

# UNIVERSITY SEMINAR 1100

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### **PURPOSE**

Freshman Seminar should give you opportunities to reflect deeply with the help of your instructor and some thoughtful writers' on what a university education can and should be to you. From this class you should have a much clearer idea of what a university is, what you can hope to achieve here, what you must do to assure that achievement, and how your university education will relate to your life, both personal and professional, which you will build during and after college.

### **OBJECTIVES**

Freshman Seminar will (a) encourage you to discover the value of having a broad liberal education, (b) expand your vision of the nature and purposes of a university, and (c) enlighten you to the connection between a university education and its effect on your personal identity (d) facilitate your adjustment and success as a Southwest Texas State University student.

### **TEXTBOOKS**

The University in Your Life  
University Seminar Planner 1999-2000

### **PANEL DISCUSSIONS**

During several class periods, students will be picked at random to form a panel and lead the class in discussion from the assigned readings. Your grade is based on your ability to summarize, debate, analyze, question and interpret the readings and to respond to questions from your classmates. Class members will grade your performance. If you are absent the day your name is called to serve as a panelist, you must provide me with a doctor's excuse. You should arrive at class promptly and be prepared since the panel activity accounts for 10% of your grade.

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Several assignments will be required throughout the semester. These assignments will provide you with critical thinking opportunities and time for reflection on freshman seminar topics. Written assignments must be typed, double-spaced and free of writing errors. Each assignment will require several well-developed pages of text. A title page is required for each assignment. Late assignments will receive half-credit.

### **PRAXIS (Service Learning)**

Students may earn additional 10 points by completion of all PRAXIS Project requirements by the end of the long semester. PRAXIS information will be distributed and discussed in class.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Required. This class demands your attendance and participation. Bottom line: Do Not Miss Class! Two late arrivals equal 1 absence; three absences result in your grade lowered by one letter grade; four absences result in an "F" in the course.

### **GRADING/ ASSIGNMENTS**

Assignment 1 - Autobiography (E-mail assignment) 15%  
Assignment 2 - Faculty Interview 25%  
Assignment 3 - Culture Exercise - Midterm 25%  
Assignment 4 - Take-home Final Exam 25%  
Panel Discussion Points 10%