New Student Experience

Baylor cares about your transition into college, so 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. NSE courses also introduce students to the key values of a liberal education including critical thinking, the integration of faith and learning, and social responsibility through the lens of ministry such as missions. NSE courses are designed to support your success by engaging you academically, socially, and spiritually in the earliest stages of student development.

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
7. Learn about and participate in Christian missions

Learn more at http://www.baylor.edu/nse

MAP-Works

Between September 9 and October 5, you will be prompted to take the MAP-Works assessment online. I will be reminding you about this, and I strongly encourage you to complete the assessment. Upon completion, you will receive a personalized report identifying your academic
and personal strengths and weaknesses, with recommendations to help you maximize your success at Baylor and beyond. As your New Student Experience instructor, I will be monitoring your progress in MAP-Works. Please feel free to bring your report by my office so that we can discuss.

**Academic Success**

We as faculty members have high academic expectations of you and believe every student who has been admitted to Baylor can be successful. I am a vigilant professor and will notice if you are struggling in my course. If your academic performance in this class is substandard, I will submit an Academic Warning to the Success Center during the sixth week of the semester. I will work to help you get the help you need to learn more fully, and I can assist you in finding the resources you need beyond my course. Familiarize yourself with the culture of success we have at Baylor by stopping by the Paul L. Foster Success Center in Sid Richardson. Even if you don’t need help, you can get involved by tutoring other students in the future or by telling a hall mate how and where to get help.

**Office Hours**

One of the best ways to take full advantage of learning in my course is by coming to my office hours. I am anxious to guide you in your academic pursuits. Take advantage of the hours listed above or email me for an appointment.

**Academic Integrity**

Plagiarism or any form of cheating involves a breach of student-teacher trust. This means that any work submitted under your name is expected to be your own, neither composed by anyone else as a whole or in part, nor handed over to another person for complete or partial revision. Be sure to document all ideas that are not your own. Instances of plagiarism or any other act of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Honor Council and may result in failure of the course. Not understanding plagiarism is not an excuse. As a Baylor student, I expect you to be intimately familiar with the Honor Code.

**Students with Disabilities**

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 "It's on Us BU" Course**

Baylor is committed to having a community free from interpersonal and sexual violence. Completion of Baylor’s online “It’s on Us BU” course with a perfect score (100) is required for all new First-Year and Transfer students. A hold has been placed on the accounts of all new
First-Year and Transfer students by the Title IX Office for the “Required Tutorial to Register.” When a student has successfully completed the tutorial, this hold will be removed allowing the student to register for the Spring 2016 semester. The Title IX “It’s on Us BU” course was made available the 12th day of the semester. Students should go to CANVAS to find the link to the Title IX “It’s on Us BU” course. At the end of the course there is a final quiz. The course is ADA compliant. For any technological issues that are not covered in instructions with the tutorial, please contact Patty_Crawford@baylor.edu.

**Required Text & Materials**

Castellanos, Noel. *Where the Cross Meets the Street*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2015. Other required reading material will be distributed by your instructor.

**Methods of Teaching and Learning**

Class sessions will consist of a variety of learning activities that can be characterized as active learning, cooperative learning, and inductive teaching and learning methods. Students will solve problems, formulate questions, discuss, explain, debate, and brainstorm during class. Students will have the opportunity to work in teams on problems, examining important questions related to the purpose of higher education, their responsibilities as a student and strategies to maximize success as they transition to Baylor. Students in the course are expected to participate as active learners, and are responsible for guiding and contributing to the content of the course, drawing from their own backgrounds, knowledge, and experiences. Students will also be given the opportunity to review a book and participate in a local urban ministry event.

**Attendance, Participation, and Late Work Policies**

In order to be successful in this course, you should attend each class session. If you know of an excusable reason why you will be absent from a particular class session, it is your responsibility to inform the instructor in advance. In this way, the instructor can make plans to accommodate your absence by getting material to you ahead of time and arranging alternative times to complete assessments. If unforeseen circumstances arise that prohibits your attendance to class (illness, emergency, etc.), please notify the instructor as soon as possible. Your participation grade will be based on a rubric provided in class and on the course website. Late work will receive a 5-point deduction per calendar day that the work is late.

**Mission Event Report**

Each student will participate in a local mission event and write a two-page (double-spaced) report on it. You can choose from one of the events shared by your professor in the class sessions or on the course website or select your own mission event and get approval from the professor. The first page of the report
will provide a thorough summary of the event. Use the second page to reflect on the value of this experience for you and your future ministry/mission endeavors.

Your report is due within one week of the mission event. All events must be completed by Friday, November 6.

**Book Review**

For the book review, prepare a 5-page (minimum) paper that summarizes the basic content of the Castellanos book (3-4 pages) and then examines its strengths and weaknesses (1-2 pages). The reviews will be evaluated on the following basis:

- 75% for content
- 25% for structure (organization of thoughts, clarity, paragraph and sentence structure, spelling, and grammar)

**Due: Friday, October 9 (Email the book review to me by 5 p.m.)**

**Grading System**

Your final course grade is determined on the following basis:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>15%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission Event Report</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Review</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Letter grades are determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 - 100%</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 - 92%</td>
<td>3.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 - 89%</td>
<td>3.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 - 86%</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 - 82%</td>
<td>2.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 - 79%</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73 - 76%</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>70 - 72%</td>
<td>1.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>67 - 69%</td>
<td>1.33</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>63 - 66%</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>60 - 62%</td>
<td>0.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 - 59%</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
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</table>
## Calendar (including assignments)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| August 28     | Connecting to Baylor, Waco, and Friends    | • “Freshman Survival Guide”  
• “Becoming an Active Learner”                                |
| September 4   | Academic Success                           | • Complete Schedule (baseline + weekly specifics) for the current week  
• 4-Month Calendar with exam dates  
• “Time Management”                                    |
| September 18  | Academic Integrity Personal and Professional Goals | • Honor Code Policy and Procedures  
• Academic Integrity Tutorial and Quiz                      |
| October 2     | Baylor’s Mission and Learning Outcomes     | • MAP-Works Assessment  
• “The Point of It All”  
• “Baylor’s General Education Outcomes”                  |
| October 16    | Spiritual Formation and Missions Involvement | • Book Discussion                                                            |
| November 6    | Baylor and Beyond                          | • Degree Plans  
• Mission Event Experiences                               |