SLS 1122 New Student Experience

CRN 15315

I. Instructor Information

* Instructor Name: Ann Heiny
* E-mail: [aheiny@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:username@valenciacollege.edu)
* Phone:  407-582-1368
* Office:  Building 1, Room 135 (1-135)
* Office Hours:
  + Face-to-face (1-135) or Zoom: Monday & Wednesday, 9:00-10:00am and 2-4:00pm
  + Zoom only:  Tuesday & Thursday, 9:00-11:00am
  + Other times may be available by appointment, typically by Zoom.  Students are also welcome to speak with me before or after class as time allows.

Instructor Bio

Valencia College has been my professional home for over 8 years, where I teach New Student Experience full time.  Prior to moving to Orlando, I lived and taught in Indianapolis, IN, Savannah, GA, and Houston, TX.  I have a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in marriage and family therapy.

II.  Course Information

Course Description

The New Student Experience is designed to assist students in formulating their purpose in life. Through self-discovery, students will investigate their interests, strengths, and personal values that align with their educational and career goals. Emphasis is on orientation to college, integrated student success skills, and the development of an individualized education plan. Students will learn and integrate practical applications to communicate across diverse populations.

Text Book

*CliftonStrengths for STUDENTS,* Publisher:  Gallup (ISBN978-1-59562-215-2)

DO NOT buy used since you need the original, unique access code contained in the book.

Alternatively, you may purchase a [one-time-use access codeLinks to an external site.](http://shop.gallup.com/education/1595620117-1.html) and receive the CliftonStrengths ebook free.  The code is also available for purchase through the Valencia College bookstore.

Modality of Instruction

Face-to-Face

Length of Course/Course Structure

This course is structured into 15 weeks.

Location of Course

Building 1- Room 148 (1-148)

Prerequisite

None

Required Course Technology/Material

* See textbook information listed above
* Microsoft Office (Access for free on Atlas home page), including PowerPoint.
* Computer access
* Internet access

Required Assignment Submission Format:

       All written assignments must be typed and submitted as Word or PDF documents.  Other file types are not compatible with Canvas and cannot be graded.  **Mac users will need to convert .pages files into Word or PDF before submitting to Canvas.**Assignments that cannot be accessed by the professor will receive a grade of zero (0).  Submission of media presentations will be discussed in class.

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

* create a personal purpose statement that outlines and articulates their values, goals, interests, and strengths in relation to their educational and career aspirations.
* choose an academic program aligned with their educational/career goals, interests, strengths, and values.
* design an education plan that includes goals for learning and a financial plan.
* apply college success skills.
* demonstrate effective communication skills with diverse groups.
* demonstrate awareness of college support systems.
* discuss the connection between self-awareness and identity.
* explore cultural responsiveness to support equity and inclusion

III. Grading Procedures

See the Course Summary at the bottom of the page for a list of assignments and due dates.

Grading Scale

A - 90-100

B - 80-89

C - 70-79

D - 60-69

F - 0-59

Special note about your Final Exam

Your final exam is a live presentation in class.  You must be in class to participate and to receive a grade for this assignment. Presentations will take place in the last regular week of the semester.

IV. Policies

Course Communication

Students are welcome to email me at any time with questions or concerns, after fully reading/watching course content in an attempt to gain understanding.  Email is the best way to contact me:  [aheiny@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:aheiny@valenciacollege.edu).  If I determine a discussion is needed in person, a zoom meeting is an option.

Emails are typically returned within 24 hours, M-F.   I do not work on weekends.  If I receive an email after noon on Friday, it may be the following Monday when you receive a response.

To help me respond quickly, please do the following:

1. Use your Valencia email account
2. Include your first and last name.
3. Include your course section number  (example: SLS 1122-00H)
4. Ask a specific question.  If you don't understand something please explain concisely and tell me where/how you are stuck.

All students are expected to:

* + show respect for the instructor and for other students in the class
  + respect the privacy of other students
  + express differences of opinion in a polite and rational way
  + maintain an environment of constructive criticism when commenting on the work of other students
  + avoid bringing up irrelevant topics when involved in group discussions or other collaborative activities

The following list summarizes the kind of behavior that is not acceptable. Each item listed below is grounds for removal from the class.

Students should not:

* + Show disrespect for the instructor or for other students in the class
  + Send messages or comments that are threatening, harassing, or offensive
  + Use inappropriate or offensive language
  + Convey a hostile or confrontational tone when communicating or working collaboratively with other students
  + USE ALL UPPERCASE IN THEIR MESSAGES -- THIS IS THE EQUIVALENT OF SHOUTING!!!

