggie Letter must be completed by the end-of semester deadline. If you have extenuating circumstances, please email me before the due date. See Rule 7 for more information regarding excused absences <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07>.

Course Assignments

Attendance & Participation

This is a course that is dependent on active student participation and engagement. You are expected to attend all class meetings and participate fully. **A student will fail the course upon receiving a 3rd unexcused absence.**

Active participation will be assessed through discussion, participation in class activities, completion of in-class assignments and positive attitude. Your participation grade for each class period will be evaluated on the following scale:

5 points	1-4 Points	0 Points
Arrived on time and prepared and actively participated in class discussion and activities. Contributed positively to the class community.	Participated in class discussions and activities but may have required prompting; did not detract from class community.	Did not attend or did not participate in class discussions or activities, and/or detracted from the class community. Did not attend one-on-one meetings.

As a component of your attendance and participation grade, you are required to meet with your peer mentor (by 10/25) AND your instructor (by 11/15) to check in about your progress this semester. Meeting scheduling will be discussed in class.

Kognito Mental Health Training (Due Week 12)

To build upon the Wellness and Mental Health lessons completed in class, you will complete the online Kognito At-Risk Mental Health for Students Training. Kognito is a 45-minute, online, interactive gatekeeper training program that teaches you how to identify individuals exhibiting signs of psychological distress such as depression. This training will also help people approach individuals to discuss their concerns and make referrals to Texas A&M Counseling & Psychological Services and other community resources. *Follow the steps to register and access the training [here](#).*

Life Map & Goals

Draw your own life map, like those shared in class, which charts your life from birth to being a student at Texas A&M University. Include significant people, places, experiences, goals, values, and/or beliefs and list 3-4 academic, social, personal wellbeing or career goals for your semester and/or your time at Texas A&M. You will share highlights from your life map and goals in a 1-minute informal presentation to the class.

Career in Economics Presentation

You and a partner will prepare a brief presentation to the class. For this activity, you will identify a specific career option for an economics major. You and your partner will research and educate your classmates on this career option, including a brief biography of a person in this career (2 minutes). You can share this information either as a live presentation or a video. Please provide a 1-page handout with a description of the career option you are presenting. The presentation media (video/PowerPoint) and handout are due at midnight the night before class on your assigned week so that materials can be made available to classmates.

Aggie Bucket List Challenge

In teams of 3-4, complete 3 items on the Aggie Bucket List and two items on the Econ Bucket List. Document your adventures together through photos, video, or other media. Prepare a creative 2-minute multimedia presentation (video, Prezi, PowerPoint presentation, etc.) to share your adventure with your classmates. There will be a prize for the best presentation as voted on by the class.

Dear New Aggie Letter

Write a letter to a future new student about your first semester of college. For example, describe something you've learned, a challenging experience, highlights of your first semester, or advice you have for an incoming Aggie economics major. Minimum Length: 1 page, single spaced OR 2-minute video.

Additional information regarding all assignments will be provided in class and on Canvas.

University Policies

Attendance Policy

The university views class attendance and participation as an individual student responsibility. Students are expected to attend class and to complete all assignments. Please refer to [Student Rule 7](#) in its entirety for information about excused absences, including definitions, documentation and timelines.

Makeup Work Policy

Students will be excused from attending class on the day of a graded activity or when attendance contributes to a student's grade, for the reasons stated in Student Rule 7, or other reason deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Please refer to [Student Rule 7](#) in its entirety for information about makeup work, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines.

Absences related to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 may necessitate a period of more than 30 days for make-up work, and the timeframe for make-up work should be agreed upon by the student and instructor" ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.1](#)).

"The instructor is under no obligation to provide an opportunity for the student to make up work missed because of an unexcused absence" ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.2](#)).

Students who request an excused absence are expected to uphold the Aggie Honor Code and Student Conduct Code. (See [Student Rule 24](#).)

Academic Integrity Statement and Policy

"An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do."

"Texas A&M University students are responsible for authenticating all work submitted to an instructor. If asked, students must be able to produce proof that the item submitted is indeed the work of that student. Students must keep appropriate records at all times. The inability to authenticate one's work, should the instructor request it, may be sufficient grounds to initiate an academic misconduct case" ([Section 20.1.2.3, Student Rule 20](#)).

