

# SLS 1122: New Student Experience

## Professor Contact Information

*Ana-Alicia Myers, Ed.D.*

**Location:** Building 1, Room 233

**E-mail:** [amyers17@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:amyers17@valenciacollege.edu)

## Message

Hello Scholars,

It is a complete honor to be your professor for the SLS: New Student Experience course. During the term, we are going to explore your interests, discover your strengths, and dive into all aspects of self-discovery. How exciting!

We're all in this together. I am always here to assist. As a result, please do not hesitate to reach out. Cheers to the beginning of your successful college journey.

You are AMAZING!

## Course Information

The New Student Experience class is an exciting course, which provides an opportunity to assist first-year 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.

## Required Materials

**Clifton Strengths for Students "Your Strengths Journey Begins Here" by Don O. Clifton ISBN-978-1-59562-125-2**

***Please be sure not to buy a USED COPY. The Access Code will not work with a used copy of the text.***

Students are expected to bring all materials, textbook, pencil/pen and paper to each class meeting.

## Credit Hours

3

## Prerequisite

None

## Core Competencies of a Valencia Graduate

Valencia's Student Core Competencies are complex abilities that are essential to lifelong success. This course will help you develop and demonstrate the abilities to (1) **think** clearly, critically, and creatively; (2) **communicate** with others verbally and in written form; (3) make reasoned **value** judgments and responsible commitments; and (4) **act** purposefully, reflectively, and responsibly. Due to the nature of these global competencies, many problems activities will be presented in the context of an application. These applications will require students to select appropriate information from the problem and communicate effectively how to arrive at an appropriate solution for the problem.

**\*This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor**

# SLS 1122: New Student Experience

## Course Learning Outcomes

### Major Learning Outcomes:

#### Purpose, Pathway, Plan, Preparation, Personal Connection, Place

- 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.
- Students will choose an academic program aligned with their educational/career goals, interests, strengths, and values.
- Students will design an education plan that include goals for learning and a financial plan.
- Students will apply college success skills.
- Students will demonstrate effective communication skills with diverse group
- Students will demonstrate awareness of college support systems.

## General Education Learning Outcomes

- **Critical Thinking:** Students will establish critical thinking skills by analyzing information, ideas, concepts, applying themes, and organizing main points, support and content with clear explanations.
- **Oral Communication:** Students will develop, organize and support verbal messages, as well as prepare and deliver extemporaneous speeches.
- **Interpersonal Communication:** Students will establish listening and self-monitoring skills.

## General Policies

\*It is at the student's responsibility to be knowledgeable of all New Student Experience Policies, and abide by the rules and regulations of Valencia College. In our classroom we follow the principles set forth by our college's Peace & Justice Institute (PJI).

## Attendance

Due to much of the learning is cumulative, interactive and participatory, attendance is required for all class meetings. Attendance is required for SLS 1122. Excused absences must be supported by third-party documentation(i.e. doctor's note). Unexcused absences will negatively impact your final grade.

No Show Policy: Please note, class attendance is required at 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.

Please be on time to each class, complete all assignments, and remain in class for the entire time (unless prior permission has been given by the instructor to leave early). If you leave early without prior approval, it is documented as an absence. Three (3) absences, without adequate excuse will result in dropping of a letter grade at the end of the term.

Students are responsible for all work presented when they are absent, and are also responsible for any announcements made in class. Please note, communication is critical when you are unable to attend class. If due to an emergency and you miss a class, please call or email so that we can work together to help you get caught up.

**\*This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor**

# SLS 1122: New Student Experience

## Submission Policies

All work must adhere to the following requirements (unless stated otherwise):

- Include your name (first and last) and the date.
- Typed in paragraph style in double spaced legible 12-point font with one-inch margins on all sides (unless otherwise indicated in the assignment instructions)
- Proofread to remove excessive spelling and grammatical errors.
- Saved in an acceptable file format: .rtf, .doc(x), pdf, or .ppt(x) (when appropriate)
- Submissions should be clear with main points supported by details, examples, or explanations.

Remember, I am always here to assist you. For timely assistance, share your questions well in advance of the due date. I cannot guarantee that I will reply to your question or concern if you send them to me hours before a deadline.