Face-to-Face Course Attendance and Assignment Submission

This course is conducted face-to-face.  It is not intended for online completion.  Students must attend class sessions in order for work to be accepted and graded.  Many course assignments are completed and graded during class sessions and cannot be re-created for completion outside of class.  Attendance is crucial for successful completion of this course.

No Show Policy

Class attendance is required for face-to-face classes beginning with the first class meeting. If you do not attend the first class meeting, you may be withdrawn from the class as a “no show.”  If you are withdrawn as a “no show,” you will be financially responsible for the class and a final grade of “WN” will appear on your transcript for the course.”

Attendance and Participation Policy

Attendance is a vital component of this course and will affect your class participation grade.  Participation in class discussion is expected and encouraged.  Students are responsible for all material presented when they are absent and also responsible for any announcements made in class.

Participation is a graded portion of this course and is tracked with the Attendance feature in Canvas.  Students are responsible for initialing the sign-in sheet every class session.  Failure to engage in class activities may result in fewer points earned.  Students who are more than 15 minutes late to class may be counted absent and may earn 0 participation points.

Students are expected to attend EVERY scheduled class meeting, to be on time, to be prepared, and to remain in class for the entire duration unless prior permission has been given by the instructor.  Absences deduct from the total participation grade and can significantly lower a final grade.

Students must attend the final class session and deliver the final class presentation to receive credit.

Please refer to Valencia College's [Academic Progress, Course Attendance and Grades, and Withdrawal (Link), fam](http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policy/documents/Volume4/4-07-Academic-Progress-Course-Attendance-and-Grades-and-Withdrawals.pdf)

Make Up/Late Work Policy/Class Absence

Late work is accepted in this course with documentation of extenuating  circumstances that make it impossible to complete an assignment.  In this situation, the student needs to contact me ASAP and make arrangements to complete the work.  *For example*, if the student is hospitalized, the student or a friend/family member will contact me at the start of the hospitalization, allowing us an opportunity to collaborate on a plan for work completion.  It is not acceptable to have been absent for an extended period with no communication, missing multiple assignments, then contact me seeking a solution.  *The key is early and clear communication.  In the case of a prolonged absence of one week or more, continuation in the course will be determined on a case-by-case basis through discussion between you and me.*

Examples of acceptable/excused absences:  Hospitalization, extended illness, serious car accident with injury, legal proceedings, loss of home, birth of your child, natural disaster, death of close family member.

Examples of unacceptable excuses:  Loss of internet, malfunctioning computer, family reunion, travel or vacation, forgot to complete assignment, heavy course or work load.

**All students are allowed to submit one (1) late written assignment,** *up to one week beyond the published due date of that assignment*, with no questions asked.  To take advantage of this opportunity, the student must email me ([aheiny@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:aheiny@valenciacollege.edu)) from their Atlas email  with the name of the assignment and a request to submit it late.   This offer does not apply to in-class assignments or class presentations.

V. Valencia Drop/Withdraw Policy

Administrative Withdrawal

If you owe the college any money after the end of the Drop/Add period, the college has the option to withdraw you from all registered classes. You will still owe the balance plus any other fees if they are charged. You are not eligible for a refund.

Student Initiated Drop

You can drop a class or all of your classes before the end of the Drop/Add period, August 28, 2023, 11:59pm, and are entitled to a 100% refund of the refundable fees. Your Valencia account will be credited, and after all fees have been paid, a check or charge card credit will be issued. Refer to the college catalog for further information.

Student-Initiated Withdrawal

You may withdraw from a class or all of your classes after the end of the official Drop/Add period (see above) but before the withdrawal deadline, October 27, 2023, 11:59pm. However, you are not eligible for a refund. If you owe the college any money, you will still have to pay that balance. A student is not permitted to withdraw from a class after the withdrawal deadline. According to [Valencia policy,](http://catalog.valenciacollege.edu/academicpoliciesprocedures/courseattemptscoursewithdrawal/) a student who withdraws from class before the established deadline for a particular term will receive a grade of “W." A student is not permitted to withdraw after the withdrawal deadline. Refer to the college catalog for further information.

Faculty Initiated Withdrawal

This professor does not withdraw students from the course after the no-show period for lack of attendance.  If you wish to no longer be enrolled, it is your responsibility to complete the withdrawal process.