You can learn more about the Aggie Honor System Office Rules and Procedures, academic integrity, and your rights and responsibilities at aggiehonor.tamu.edu.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy

Texas A&M University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact the Disability Resources office on your campus (resources listed below) 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 disability related needs with Disability Resources and their instructors as soon as possible.

Disability Resources is located in the Student Services Building or at (979) 845-1637 or visit disability.tamu.edu.

Title IX and Statement on Limits to Confidentiality

Texas A&M University is committed to fostering a learning environment that is safe and productive for all. University policies and federal and state laws prohibit gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, sexual exploitation, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

With the exception of some medical and mental health providers, all university employees (including full and part-time faculty, staff, paid graduate assistants, student workers, etc.) are Mandatory Reporters and must report to the Title IX Office if the employee experiences, observes, or becomes aware of an incident that meets the following conditions (see [University Rule 08.01.01.M1](#)):

- The incident is reasonably believed to be discrimination or harassment.
- The incident is alleged to have been committed by or against a person who, at the time of the incident, was (1) a student enrolled at the University or (2) an employee of the University.

Mandatory Reporters must file a report regardless of how the information comes to their attention – including but not limited to face-to-face conversations, a written class assignment or paper, class discussion, email, text, or social media post. Although Mandatory Reporters must file a report, in most instances, a person who is subjected to the alleged conduct will be able to control how the report is handled, including whether or not to pursue a formal investigation. The University's goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and to ensure access to the resources you need.

Students wishing to discuss concerns in a confidential setting are encouraged to make an appointment with [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#).

Students can learn more about filing a report, accessing supportive resources, and navigating the Title IX investigation and resolution process on the University's [Title IX webpage](#).

Mental Health & Wellness

Texas A&M University recognizes that mental health and wellness are critical factors that influence a student's academic success and overall wellbeing. Students are encouraged to engage in healthy self-care by utilizing available resources and services on your campus

Students who need someone to talk to can contact Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) or call the TAMU Helpline (979-845-2700) from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. weekdays and 24 hours on weekends. 24-hour emergency help is also available through the National Suicide Prevention Hotline (800-273-8255) or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

Campus Resources

There are many campus resources to assist you in your success as an Aggie. This is not an exhaustive list but represents a quick-reference guide to support you through common challenges experienced by TAMU students.

Concern	Contact	Phone (all area code 979)	Website
Academic Support: Tutors, Supplemental Instruction & Academic Coaching	Academic Success Center	458-4900	asc.tamu.edu
Academic Support: Writing & Public Speaking Help	University Writing Center	458-1455	writingcenter.tamu.edu
Academic Support: Math Help	Math Learning Center	847-7311	mlc.tamu.edu
Academic Support: Advising & Major Changes	Your Academic Advisor	458-6111	studentsuccess.tamu.edu/Academic-Advising/For-Students
Academic Support, problems eg. grade Appeals	Undergraduate Studies Ombuds	862-6422	us.tamu.edu/Students/Undergraduate-Ombuds
Career Counseling	Career Center	845-5139	careercenter.tamu.edu
Counseling (Academic & Personal) & Mental Health	Counseling & Psychological Services	845-4427	caps.tamu.edu
Finances, Financial Aid, Grants, & Scholarships	Scholarships and Financial Aid	845-3236	financialaid.tamu.edu
First Generation Student Services	Office for Student Success	458-6111	studentsuccess.tamu.edu/First-Generation
Hazing	Dean of Student Life/University Police Department	845-3111	studentlife.tamu.edu
		845-2345	upd.tamu.edu
Health Education (Alcohol & Other Drugs, Nutrition, Sexual Health, etc.)	Health Promotion	845-0280	studentlife.tamu.edu/hp
Medical Care	Student Health Services	458-8316	shs.tamu.edu
Multicultural Student Services	Multicultural Services	862-2000	dms.tamu.edu
Roommate Conflicts (on campus)	Start with your RA		
Sexual/Gender Identity & Expression	LGBTQ+ Pride Center	862-8920	studentlife.tamu.edu/lgbtq
Student Involvement	Student Activities	845-1133	studentactivities.tamu.edu
Technology/Computer Assistance	Help Desk Central	845-8300	it.tamu.edu/help

Food/Housing Insecurity: Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their academic performance is urged to contact the instructor.

Note. Adapted from "Aggie Collegiates Ready to Explore the World (ACREW) Course Syllabus," Palomin, L., 2019.