



UNIV 1800.071

UNIV 1800.: University Learning Skills
Fall 2015
Monday / 12:20pm
Rowe 134

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to the University of Connecticut and First Year Experience (FYE)!

FYE is a unique one-credit course designed to provide you with the opportunity to explore issues relevant to new students at the University of Connecticut. Our goal for the semester is to provide an open forum for discussion about college transition issues and concerns, and to promote greater self-awareness, growth, and understanding of you as a scholar, individual, and global citizen. Over the course of the semester we will investigate your college experiences holistically, which will allow you the ability to make informed decisions paving the way for a richer, fuller college career.

This course is designed to be fun, supportive, practical, and intellectually challenging. Most of our work in this class will be cooperative. Therefore, our success will largely rely on active, earnest participation from you. Students who successfully complete the course will leave with critical thinking skills, increased cultural competency, knowledge of UConn resources, increased self-awareness, a working knowledge of HuskyCT, a writing sample, and a resume. In addition, we hope that you will have some fun memories, confidence, and meaningful connections with faculty/staff and your fellow students.

COURSE LEARNING GOALS

LO1: Students will recognize the principles of critical and creative thinking, and apply them to all three realms of their first-year experience: academic, personal, and global.

LO2: Students will recognize their strengths and weaknesses and reflect on their personal growth as UConn students.

LO3: Students will recognize and engage with social and academic support services and enrichment opportunities offered at UConn.

LO4: Students will recognize and practice basic academic and professional skills necessary for undergraduate success at UConn. **LO5:** Students will recognize the diversity of our world and practice basic skills needed to actively and ethically contribute to a globalized society.

GRADING

Grade Components	Total Number of Points	Explanation	Grade Percentage
In-Class Assignments / Participation	30 points	2 pts x 14 wks; 2 pts 1:1	30%
Resume Assignment	25 points	Based on FYE Grading Rubric	25%
Critical Reflection Writing Assignment	25 points	Based on FYE Grading Rubric	25%
Critical Thinking	20 points	Looking Back to Go Forward	20%
Maximum Total Points	100 points		

Grade Scale			
A = 94 – 100% Points = (94 – 100)	B = 84 – 87% Points = (84 – 87.9)	C = 74 – 77% Points = (74 – 77.9)	D = 64 – 67% Points = (64 – 67.9)
A- = 91 – 93% Points = (91 – 93.9)	B- = 81 – 83% Points = (81 – 83.9)	C- = 71 – 73% Points = (71 – 73.9)	D- = 61 – 63% Points = (61 – 63.9)
B+ = 88 – 90% Points = (88 – 90.9)	C+ = 78 – 80% Points = (78 – 79.9)	D+ = 68 – 70% Points = (68 – 70.9)	F = 0 – 60% Points = (0 – 60.9)

Tracking Your Progress																			
Grade Components	Points Possible	Points Earned	Grade Percentage Earned	Letter Grade Earned															
In-Class Assignments / Participation/ Attendance	30 points	<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>																30%	
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Total Points	100 points		100%																

ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

Below are brief summaries of the course assignments. Additional information will be discussed in class and can be found on our course HuskyCT site. If you have any questions please ask before the assignments are due.

Class Participation – Every Class (30 Points): Attendance and participation are **crucial** to your success in this course. Absences will hurt your final grade by reducing the points you receive for the participation and in-class work. If there are special circumstances causing absences, please contact me by phone or email. Excessive or chronic tardiness to class will also be considered when computing the participation portion of your grade.

Critical Reflection Writing Assignment, 2-3 Pages (25 Points): “Outside Your Comfort Zone”

For this multi-part assignment, you are required to stretch yourself by attending approved human rights, cultural, or artistic event on campus. You will then engage in the academic conversation by writing and revising a brief essay summarizing as well as critically reflecting on the event. The focus of this reflection should be on the writer’s analysis and interpretation that answers the question, “so what?” Because revision and peer review are vital elements to this process, you will visit the University Writing Center (<http://www.writingcenter.uconn.edu/> and <https://uconn.mywconline.com/>) with a group before revising and submitting your final draft. For more events, please refer to the Online Events Calendar at: <http://events.uconn.edu>.

Due in Class: Bring in an advertisement for the event : Due in Class September 14

- **Due date for the first draft is [October 5, 2015 (Hard Copy in Class)**
GO TO THE WRITING CENTER IN GROUPS
- **Due date for final copy + draft with critique due: November 2, 2015**

Résumé Assignment, 1 Page (25 Points):

The Center for Career Development (<http://www.career.uconn.edu/>) and First Year Programs & Learning Communities have established a collaborative partnership in an effort to introduce first-year students to Career Services and the importance of creating a résumé early in your college career.