Please refer to Valencia College's [Academic Progress, Course Attendance and Grades, and Withdrawal](http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policy/documents/Volume4/4-07-Academic-Progress-Course-Attendance-and-Grades-and-Withdrawals.pdf)

Class Deletion

You are responsible for payment for all classes not dropped from your schedule by the Drop/Refund Deadline listed in the Important College Calendar Dates section of the catalog and in the Credit Class Schedule. Non-attendance in any course(s) will not qualify you for a waiver of your financial responsibility for the course(s).  If you do not pay by the specified date and time, you may lose all of your classes and will have to attempt to re-register. It is your responsibility to review your account with the college.

If you have further questions please contact the [Business Office](http://valenciacollege.edu/businessoffice/policies.cfm).

VI. Student Support Services

Office for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a Notification to Instructor (NTI) form and/or letter from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with the professor, preferably during the first two weeks of class. The Office for Students with Disabilities determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities.

Valencia is committed to ensuring that all of its programs and services are accessible to students with disabilities. The Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) determines reasonable and appropriate accommodations for qualified students with documented disabilities based upon the need and impact of the specific disability. To obtain a letter of accommodation, contact OSD at 407-582-2229.

For more information refer to the [Office for Students with Disabilities](http://valenciacollege.edu/osd/default.cfm).

BayCare Student Assistance Services

Valencia College has contracted with a private and confidential counseling service to provide short-term assistance to credit students who need to resolve problems that are affecting their college performance. Examples might include stress, relationship/family issues, alcohol/drug problems, eating disorders, depression, and gender issues.

Students who are experiencing any of these issues and who are enrolled in credit classes at Valencia should call the toll-free number 1-800-878-5470 to speak to a professional counselor. If needed, the counselor may refer the student to appropriate resources or to speak face-to-face with a licensed counselor. For more information, call or visit a Counselor in the Advising Center on any campus.

BayCare Behavioral Health Student Assistance Program (SAP) services are free to all Valencia students and available 24 hours a day by calling (800) 878-5470 or via email at BayCareSAP@baycare.org. Free face-to-face counseling is also available.

For more information refer to [BayCare](http://catalog.valenciacollege.edu/studentservices/baycarestudentassistanceservices/).

VII. College Links

Below are helpful links to Valencia College's resources or information. Click each on to learn more:

* [Valencia Academic Calendar](http://valenciacollege.edu/calendar/)
* [Valencia Catalog](http://valenciacollege.edu/catalog/)
* [Valencia Policies](http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policy/)
* [Valencia Student Handbook](http://valenciacollege.edu/pdf/student-handbook.pdf)
* [Learning/Course Support](http://valenciacollege.edu/learning-support/)
* [Learning Support by Campus](http://valenciacollege.edu/learning-support/browse-by-campus.cfm)
* [Learning Technology Support/Services](http://valenciacollege.edu/oit/learning-technology-services/student-resources/getting-help/)
* [Canvas Student GuideLinks to an external site.](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701)
* [Obtain Microsoft Office for Free](http://valenciacollege.edu/support/howto/documents/Valencia_Office-ProPlus-Instructions.pdf)
* [Student Services](http://valenciacollege.edu/student-services/)

VIII. Academic Integrity

Plagiarism

Software is used to detect and prevent plagiarism. According to the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, to "plagiarize" means

* + - to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own
    - to use (another's production) without crediting the source
    - to commit literary theft
    - to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source.

In other words, plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else's work and lying about it afterward.

Academic Dishonesty Policy

All forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited at Valencia College. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, acts or attempted acts of plagiarism, cheating, furnishing false information, forgery, alteration or misuse of documents, misconduct during a testing situation, facilitating academic dishonesty, and misuse of identification with intent to defraud or deceive.

All work submitted by students is expected to be the result of the students' individual thoughts, research, and self-expression. Whenever a student uses ideas, wording, or organization from another source, the source shall be appropriately acknowledged.

Students shall take special notice that the assignment of course grades is the responsibility of the students' individual professor.

