



## RRP1100 – First Year Seminar Syllabus Fall 2023

### Instructor Information

**Name:** Chad Smith  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday & Thursday from 9:30-10:45am or by appointment  
**Office Location:** Kinesiology and Sport Management Building, Room 144  
**Email:** [chad.w.smith@ttu.edu](mailto:chad.w.smith@ttu.edu)  
**Phone:** 806-834-1689  
**Class Time & Location:** 12:30-1:50pm Thursdays in Media & Communication, Room 168

### Peer Mentor

**Name:** Malak Tawfik  
**Email:** [mtawfik@ttu.edu](mailto:mtawfik@ttu.edu)  
**Phone:** 817-443-8209

### Keep up with RaiderReady on Social Media



Like RaiderReady on Facebook and follow @RaiderReady on Twitter and Instagram to stay up-to-date about important announcements and helpful tips to make your first year a success.

---

### Course Purpose: Why RaiderReady?

The primary goal of **RaiderReady** is to help you make a successful transition both academically and personally. **RaiderReady** will provide you with an opportunity to connect with university faculty and staff, as well as your fellow Red Raiders, in a small classroom setting. Through your enrollment in this course, you will acquire the tools necessary for success in your academic endeavors and become an active member in the Texas Tech community.

**RaiderReady** is taught within a seminar format. This is an active learning style – involving you in reading, questioning, activities, discussion, and more. Interaction and community are key concepts and foundations of this course. Do not expect to sit back and listen to your instructor lecture. Be prepared to be actively involved with your instructor and fellow classmates.

---

### Learning Outcomes: What Will I Learn From This Course?

#### Discover and Connect with the Texas Tech Community

- Develop positive relationships and practice effective communication with peers, staff, and faculty
- Identify and use resources available at Texas Tech to support academic success, safety, and wellness

#### Develop Academic Success

- Integrate and apply academic success strategies (e.g. note taking, study skills)
- Identify and apply strategies to effectively manage time and priorities.

#### Engage in Personal Development and Wellbeing

- Examine and develop strategies that promote wellbeing.
- Explore sense of purpose, goals, and direction through self-awareness and self-reflection.

---

### Course Materials: What Will I Need For This Course?

- **Course Text:** RaiderReady: Unmasking the Possibilities of College Success (can access for free online)
  - **Academic Planner** (provided)
-

## Course Grading: What Will I Need To Do To Be Successful?

Assignment	Total Percentage	Grade Distribution
Attendance and Participation (5 points per class)	40 %	<b>A</b> - 90-100 <b>B</b> - 80-89 <b>C</b> - 70 - 79 <b>D</b> - 60 - 69 <b>F</b> - 59 points and below
Course Activities (3 activities @ 5 points each)	15 %	
Individual Meeting (1 meeting)	15 %	
Campus Resource Activity	15 %	
Roadmap to Success--Reflective Writing Assignment	15 %	

### Attendance and Participation (40%– 5 points per class)

Daily attendance in class is vital to your success, as is participation. Students are expected to attend and be actively engaged in class. You will gain 5 points daily for attendance and participation. Absences may be excused at the discretion of the instructor. It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor of any absences before missing class. Please note that notification of an upcoming absence does not guarantee that the absence will be excused. Information on observances of religious holy days can be found in the course policies section of the syllabus below. Showing up 10 minutes late or leaving 10 minutes early will still count as an absence, unless discussed with the instructor prior to (or soon after) the offense.

### Course Activities (15%)

You are expected to take an active role in your own learning experience in this course. Throughout the course of the semester, your instructor will assign activities to you for a grade. The points you earn for your participation in these activities will be added together for a total of 15 possible points.

