



RRP1100 – First Year Seminar Syllabus Fall 2021

Instructor Information

Name: Chad Smith, Ph.D.
Class: 12:30-1:50 Thursday, Education Bldg Room 166
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30-11:00am (face-to-face or on Zoom) or by appointment
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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 simple – we want you to be successful at Texas Tech University. **RaiderReady** will provide you an opportunity to connect with university faculty and staff in a small classroom setting. Through your enrollment in this course, you will acquire tools necessary for success in your academic endeavors, enhance your studying and learning abilities, engage in the critical thinking process, and become an active member in the Texas Tech community. The skills you develop from this course are essential for your achievement at the university.

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?

Student Learning Objectives	Assessment Methods
Demonstrate the ability to employ effective learning strategies (e.g. active listening, note taking, study skills).	Instructor evaluation of in-class activities and discussions. Student completion of self-reflection writing activities.
Engage in effective and professional communication with faculty, staff, and peers.	Instructor evaluation of in-class activities and discussions. Completion of individual meeting with instructor.
Integrate elements of wellness (physical, social, financial) and time/stress management into daily student life.	Instructor evaluation of in-class activities and discussions. Student completion of self-reflection writing activities.
Identify and use resources available at Texas Tech to support student success, safety, and wellness	Student completion of campus resources presentation.
Examine and adjust level of personal responsibility related to choices, actions, and consequences to decision making.	Instructor evaluation of in-class activities and discussions. Student completion of self-reflection writing activities. Completion of individual meeting with instructor.

Course Materials: What Will I Need For This Course?

- **Course Text:** RaiderReady: Unmasking the Possibilities of College Success
- **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 %	A - 90-100 B - 80-89 C - 70 - 79 D - 60 - 69 F - 59 points and below
Course Activities (3 activities @ 5 points each)	15 %	
Individual Meeting (1 meeting)	15 %	
Campus Scavenger Hunt	15 %	
Success Roadmap Reflective Writing Assignment	15 %	

Attendance and Participation (40%– 5 points daily)

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.

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 Scavenger Hunt (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. You will work in groups of 3-5 to complete the resource scavenger hunt. Through this activity, you will:

- Engage with campus resources, services, and opportunities that enhance classroom learning and inform their 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 group project
- Form social groups that provide the peer support necessary for a successful college experience

Success Roadmap (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 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.

RRP 1100 Fall 2021 Content Schedule

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

Week	Date	Course content/activities	Weekly Readings
1	Aug. 26-	You and Your College Experience	Chapter 1
2	Sept. 2 –	Staying Motivated, Organized, and on Track Risk Intervention and Safety Education (RISE)	Chapters 2
3	Sept. 9 –	Listening, Taking Notes, and Remembering Learning Center – Note-taking and Learning Styles <i>Individual meetings start this week</i>	Chapter 3
4	Sept. 16-	Types of Thinking, Reading to Learn, and Writing For Class FOCUS Discuss Scavenger Hunt Assignment	Chapter 4
5	Sept. 23 –	Preparing for and Taking Tests	Chapter 5
6	Sept. 30 –	Interacting With Instructors and Classes Red to Black	Chapter 6
7	Oct. 7 –	Taking Control of Your Health Scavenger hunt due	Chapter 7
8	Oct. 14 -	Taking Control of Your Finances and Future <i>Individual meetings due by October 15th!</i> Success Roadmap reflective writing assignment due	Chapter 8

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

“It is the aim of the faculty of Texas Tech University to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of students to present as their own any work they have not honestly performed is regarded by the

faculty and administration as a serious offense and renders the offenders liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.” (2021-22 Texas Tech University Catalog, p.42). Academic Dishonesty, as defined in the catalog, “includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the students.” (2021-22 Texas Tech University Catalog, p.42).

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 necessary arrangements. Students must present appropriate verification from Student Disability Services during the instructor’s office hours. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided. For additional information, please contact Student Disability Services office in 130 Weeks Hall or call 806-742-2405. Additional information may also be found in TTU O.P. 34.22.

Observances of a Religious Holy Day

Texas House Bill 256 requires institutions of higher education to excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day. The student shall also be excused for time necessary to travel. An institution may not penalize the student for the absence and allows for the student to take an exam or complete an assignment from which the student is excused. No prior notification of the instructor is required.

Classroom Etiquette

You are expected to arrive on time for each class and be prepared to discuss the assigned reading. This demonstrates respect for the learning community we are creating for one another. Supporting one another in dialogue is expected. In this class, we want to hear your opinions and ideas, and those of others are to be respected and acknowledged even if you disagree with them. Although the instructor will provide lectures on course material, other teaching methods will be used from time to time, which will require participation and discussion on your part; this is when you have an opportunity to really demonstrate your knowledge.