## Make-Up & Late Work

- **Make-up or late work is not accepted unless the Life Happens Clause is approved.** (see additional information on the "Life Happens Clause" below).
- Technology issues are no excuse for late or missed work.
- Messaged or emailed homework is not accepted unless you have received instructions from me to do so.
- Exceptions to this policy are not guaranteed and are made at my discretion. You will need to message me within one week if you believe you had a unforeseen circumstance. Documentation may be requested.

## Life Happens Clause

Situations may arise this semester that could prevent you from completing work. Therefore, you may invoke the Life Happens Clause **for one assignment, no questions asked**. Read the following guidelines:

- Send me a message via Canvas Inbox or email titled, "Life Happens Clause" within 24 hours of the missed assignment.
- In your message, provide the assignment's name for which you would like to invoke the clause.
- After receiving my written approval, submit the completed assignment within three days or by the revised due date provided.
- Keep in mind that:
  - Grades of zero automatically apply to all missed submissions. Therefore, you must send me a message within 24 hours of the missed deadline to invoke this clause - otherwise, the grade of zero stands.
  - The zero grade will remain if you do not submit the approved assignment by the revised due date.
  - **The clause does not apply to the Final Exam.**

## Electronic Devices

Please place all electronic devices on silent. Kindly pull your headphones out of both ears. If you have an emergency situation that requires your attention and you may need to answer a phone call please notify your instructors at the beginning of class.

**\*This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor**

# SLS 1122: New Student Experience

## Class Participation

Please attend all classes, study sessions, participate in class activities, ask relevant questions, turn in assignments when they are due, and ask for help when needed from an instructor, tutor, or another student. Valencia College provides many resources to assist you in your college experience.

## Florida Bill 233

As your professor, I'm always committed to giving you as many opportunities and resources to support your learning as possible. Therefore, you may find it beneficial to record class lectures to review later. Please keep in mind that you do not have your peers' permission to record them, and they have a right to privacy; your peers should not be in your recordings. You may not record class discussions, student presentations, labs, group work, and private conversations. These recordings are permitted for your own personal use; you should contact me to discuss sharing options. Note that while these recordings are useful for review, we want you to attend class for your insights and questions; these recordings are not substitutes for class participation and attendance. Should you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact me through Atlas email or Canvas message.

## Withdraw Deadline

A professor may withdraw you up to the beginning of the final exam period for violation of the class attendance policy in which case you will receive a grade of "W". During a first or second attempt in the same course at Valencia, if you withdrawal or are withdrawn by the professor, you will receive a W (Withdrawn). You will not receive credit for the course, and the W will not be calculated in your grade point average; however, the enrollment will count in your total attempts in the specific course and have financial aid implications.

## Student Code of Conduct

Valencia College is dedicated not only to the advancement of knowledge and learning but it is concerned with the development of responsible personal and social conduct. By enrolling at Valencia College, a student assumes the responsibility for becoming familiar with and abiding by the general rules of conduct. The primary responsibility for managing the classroom environment rests with the faculty. Students who engage in any prohibited or unlawful acts that result in disruption of a class may be directed by the faculty member to leave the classroom. Violation of any classroom or Valencia's rules may lead to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from Valencia. Disciplinary action could include being withdrawn from class, disciplinary warning, probation, suspension, expulsion, or other appropriate and authorized actions. All work must be your own; any student involved in cheating or plagiarism (including the use of another student's work) may receive a grade of "F" on a specific assignment, examination, or project, or may be assigned a grade of "F" for the course. The instructor(s) reserves the right to determine penalties within Valencia College's academic honesty policies.

## Students with Disabilities

The Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) is committed to the fulfillment of equal educational opportunity, autonomy, and full inclusion for students with disabilities. The OSD exists to determine and ensure appropriate accommodations for qualified students with documented disabilities, to assist students in self-advocacy, to educate the Valencia community about disabilities, and to ensure compliance with the ADA, ADAAMA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation ACT. In order for the OSD to accommodate students at Valencia College, students MUST register with the OSD.

**The Office with Student Disabilities is the SSB Building room 102.**

**\*This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor**