# IDS 1107: The Florida State Experience

# Section ## - Engaging with the Gulf of Mexico Region

Semester YYYY Semester Course Syllabus

Section 1, Tuesday, 11:35am-12:50pm

Location

**Who is my professor?** Dr. Kassie Ernst

**Virtual Office:**<https://fsu.zoom.us/my/kassernst>(this link takes you to my virtual office hours)

**Office:** FAMU-FSUCOE Building, B314, phone: (850) 410-6279

**Email:** [kernst@eng.famu.fsu.edu](mailto:kernst@eng.famu.fsu.edu)**, Texts/Calls:** 850-629-9629

**Office Hours (these are hours set aside specifically to connect with students):**

Day, Time

Email me to set up an appointment to meet in person or outside of my designated office hours.

**Who are my Teacher Assistants (TAs) and Peer Mentors?**

**Teaching Assistant (TA):** Chloe Dyal

**Office Hours:** Day, Time, virtually

**Email:** [cd18c@fsu.edu](mailto:cd18c@fsu.edu)

# COURSE OVERVIEW

**Course Description What is this course like?**

This course aims to generate and maintain interest in the Gulf of Mexico region; and to motivate students to become active learners, critical thinkers, responsible students, and ethical professionals and community members. Students will be introduced to the Gulf region, its history and current challenges, issues, and relevant events. Students will learn about the many areas of study in, and of, the Gulf of Mexico region, to enter communities that are not their own, to develop interdisciplinary competence, and about continued engagement opportunities in the region.

Upon completing this course, students should be able to create and implement an action plan for continued campus and community involvement. Students will be able to interact with campus staff and faculty from a variety of disciplines. Students will have a chance to build relationships with selected peer mentors.

**Student Learning Outcomes What will I learn?**

By the end of this course, the successful student will be able to:

* + - 1. Improve overall knowledge and understanding of the complex human and environmental history and challenges of the Gulf of Mexico region.
      2. Improve intercultural awareness, knowledge, and communication skills.
      3. Develop a deeper understanding of social responsibility and ethical reasoning within a social and environmental context.
      4. Increase ability to conceptualize and discuss challenges with an interdisciplinary lens and to communicate across disciplines.

**Where do I go for course information? 1) Canvas/syllabus, 2) Peer Mentors and TAs, 3) Instructor**

**Step 1** – Check Canvas or the syllabus (available on Canvas). This course is organized into themes via Canvas Modules. Everything for a specific theme will be in that module. I communicate with the class during class times and use Announcements on Canvas. I expect that you check the Canvas page for FYEL multiple times per week and read each announcement.

**Step 2** – If you cannot answer your question using the syllabus, checking announcements, and checking the current Module, then please email me, Dr. Ernst directly (kernst@eng.famu.fsu.edu), your peer mentor, or your TA. You can also ask a fellow student if you trust them to give you accurate information.

**Check Canvas regularly (****i.e. multiple times a week)!**

NOTE: Canvas default settings have most notifications turned off. Turn them on to receive announcements for this course.

**How will semester disruptions be handled?**

If this class is unable to meet in-person, it will continue on-line via Canvas using Zoom as scheduled. We will have live class meetings during regular class time via Zoom. Students should attend live class meetings, but Dr. Ernst understands that extenuating circumstances may prevent them from doing so. Email Dr. Ernst if such extenuating circumstances arise to troubleshoot a solution.

# GRADES AND ASSIGNMENTS

The Florida State Experience is a zero-credit course, S/U graded. There are no exams.

To receive a passing grade, students must actively participate in the selected experience by completing all assignments, attending and actively participating in class, and completing a reflection assignment by the end of the semester.

Emergency absences may be excused, but you must notify the instructor in advance of your absence whenever possible. Clear communication with your instructor when you will be absent is key to success. See the University Attendance Policy for more information.

Class Attendance/Participation in Class Discussion/Activities = 30 points

Engagement Plan = 40 points

Reflection Assignment = 30 points

S (satisfactory grade) = ≥70% of all points available

U (unsatisfactory grade) = <70% of all points available

**Do attendance and participation matter? YES…you need to participate in this class to earn a passing grade…but do not under any circumstances come to class in-person if you are sick or have been exposed to Covid-19.**

* First day attendance is mandatory for FSU students. Attendance will be taken each session.
* Attendance is expected and will be factored in as a portion of your grade. More than 4 missed classes will jeopardize your ability to receive a passing grade.

**What is the late work policy?**

Late work can be submitted on Canvas only (to the original assignment posting). A 25% reduction per day late will be applied before the assignment is graded. Assignments submitted one day late receive 25% off, two days late receive 50% off, and three days late receive 75% off. No late assignments will be accepted after day three.

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| **Late Work Policy** |
| 0-24 hours after assignment due date – 25% grade reduction |
| 24-48 hours after assignment due date – 50% grade reduction |
| 48-72 hours after the assignment due date – 75% grade reduction |

**What do I need to read?** Required readings will be available on Canvas. There is **no required textbook**.

**What are the assignments like?**

Assignments should be submitted electronically via Canvas unless otherwise specified. Specific instructions will be included with each assignment posting. Electronic submissions **(.docx, .pdf, or .pptx only**) will be accepted on Canvas only.