Please refer to Valencia College's [Academic Dishonesty policy.](http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policy/documents/Volume8/8-11-Academic-Dishonesty.pdf)

IX. Title IX - DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RELATED MISCONDUCT

Notice of Non-Discrimination Based on Protected Status

* It is the policy of the District Board of Trustees to provide equal opportunity for employment and educational opportunities to all applicants for employment, employees, applicants for admission, students, and others affiliated with the College, without regard to race, ethnicity, color, national origin, age, religion, disability, marital status, sex/gender, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, and any other factor protected under applicable federal, state, and local civil rights laws, rules and regulations (collectively referred to as “Protected Status”).
* In addition, Valencia College (“Valencia” or “College”) strives to be a community in which all members can learn and work in an atmosphere free from all forms of Harassment, including Sexual Harassment, discrimination, intimidation and/or retaliation. This Policy prohibits all forms of Discrimination and Harassment based on Protected Status. It expressly, therefore, also prohibits Sexual Assault and Sexual Exploitation, which by definition involve the conduct of a sexual nature and are prohibited forms of Sexual or Gender-Based Harassment. This Policy further prohibits Stalking and Interpersonal Violence, which need not be based on an individual’s Protected Status. Finally, this Policy prohibits Complicity for knowingly assisting in an act that violates this Policy and Retaliation against an individual because of his or her good faith participation in the reporting, investigation, and/or adjudication of violations of this Policy. These behaviors are collectively referred to in this Policy as Prohibited Conduct.
* All members of the College community are responsible for conducting themselves in accordance with this Policy and other College policies and procedures. Valencia students and employees who violate this policy may face discipline up to and including expulsion or termination.
* The College’s protection of these statuses is grounded in federal, state, and local laws. The College encourages all community members to take reasonable and prudent actions to prevent or stop Prohibited Conduct. Taking action may include direct intervention when safe to do so, seeking assistance from a person in authority at the College, enlisting the assistance of friends, contacting law enforcement, or contacting Campus Safety and Security. Members of the College community who exercise this positive responsibility will be supported by the College and protected from Retaliation.
* The College has an obligation to make reasonable efforts to investigate and address known or suspected instances of Prohibited Conduct. To foster a climate that encourages prevention and reporting of Prohibited Conduct, the College will actively promote prevention efforts, educate the College community, respond to all reports promptly, provide Interim Protective Measures to address safety and emotional well-being, and act in a manner that recognizes the inherent dignity of the individuals involved.

Sexual or Gender-Based Harassment, Sexual Assault, Sexual Exploitation, Interpersonal Violence, and Stalking

* Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 states that: No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.
* Sexual or Gender-Based Harassment, Sexual Assault, Sexual Exploitation, and Retaliation, as defined in this Policy, are prohibited forms of discrimination under Title IX, which covers all of the College’s programs and activities. Like racial, religious, and national origin Harassment, Sexual or Gender-Based Harassment, and Sexual Violence are also prohibited under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 760 et al, F.S., and other applicable laws.
* The College’s prohibition against Interpersonal Violence (including domestic and dating violence) and Stalking is also governed by federal law because these forms of behavior are prohibited by the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security and Campus Crime Statistics Act, 20 U.S.C.§ 1092(f) (the Clery Act) and Section 304 of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013. Such acts violate the essential dignity of our community member(s) and are contrary to our institutional values.
* The College, as an educational community, will promptly and equitably respond to reports of Sexual Assault, Interpersonal Violence, and Stalking in order to eliminate the Harassment, prevent its recurrence, and address its effects on any individual or the community. The College recognizes that Sexual Assault, Interpersonal Violence, and Stalking encompass a broad spectrum of conduct and will respond according to both the severity of the offense and the threat it poses to the campus community.

For more information on Title IX and Valencia refer to the [College's website](https://valenciacollege.edu/hr/title-ix/policy.cfm).

X. FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 is a federal law regarding the privacy of student records. These rights are transferred to students when he or she reaches the age of eighteen or attends a school beyond the high school level at any age. Due to confidentiality and this law, grades and course progress can only be discussed with the student.

XI: How HB 7 Relates to this Course

This class requires participation in discussion to meet course-learning outcomes. We are a class comprised of individuals. As such, there will be multiple opinions expressed throughout the semester that you may not personally agree with or even understand - as may be expected. My role as an instructor is to facilitate freedom of expression that is relevant to the course, credible, open and respectful without the promotion or endorsement of a single viewpoint. Conversations informed by diverse viewpoints contribute to critical thinking and higher-level learning. Even if you don’t agree, listening to different points of view may give you further insight into your own perspectives. No lesson is intended to espouse, promote, advance, inculcate, compel a particular feeling, perception, viewpoint, or belief in a concept. Concepts as presented are not endorsed by the instructor but are presented as part of the larger course of instruction. Should a student feel uncomfortable with how course content is presented or discussed, please contact the instructor for further conversation.

XII. Disclaimer

Changes to the course (including the syllabus) may be made at the discretion of the professor, and students will be notified of any changes through Canvas.