The résumé assignment has five easy steps:

- 1) Drafting the résumé using the template provided by the Center for Career Development (CCD)
- 2) Attending an in-class presentation by CCD
- 3) Researching and reflecting on a professional working in a field you are interested in pursuing
- 4) Attending a résumé critique
- 5) Submitting your final packet of the draft, critique notes, and final version

Due date for the first draft is Sept. 28 (Bring to Class)

Bring draft to class on October 5, 2015 for Career Development Presentation

Final Copy plus Copy with Feedback from CDC on November 16, 2015 (also due, 1 page reflection from interview with professional in your field of interest)

Critical and Creative Thinking: Critically (Re)Thinking Narratives (20 Points): Please write a 2-3 page reflection paper outlining 3 things you wish you had known at the beginning of the year that would attribute to your success at UConn. How will these three things help change the way you approach your subsequent semesters.

Due date is November 30, 2015: Email to John Armstrong: j.armstrong@uconn.edu

COURSE POLICIES

A key objective of this course is to encourage open, critical discussion. This is a credit-bearing course, and as such there are obligations to the University which must be upheld.

Therefore, the following policies will be observed:

Attendance

Participation is vital to learning in this course, and attendance is vital to participation. As a course designed with a capacity of 19 students, it is the intention of the University to create an environment in which students can interact, learn from each other, and be heard. Thus, we expect that all students will be prepared and willing to participate in class discussion on a regular basis. This can be directly in class or through HuskyCT discussion posts. Please contact me ahead of time if you need to miss class to participate in a university event or for a major personal reason. If you know in advance that you will need to miss class we can work together to find a way to catch you up. If you miss class due to a genuine emergency or medical problem, please request documentation from Student Health Services after you visit, or contact the Office of Student Services and Advocacy (860) 486-3426. They will look into the issue and send all of your instructors formal notification (an excuse) if appropriate.

Late Work Policy

I do not accept late daily participation work unless you make arrangements with me before the class, or in extreme cases such as medical emergencies. Late posts lose 10% off the final grade for every day that they are late. *Do not* leave them until the last minute because they are a vital part of our class sessions. And all major assignments must be in on the listed due dates, unless you are granted an extension ahead of time. Please contact me in advance if you are having a problem with an assignment so that I can help. You can see me after class, during my listed office hours, or by appointment.

Technology: Cell Phones, Tablets, Laptops, Etc.

Technology in the classroom is limited to the advancement of the academic material. Please remember to turn phones/devices on silent before you enter the classroom. If technology becomes a distraction points may be deducted from your participation grade.

Civil Discourse, Rights, and Responsibilities

In our class discussions, in our readings, and in our writing throughout the semester, we will examine ideas from diverse perspectives. At this university, students and faculty are afforded an academic environment that allows for intellectual expression. Challenging issues and ideas may arise, but none of these should be expressed in an inappropriate manner either verbally or in writing. One of the goals of a university is to challenge us to think again about what we know (and all that we don't know). This demands that we all share responsibility for creating and maintaining a civil learning environment in our classrooms and in the larger university community. We will be conscious of and accept responsibility for what we say and do, how we act, how our words and actions have consequences, and how our words and actions affect others. As part of this awareness, we will avoid sexist, racist, and heterosexist language.

Email and HuskyCT

I will frequently post important information and course materials online. You will need to check your email and HuskyCT, <http://huskyct.uconn.edu/webct/entryPageIns.dowebct>, regularly in order to keep up.

Students with Disabilities

Students who think that they may need special accommodations because of a disability are encouraged to meet with me privately early in the semester. Students should also contact the Center for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible to verify their eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For more information, please go to <http://www.csd.uconn.edu/>.

Individual Conferencing

Office hours are noted above, and you can always talk to me after class or e-mail me to set up an appointment at another time. I especially encourage you to come to see me before work is due (for this or any other class) if you are feeling stressed or confused about an assignment.

Weather Closure

Fall weather closures are rare, but they do happen. And spring semester at UConn is notorious for snow. Be sure to check online for information concerning possible school closures and rescheduling of classes. If class is canceled on campus we may move our discussions for the day online. If necessary, I will post an updated course calendar on HuskyCT as soon as possible.

www.alert.uconn.edu

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

"A fundamental tenet of all educational institutions is academic honesty; academic work depends upon respect for and acknowledgment of the research and ideas of others. Misrepresenting someone else's work as one's own is a serious offense in any academic setting and it will not be condoned."

