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Foundations of the Resident Assistant (RA) Experience I

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey – New Brunswick

Instructor: Sean Dowd

Day: Monday 4:30-7:30pm

Course Description:

Welcome to Foundations of the RA experience. This course has been designed to assist students in the development of a more comprehensive understanding of the theoretical and practical knowledge needed for the Resident Assistant position at Rutgers University. The learning experience will provide an understanding of Student and Community Development, Leadership, Communication, and Diversity theories. Through exposure to theories, experiential learning situations and the use of critical thinking and reflective analysis participants will develop the background and knowledge that will allow them to conceptually understand their new leadership role.

Prerequisites:

Selection as a Resident Assistant/Alternate Resident Assistant by Rutgers Residence Life.

Course Objectives and Goals:

- ✓ Understand the mission, vision and expectations of the Residence Life department as it relates to the RA position.
- ✓ Develop an understanding of student development theory and practice
- ✓ Identify the unique challenges and opportunities provided by residence hall living and the RA role in building community.
- ✓ Demonstrate improved interpersonal communication skills and the ability to develop relationships with peers.
- ✓ Understand and appreciate individual group differences within the campus culture.
- ✓ Build relationships with classmates.

Course Readings:

1. Blimling, G. (2010). *The Resident Assistant: Applications and strategies for working with college students in residence halls*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt.
2. Additional readings will be provided via Sakai.

Schedule:

Class 1	Introduction/Overview of Student Affairs and the roles of the RA
Class 2	Understanding our Students
Class 3	Communication and Relationship Building
Class 4	Understanding our Diversity
Class 5 & 6	Community Development and Programming
Class 7	Conflict Resolution
Class 8	Leadership