Each student is responsible for completing each assignment, regardless of registration date (any student who registered late for the class must still complete missed homework assignments and submit them at the discretion of Dr. Ernst). **Save back-up copies of every assignment.**

Each assignment will be due on Canvas, in the appropriate place, by 10:00 p.m. on the due date, unless otherwise noted and will be marked as late at 12:01 a.m. on the day after the due date. Emailed assignments are unacceptable.

E-mail Dr. Ernst if you have concerns. Dr. Ernst reserves the right to reduce points on any missing assignment that is not brought to the attention of the instructor/grader before grades are submitted to the Registrar’s Office.

# TEACHING PHILOSOPHY, TIPS FOR SUCCESS, CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

* Class will begin on time and you are expected to be ready on time. This means that you have signed into class as you walk in and are seated and ready to participate before class starts promptly. Late attendance will be recorded and will be considered when giving participation grades.
* This class is an **active learning environment**. As members of this environment, I expect you to come ready to actively listen and ask questions, participate, think critically, and engage with and work equitably with others.You should come to class every day ready to take notes on a lecture AND participate in an activity. Your grade is directly related to your attendance and participation.
* **Your best behavior is expected when guests are giving their time for the benefit of this course.**

**How to do well in this course!**

1. **“Show up” and engage with the work.** Much of this class is done “actively” with your fellow students. Come on time and ready to engage with each other and the work.
2. **When we have a lecture, take good notes.** Write down what is discussed, not just what is on the slides. Research shows that handwritten notes = better grades. Review your notes before and after class.
3. **Follow directions and turn things in on time.**
4. If you are sleeping, using your phone or other unapproved technology, or otherwise disrupting class, you will be asked to leave and will forfeit your participation credit for that day.
5. Computers are allowed, but if they are used for anything besides class or usage becomes distracting to other students, you may be asked to put them away, or to leave class if the problem persists.
6. **Use a computer to access course materials.** In order to be successful in this class, you should use a computer to complete projects and assignments. Students who only access this course with a cell phone will not do well in the course.
7. **Be kind, respectful, and professional to your colleagues and instructors.** Learning to be respectful to your instructors and peers is part of this course. Communicate professionally in person and in writing. When writing an email address who you are emailing as they’d like to be addressed, include an appropriate subject line with the course and day of your lecture, and sign your name. Always use your school email for communication.
8. **Don’t cheat.** Do not plagiarize or use someone else’s work as your own. If you are caught cheating, you will earn a 0 for the assignment, may be reported, and may receive an F in the class.
9. **Use Accessibility Services if appropriate.** (See specifics information about services for each university below).

**What questions do you have? Take a moment to write two questions down and share them with a neighbor.**

**University Policies & Information:**

**University Attendance Policy:**

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

**Academic Honor Policy:**

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "...be honest and truthful and...[to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy>)

**Americans With Disabilities Act:**

Florida State University (FSU) values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. Our goal is to create learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive, and welcoming. FSU is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities in a manner that is consistent with academic standards of the course while empowering the student to meet integral requirements of the course.

To receive academic accommodations, a student:

(1) must register with and provide documentation to the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS);  
 (2) must provide a letter from OAS to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type; and,  
 (3) should communicate with the instructor, as needed, to discuss recommended accommodations. A request for a meeting may be initiated by the student or the instructor.

Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from the Office of Accessibility Services has been provided.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Office of Accessibility Services  
 874 Traditions Way  
 108 Student Services Building  
 Florida State University  
 Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167  
 (850) 644-9566 (voice)  
 (850) 644-8504 (TDD)  
 [oas@fsu.edu](mailto:oas@fsu.edu)   
<https://dsst.fsu.edu/oas>

**Confidential Campus Resources:**

Various centers and programs are available to assist students with navigating stressors that might impact academic success. These include the following:

Victim Advocate Program  
 University Center A, Rm. 4100  
 (850) 644-7161  
 Available 24/7/365  
 Office Hours: M-F 8-5  
 <https://dsst.fsu.edu/vap>

University Counseling Center  
 Askew Student Life Center, 2nd floor  
 942 Learning Way  
 (850) 644-8255  
 <https://counseling.fsu.edu/>

University Health Services  
 Health and Wellness Center  
 (850) 644-6230  
 <https://uhs.fsu.edu/>

**Free Tutoring from FSU:**

On-campus tutoring and writing assistance is available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services' comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options - see <http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring> or contact [tutor@fsu.edu](mailto:tutor@fsu.edu). High-quality tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.

**Syllabus Change Policy:**

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.

**SEMESTER CALENDAR**

Week 1: Introduction to the Course

Week 2: Intro to the Gulf Region and its History

Week 3: Mentorship with Dr. Sophia Rahming

Week 4: Community Engagement Part 1 with Maria-Paula McIntyre

Week 5: Gulf Impact with Will Hill (Action Plan Presentation Guidelines)

Week 6: Peer Mentor Presentation

Week 7: Round Tables with Gulf Focused Faculty

Week 8: Community Engagement Part 2 with Maria-Paula McIntyre

Week 9: Action Planning Session

Week 10: Peer Mentor Presentation

Week 11: Student Involvement Action Plan Presentations

Week 12: Focus on the Gulf Event

Week 13: Class and Focus on the Gulf Debrief and next steps