### Individual Meeting (15%)

Your instructor wants to ensure that you are on the path to success. In an effort to make sure you are getting acclimated to campus and to provide you with individualized tips, you will meet individually with your instructor this semester. This meeting is designed to be helpful for you as you continue into the semester and to help guide you to those resources from which you can most benefit. **My scheduled office visit is:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Campus Resources Activity (15%)

As TTU students, it is important that you engage with the campus and community and familiarize yourself with the many resources available to you. Through this activity, you will:

- Engage with campus resources, services, and opportunities that enhance classroom learning and inform educational decision-making
- Develop skills in locating and gathering information
- Practice a range of strategies that develop and demonstrate effective critical thinking and communication skills
- Exhibit problem-solving and teamwork skills by conducting a group project
- Form social groups that provide the peer support necessary for a successful college experience

### Roadmap to Success (Reflective Writing Assignment) (15%)

Throughout this course, you will be actively involved in learning and integrating practical applications to promote success. At the end of this course, you will reflect upon your journey so far as a student at Texas Tech. You will think about your experiences, both inside and outside the classroom, and explain how the course content has assisted you on your road to success.

### Late Submissions

If the assignment deadline is missed, you will have 24 hours to complete the assignment for up to half credit. Anything following this 24-hour grace period will result in a zero without a reasonable/valid excuse at the discretion of the instructor. Please reach out to me if anything comes up that may cause an assignment to be late. Too many assignments at the same time is not a good/acceptable reason.

## RRP 1100 Fall 2023 Content Schedule

Please note that changes may be made to this content schedule at the discretion of the course instructor.

Week	Date	Course Content	Potential Discussion Topics
1	Aug. 24-	You and Your College Experience	Introduction, How is college different, Prep skills, VARK
2	Aug. 31 –	Staying Motivated, Organized, and on Track <i>Risk Intervention and Safety Education (RISE)</i>	Goal setting, Time management
3	Sept. 7 –	Listening, Taking Notes, and Remembering <i>University Coaching and Student Achievement</i>	Preparing for class, Note taking
4	Sept. 14-	Preparing for and Taking Tests <i>Individual meetings start this week</i>	Study skills, Test taking skills
5	Sept. 21 –	Interacting with Instructors and Classes <b>Resource (Scavenger Hunt) Assignment due</b>	Communication with instructors and peers, Email Etiquette, Conflict Resolution
6	Sept. 28 –	Finances and Future <i>Red to Black*</i>	Money habits, Major exploration, Personality tests
7	Oct. 5 –	Presentations Day 1 & Health and Wellness <b>Reflective Writing Assignment due by Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Stress, Eating, Sleeping
8	Oct. 12 -	Presentations Day 2 & Wrap up <i>Individual meetings completed by today!</i>	Presentations, Advising info, Course Evaluations, Surveys

---

### Course Policies: What Are My Responsibilities For This Course?

#### Announcements and Class Information

You are expected to adapt to any changes in due dates, readings, and schedules. If you miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining any information distributed during that class period. Students should log in daily to Blackboard/email for important announcements regarding deadline changes and/or campus activities.

#### Assignments

All assignments are due on the expected due date. Readings must be completed before coming to class, and students should be prepared to discuss each reading. All written assignments must be typed, double-spaced, and follow appropriate style guidelines. Please keep records of all your work until you receive your final grade for the course.

#### Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is taking responsibility for one's own class and/or course work, being individually accountable, and demonstrating intellectual honesty and ethical behavior. Academic integrity is a personal choice to abide by the standards of intellectual honesty and responsibility. Because education is a shared effort to achieve learning through the exchange of ideas, students, faculty, and staff have the collective responsibility to build mutual trust and respect. Ethical behavior and independent thought are essential for the highest level of academic achievement, which then must be measured. Academic achievement includes scholarship, teaching, and learning, all of which are shared endeavors. Grades are a device used to

quantify the successful accumulation of knowledge through learning. Adhering to the standards of academic integrity ensures grades are earned honestly. Academic integrity is the foundation upon which students, faculty, and staff build their educational and professional careers.

### **ADA**

Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make any necessary arrangements. Students should present appropriate verification from Student Disability Services during the instructor's office hours. Please note: instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided. For additional information, please contact Student Disability Services in Weeks Hall 130 or call 806.742.2405.

### **Observances of Holy Day**

"Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Texas Tax Code §11.20. A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. A student who is excused under section 2 may not be penalized for the absence; however, the instructor may respond appropriately if the student fails to complete the assignment satisfactorily.