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

For this course, you need a valid TTU email address, audio and video capabilities, and Internet access. Incomplete submission of assignments due to loss of Internet connection will not be accepted. Please note that library computers are available in case of technical difficulties with your computer.

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, or visit the [IT Help Central website](http://www.ithelpcentral.ttu.edu) at 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.

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 (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/ (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.)

Illness-Based Absence Policy. If at any time during this semester you feel ill, in the interest of your own health and safety as well as the health and safety of your instructors and classmates, you are encouraged not to attend face-to-face class meetings or events. Please review the steps outlined below that you should follow to ensure your absence for illness will be excused. These steps also apply to not participating in synchronous online class meetings if you feel too ill to do so and missing specified assignment due dates in asynchronous online classes because of illness.

- Student absences due to illness are to be considered as they were prior to the pandemic, with consideration given to the fact that students who are isolating with COVID-19 and students who are quarantining for symptoms or direct exposure may have extended days of absence. Makeup opportunities should be provided in a reasonable timeframe.
- Students who test positive for COVID-19 are to report the diagnosis at <https://ttucovid19.ttu.edu/User/Consent>. Doing so will generate a letter that students may present to their instructors as documentation in support of absences and will also trigger notification to the Dean of Students office, which in turn will notify the student's dean's office.
- Contact tracers will identify and advise other students who may have been directly exposed to a positive-reporting student and provide those students with appropriate documentation in support of absences, if needed. As noted above, vaccinated students (including those with medical or religious exceptions) that have been directly exposed to a positive-reporting student are not required to quarantine and can continue with normal activities while monitoring for any symptoms.
- Students who directly inform their instructors of having a known exposure to a COVID-19 positive person should be directed by the instructor to contact Student Health Services at 806- 743-2848.
- There is no expectation that courses scheduled as face-to-face must provide an online option to students who report testing positive for COVID-19 or who are isolating or quarantining for exposure to someone with COVID-19. However, plans should be made to provide remote options or makeup opportunities in case instructors or students test positive or must quarantine during final exams or scheduled defenses.

2. If you are ill and can attribute your symptoms to something other than COVID-19:

- a. If your illness renders you unable to attend face-to-face classes, participate in synchronous online classes, or miss specified assignment due dates in asynchronous online classes, you are encouraged to visit with either Student Health Services at 806.743.2848 or your health care provider. Note that Student Health Services and your own and other health care providers may arrange virtual visits.
- b. During the health provider visit, request a "return to school" note;
- c. E-mail the instructor a picture of that note;
- d. Return to class by the next class period after the date indicated on your note.

Following the steps outlined above helps to keep your instructors informed about your absences and ensures your absence or missing an assignment due date because of illness will be marked excused. You will still be responsible to complete within a week of returning to class any assignments, quizzes, or exams you miss because of illness.

Vaccinations: Texas Tech University strongly recommends students adhere to CDC guidelines on COVID-19, including obtaining COVID-19 vaccinations. If you were unable to obtain a vaccination prior to your arrival on campus, the COVID-19 vaccine is available at Student Health Services by appointment. You can find additional information about the vaccine [here](#), and about the recently announced incentive program [here](#).

Face Covering Policy: As of May 19, 2021, face coverings are optional in TTU facilities and classrooms but, based on CDC guidelines, are recommended and welcome, especially for those who have not been vaccinated for COVID-19 or who may have susceptibilities to the virus. Face coverings are required in public transportation (e.g., Citibus) and in the Student Health Clinic.

- If you come to Dr. Smith's office, you will be asked to wear a mask or to stand outside in the hallway if you are without one.

Illness and Death Notification and Absences. Whether an absence is excused or unexcused is determined solely by the instructor with the exception of absences due to religious observance and officially approved trips described above. The Center for Campus Life will notify faculty, at the student's request, when a student is absent for four consecutive days with appropriate verification of a health related emergency. This notification does not excuse the student from class, it is provided as a courtesy. The service is explained as follows and can be found on the Center for Campus Life web site at: <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/centerforcampuslife/>.

The Center for Campus Life is responsible for notifying the campus community of student illnesses, immediate family deaths and/or student death. Generally, in cases of student illness or immediate family deaths, the notification to the appropriate campus community members occur when a student is absent from class for four (4) consecutive days with appropriate verification. It is always the student's responsibility for missed class assignments and/or course work during their absence. The student is encouraged to contact the faculty member immediately regarding the absences and to provide verification afterwards. The notification from the Center for Campus Life does not excuse a student from class, assignments, and/or any other course requirements. The notification is provided as a courtesy.