*-University of Connecticut, Student Code, Section VI
The Student Code: http://www.dosa.uconn.edu/student_code.html*

What is considered academic misconduct for undergraduate students?

Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Providing or receiving assistance on academic work (papers, projects, examinations) in a way that was not authorized by the instructor
- Any attempt to improperly influence (bribery, threats) any member of the faculty, staff, or administration of the University in any matter relating to academics or research
- Plagiarism
- Doing academic work for another student
- Presenting the same, or substantially the same, papers or projects in two or more courses without the explicit permission of the instructors
- Situations where one student knowingly assists another student in committing an act of academic misconduct, and any student doing so will be held equally accountable for the violation

Plagiarism

Plagiarism can be a deliberate action, in cases of downloading or purchasing pre-written essays or accidental, when a student paraphrases incorrectly or assumes that because the information is online, it needs no attribution. Presenting the same paper in two or more courses without the explicit permission of the instructors involved is also considered a form of academic misconduct. Recycling papers addresses various ethical issues, including "self-plagiarism," providing individuals with an unfair academic advantage, and undermining the objectives associated with a particular assignment. For academic misconduct, typical sanctions for serious offenses are generally considered to be failure in the course. For less serious offenses, it is generally failure in that portion for which you are accused of academic misconduct. If you find yourself with additional questions about the policy, contact me immediately. If you are desperately tempted to plagiarize, stop. Come see me or e-mail me. As you will see in our Information Literacy unit, there are much better solutions to the problem.

Finals

This class **does not** have a final exam. However, this information will help you to be successful in your other courses:

Finals week for fall 2014 takes place from Monday, December 8th, through Sunday, December 14th. Students are required to be available for their exam and/or complete any assessment during the time stated in the Registrar's Office schedule. If you have a conflict with this time you must visit the I Center in Wilbur Cross for rescheduling this final. Please note that vacations, previously purchased tickets or reservations, graduations, social events, misreading the assessment schedule and over-sleeping are not viable reasons for rescheduling a final.

I reserve the right to alter this syllabus. However, if I do I will give you ample notice.

UNIV 1800 Course Calendar			
Semester Week	Class Date	Topic/Special Location	Assignments Due (To Be Completed Before Class Meets)
1	Aug. 31	Welcome, Introductions, Syllabus Overview, Involvement Fair Questions	---
2	Sept. 7	No Class (Labor Day)	
3	Sept. 14	Open Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are you doing so far. • Virtual Campus Tour(In Class) • Team Assignments 	DUE: Event Attendance for “Outside your Comfort Zone Paper” (Event must be held prior to October 2 nd)
4	Sept. 21	Education Abroad Office (In Class) Handout in Class (how to write a resume)	
5	Sept. 28	Visit to the Dairy Bar: Class meets at the UConn Dairy Bar	DUE: Draft of Personal Resume
6	Oct. 5	Career Development Center (In Class) Resume Review: Resume must be completed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bring Draft Resume to Class!</i> 😊 	DUE: <u>Draft of 1st Writing Assignment, 2-3 Pages (20 Points)</u> “Outside your Comfort Zone”
7	Oct. 12	Public Safety Complex Tour (Class Meets at 126 N. Eagleville Road, Across from Visitors Center)	No Assignment Due: Class meets at UCPD/ 126 N. Eagleville Rd.
8	Oct. 19	Sarah Nesci Presentation: Time Management and Study Skills (Mid Terms are over... Are your time management + study skills working??)	
9	Oct. 26	Values and Ethics	
10	Nov. 2	<i>Class Choice (Pick a topic)</i>	DUE: <u>Final Copy of Critical Reflection Writing Assignment, 2-3 Pages (20 Points)</u> ; This version must include feedback from the Writing Center
11	Nov. 9	Violence Against Women (VAWWP) In-Class Presentation	
12	Nov. 16	Going Home for Break “You have changed but your parents have not”	Due: Final Resume Assignment(Clean Copy) + resume w/feedback from CDC
13	Nov. 23	No Class (Thanksgiving Break)	No Class
14	Nov. 30	Gearing Up for Finals	DUE: Final Critical Thinking Assignment
14	Dec. 7	Semester Wrap Up / Class Evaluation	Any Remaining Assignments Due