### **Civility in the Classroom**

Texas Tech University is a community of faculty, students, and staff that enjoys an expectation of cooperation, professionalism, and civility during the conduct of all forms of university business, including the conduct of student–student and student–faculty interactions in and out of the classroom. Further, the classroom is a setting in which an exchange of ideas and creative thinking should be encouraged and where intellectual growth and development are fostered. Students who disrupt this classroom mission by rude, sarcastic, threatening, abusive or obscene language and/or behavior will be subject to appropriate sanctions according to university policy. Likewise, faculty members are expected to maintain the highest standards of professionalism in all interactions with all constituents of the university.  
[www.depts.ttu.edu/ethics/matadorchallenge/ethicalprinciples.php](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/ethics/matadorchallenge/ethicalprinciples.php)

### **Plagiarism**

Texas Tech University expects students to “understand the principles of academic integrity and abide by them in all class and/or course work at the University” (O P 34.12.5).

Plagiarism is a form of academic misconduct that involves (1) the representation of words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, other expression, or media of another as one’s own and/or failing to properly cite direct, paraphrased, or summarized materials; or (2) self-plagiarism, which involves the submission of the same academic work more than once without the prior permission of the instructor and/or failure to correctly cite previous work written by the same student.

[This video](#), retrieved from the University of Kansas Libraries website, provides an example of a plagiarism definition as well as examples of plagiarism and how to avoid it. Please review [Section B of the TTU Student Handbook](#) for more information related to other forms of academic misconduct, and contact your instructor if you have questions about plagiarism or other academic concerns in your courses. To learn more about the importance of academic integrity and practical tips for avoiding plagiarism, explore the resources provided by the [TTU Library](#) and the [School of Law](#).

### **Email Communication**

- Please use the TTU email system for all email communication.
- Students can expect to receive a reply to email messages sent to instructors within 24 hours on weekdays and within 48 hours on the weekend.

### **Technical Requirements and Assistance**

IT Help Central is available to assist with eRaider sign-in problems, browser errors, and other technical difficulties you may encounter. For technical assistance, please contact IT Help Central at (806) 742-HELP, email them at [ithelpcentral@ttu.edu](mailto:ithelpcentral@ttu.edu), or visit the [IT Help Central website](#) at [www.ithelpcentral.ttu.edu](http://www.ithelpcentral.ttu.edu). For student assistance with Blackboard, visit the Blackboard Student Support website at <http://bit.ly/1HLFh8A>

### **TTU Resources for Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Violence**

Texas Tech University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from gender and/or sex discrimination of any kind. Sexual assault, discrimination, harassment, and other [Title IX violations](#) are not tolerated by the University. Report any incidents to the Office for Student Rights & Resolution, (806)-742-SAFE (7233) or file a report online at [titleix.ttu.edu/students](https://titleix.ttu.edu/students).

Faculty and staff members at TTU are committed to connecting you to resources on campus. Some of these available resources are:

- TTU Student Counseling Center, 806-742-3674, <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/scc> (Provides confidential support on campus.)
- TTU 24-hour Crisis Helpline, 806-742-5555, (Assists students who are experiencing a mental health or interpersonal violence crisis. If you call the helpline, you will speak with a mental health counselor.)
- Voice of Hope Lubbock Rape Crisis Center, 806-763-7273, [voiceofhopelubbock.org](https://voiceofhopelubbock.org) (24-hour hotline that provides support for survivors of sexual violence.)
- The Risk, Intervention, Safety and Education (RISE) Office, 806-742-2110, [www.depts.ttu.edu/rise/](https://www.depts.ttu.edu/rise/) (Provides a range of resources and support options focused on prevention education and student wellness.)
- Texas Tech Police Department, 806-742-3931, <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/ttpd/> (To report criminal activity that occurs on or near Texas Tech campus.)

### **Food Insecurity**

Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. The TTU Food Pantry is in Doak Hall 117. Please visit the website for hours of operation at <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/dos/foodpantry.php>.