SLS1409: Professional Pathways in the Liberal Arts and Sciences
Summer B 2025

Instructor	Email	Office Hours
Dr. Charlie Fanning	c.fanning@ufl.edu	Wednesdays, 2-4pm on Zoom and by appointment

Course Description

This course is an exploration of career readiness through Liberal Arts and Sciences. We will investigate the modern world of work and the cultivation of transferable and professional skills through theory and practice. Through this course, you will learn about career development and practical professional skills, but you will also learn about your individual professional identity and how the two intersect. By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Articulate the value of a Liberal Arts and Sciences Education
- Identify key elements of career development in Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Apply transferable skills to multiple career contexts
- Construct effective professional materials to communicate transferable skills
- Confidently pursue and interview for professional opportunities

Course Materials

Readings will be provided either in hard-copy or PDF format by the instructor.

Course Assignments

- Discussion Posts and Replies (5) – 25%
- O*Net Interest Profile – 5%
- Strengths, Interests, & Values Exercise – 5%
- Skill Inventory + Position Posting Analysis – 10%
- Possible Lives Exercise – 5%
- Resume- 15%
- Cover Letter- 15%
- Gator Network Profile – 5%
- Developmental Plan – 15%

Course Delivery

This is an online, asynchronous course, which means that you will never be expected to show up at a particular place at a specific time. Nevertheless, there will be many options for synchronous engagement throughout the semester. In addition to my office hours, I can meet with you by appointment.

Late Assignments

This course is online and asynchronous, but will still require your full engagement. The goal of this course is for you to develop skills and a sense of professionalism. Therefore, it is important that you meet all deadlines for posted assignments. Late work will be accepted up to ONE WEEK after the deadline, but will automatically be assessed one full letter grade deduction. Please speak to me if extenuating circumstances impact your ability to submit your work in a timely fashion. Students in need of additional services and support are encouraged to consult the Dean of Students Office (https://dso.ufl.edu/).

Accessibility

This course intends to make learning accessible to all. The University of Florida Disability Resource Center further aims to provide a universally accessible community that supports the holistic advancement of students with disabilities. If you have a documented medical, physical, psychological, and learning disability or other difference that might require accommodations or modification of the course procedures, please contact the Disability Resource Center (https://disability.ufl.edu/contact-us/) to register. Students who receive an accommodation letter must present it to the instructors when discussing accommodations. Please follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Grading Policies and Grade Points

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the university community. Students should make sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code (https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/). On all work submitted for credit by students at the university, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." Please refer to the UF Catalog for information on grading and GPA (https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/).

On the use of generative AI tools (ChatGPT, etc.) in this course:

The use of such tools is permitted and may be valuable for activities such as brainstorming and refining ideas, finding information, and checking grammar and style. Students may not submit any work generated by an AI program as their own, however. For example, students must not use generative AI tools to compose responses on class forums, write a draft of an assignment, write full sentences or paragraphs of assignments, or to complete class assignments.

Grading Scale:

A	100-92.5%
A-	92.4-89.5%
B+	89.4-86.5%
B	86.4-82.5%
B-	82.4-79.5%
C+	79.4-76.5%
C	76.5-72.5%
C-	72.4-69.5%
D+	69.4-66.5%

D	**66.4-62.5%**
D-	**62.4-59.5%**
E	**59.4—0%**

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at http://evaluations.ufl.edu. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional manner is available http://evaluations.ufl.edu/students. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/.

Tentative Course Schedule

Module 1: Introduction and Career Values

• Syllabus

• Katharine Brooks, "Moving from College to Career"

• "Strengths, Interests, & Values" Lesson

Assignments:

• Discussion Post and Reply

• O*Net Profile

• Strengths, Interests, & Values Exercise

Module 2: Skills and Goals

• Bryan Caplan, *The Case Against Education*

• "Professional Skill & Job Postings" Lesson

Assignments:

• Discussion Post and Reply

• Skill Inventory & Position Analysis

Module 3: T-Shaped Professionals

• Jeffrey Selingo, "What the Economy Needs, What Employers Want"

• "What Employers Want" Lesson

Assignments:

• Discussion Post and Reply
• Possible Lives Exercise

Module 4: Professional Materials

• "Professional Materials" Lesson

<u>Assignments</u>:

- Resume
- Cover Letter

Module 5: Professional Communication and Personal Branding

- "Communication for Professional Development" Lesson

<u>Assignments</u>:

- Discussion Post and Reply
- Gator Network profile

Module 6: Launching your Professional Life

- "Networking, References, and Interviewing" Lesson

<u>Assignments</u>:

- Discussion Post and Reply
- Development Plan