Welcome to the Freshman Academic Seminar, FAS 1305, in the Baylor & Beyond Living-Learning Center.

**New Student Experience (NSE):** To ease your transition from high school to college, all incoming students are required to take a New Student Experience (NSE) course. NSE courses provide the opportunity for first-semester students to form meaningful connections with each other and with faculty in an academic community and are designed to support your success by engaging you academically, socially, and spiritually in the earliest stages of student development. NSE courses also introduce students to the key values of a liberal education including critical thinking, effective communication, the integration of faith and learning, and civic engagement through the lens of a particular discipline.

By the end of the first year, through your participation in the overall New Student Experience programming at Baylor including Orientation, Line Camp, Move-In, Welcome Week, Chapel, and this NSE course, we hope you will:

1. Understand Baylor’s mission and learning outcomes
2. Connect to Baylor
3. Engage in spiritual formation
4. Develop personal and professional goals
5. Succeed academically
6. Develop autonomy through caring community

Learn more at [http://www.baylor.edu/nse](http://www.baylor.edu/nse)

**Course Goals and Objectives:** The primary goal for this course is for each student to think about his/her role as a contributing global citizen in the Baylor & Beyond LLC, at Baylor University, in the greater Waco community, and in the world. In addition to this goal, the student should also accomplish the following:

- Learn, or review, the techniques of “good writing,” writing which is good both for classes at Baylor and for your career after Baylor;
- Become conversant in common global and international topics;
- Become an analytical reader, and
- Learn ways to transition from high school life to university life with ease and pleasure; and to that end
In order to accomplish these goals and to get the most this course offers, the student should aim for accomplishing the following objectives:

- Discuss and debate global topics and current events in his/her own words as he/she works through difficult course themes;
- Complete with a partner a “Voice Project,” to include a 3-5 page formal report from each person of your research; details of the Voice Project will be provided separately;

Course Requirements

Attendance: The Department of Modern Languages and Cultures, under the auspices of which this course is conducted, has an attendance policy which states: “Any student who is not present for at least 80% of the scheduled class sessions for any course will automatically receive a grade of “F” in the course.” This means that when you accrue 20% absences you fail yourself, regardless of grades received. In this course 20% absences equals 6 class periods; upon the 7th absence, the grade of “F” is automatically assigned. Tardiness, or being late will be considered a complete absence. Excused absences are counted as absences.

Students are also graded on PARTICIPATION. Since participation depends on class attendance, these two components will comprise one part of the final grade. Participation is to be understood as: demonstrated preparation for class discussion. For example completion of readings, willing participation in and contributions to discussions, etc.

Homework: Assignments will be posted on blackboard. Please look at the assignments page for more details.

Experiential Learning: All students are required to go on an “Other Side of Waco Tour”. All students are required to attend 4 Baylor & Beyond events during the course of the semester. More details on the experiential learning handout.

Voice Project. With a partner, each student will conduct a narrowly defined and limited research project, which will include a 3-5 page formal report from each student of the research and a presentation to the class. Due on OCTOBER 16, the written report on the research will constitute your mid-term exam. Details provided separately.

Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Experiential Learning</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/ Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments/Homework</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term Paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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</tbody>
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Grading Scale

100-93 = A
92-90 = A-
89-87 = B+
86-83 = B
82-80 = B-
79-77 = C+
76-73 = C
72-70 = C-
69-60 = D
59-0 = F
**Honor Code:** “Baylor University students, staff, and faculty shall act in academic matters with the utmost honesty and integrity.” It is a violation of the Baylor Honor Code: to submit the work of someone else as one’s own work for course credit; to plagiarize; to submit work previously offered for credit in another course without permission of the current instructor; to use unauthorized material while taking an exam; to give, receive, or obtain information to assist on an examination during the exam period; or failing to report dishonorable conduct.

**Students with Accommodation Needs:** Any student who needs academic accommodations related to a documented disability should inform me immediately at the beginning of the semester. You are responsible for obtaining appropriate documentation and information regarding accommodations from the Baylor University Office of Access and Learning Accommodation (OALA). Contact Information: 254-710-3605 - Paul L. Foster Success Center, 1st floor on the East Wing of Sid Richardson.

**Title IX statement**
“Title IX Information: If you or someone you know would like help related to an experience of sexual violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking or other types of non-consensual sexual conduct, please contact Patty Crawford, Baylor’s Title IX Coordinator, at Patty_Crawford@baylor.edu or by phone at 254-710-8454. Anonymous reporting for students or third parties is also available on the Title IX website: www.baylor.edu/titleix/report.”

**Experiential Learning (handout)**

Students in FAS 1305 are required to attend the following types of experiential activities over the course of the Fall 2015 semester.

- Academic Event – Any lecture or other academic event (outside of your classes) that Baylor is hosting.
- Service Event – Must be service in Waco or place outside of the Baylor campus. For example serving with Baylor Democrats and repairing houses in Waco (Yes). Serving with Baylor Democrats and getting students to sign up to vote in the polls (No).
- Cultural/Global Event – Event on Baylor’s campus or in Waco that celebrates culture/global themes.
- Baylor & Beyond LLC Event – Must be an event put on by the LLC and not just advertised by us. For example: A LLC panel discussion on academics in the hall (Yes). World Cinema series put on by Modern Languages and Cultures Department (No).

Baylor & Beyond LLC will be sending you a weekly newsletter with lots of opportunities related to the event types above.

Must attend 1 of each and send your Peer Leader the following:
• A selfie at the event or if you do not have a camera some sort of material from the event itself (brochure etc.)
• Please include the following with the selfie – Name, date of event, location, name of event and what program sponsored it. 4-6 sentences explaining the event and what you learned and or how it relates to our class.
• Must turn this into your Peer Leader within 10 days of attending the event otherwise it will not count.