



UNIV 1810-035 Introduction to Global House Fall 2015

Meeting time: Thursdays 4:30-5:20

Meeting place: Learning Community Lounge

Instructor Name: Oksan Bayulgen

Office Hours: Thursdays 2:00-4:00 (or by appointment)

Office Location: Learning Community Lounge Director's Office

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Mentor name: Casey Fessler

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Course Description

Welcome to the University of Connecticut and UNIV 1810! This is a first of two one-credit courses designed to provide you with the opportunity to explore issues relevant to new students at the University of Connecticut (you are expected to take the continuation of UNIV 1810 in the spring). Our goal for this semester is to provide an open forum for discussion about college transition issues and concerns, to promote greater self-awareness, growth, and understanding of you as a scholar, individual and global citizen, to build a community among new Global House residents and finally to connect you all to the resources and opportunities offered at UConn.

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, an ability to think globally while living locally, knowledge of UConn resources, time management and study skills, and the responsibility of living in a residential community. In addition, we hope that you will have some fun memories, confidence, and meaningful connections with faculty/staff and your fellow students.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester you will be able to:

- Recognize the principles of critical and creative thinking, and apply them to all three realms of your first year experience: academic, personal, and global.
- Recognize your strengths and weaknesses and reflect on your personal growth as UConn students
- Build relationships with other Global House residents.
- Explain the vision and goals of Global House.
- Describe your own background and understand your relationship to the rest of the world.
- Recognize the diversity of our worlds and practice basic skills needed to actively and ethically contribute to a globalized society
- Recognize and engage with social and academic support services and enrichment opportunities offered at UConn.
- Successfully transition to the university environment.

Course Format

The Introduction to Global House course meets weekly for the fall semester. Class meetings are for fifty minutes and take place in the Learning Community Lounge, unless otherwise specified. On occasion, there may be required outings and/or events that occur outside the regularly scheduled meeting times. These will be announced by the instructor ahead of time.

This is a discussion-based class designed to develop global awareness, analytical thinking and communication skills. Topics discussed will include the college transition, the culture and politics of countries across the world and significant and current local and global issues. Students will be expected to be active participants in class discussions. To participate fully, students should complete assigned tasks prior to class, and read designated materials. There will be several journal assignments that require students to reflect on their activities and transition to UConn.

Requirements

Class participation (10%): 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 your instructor by email. Excessive and chronic tardiness to class will also affect your participation grade.

Journal Assignments (30%): All 3 journals should be 2 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman with 1" margins. Papers will be graded based on depth of thought and relevance but grammar and spelling will be taken into account as well.

1) Involvement Fair Journal:

Attend the Involvement Fair on *Wednesday, September 9, 2015 between 2 and 7 pm on Fairfield Way*. Write a reflection on your experience, what you gained from attending and what you learned about UConn student organizations. In addition, interview a representative from one organization of your choice and get answers to the following questions:

- What is the name of the group/organization?
- What is the group's purpose/goal? What makes this organization unique?
- How long has this organization been on campus?
- What is a significant annual event/activity of the group? What is the significance of this event?
- What particular skills have they developed as a member of the organization?
- Are you interested in joining this organization? Why or why not?
- How could participating in this organization challenge and strengthen your college resume?

This journal is due on **Sept 17th**.

2) Education Abroad Fair Journal:

Attend the Education Abroad Fair on *Thursday, September 10, 2015 between 4-7 at the Rome Ballroom*. Write a reflection on your experience, what you gained from attending and what you learned about UConn education abroad programs. In addition, interview a representative from one program of your choice and get answers to the following questions:

- What is the name of the program, its location and purpose?
- For how long has this program been in place?

- What are some of the activities that are covered in this program?
- Would you be interested in joining this program? Why or why not?
- How could participating in this program challenge and strengthen your college resume?

This journal is due on **Sept 17th**.

3) Interview Journal:

Choose one of your current professors (not graduate assistants or teaching assistants) to interview. Schedule a one-on-one meeting for an approximately 15-minute interview. The purpose of this interview is to learn more about a faculty member as well as gather strategies/approaches for handling certain areas of concern. After the interview, be sure to follow up with a thank you email.

After the interview, you will be responsible for typing a summary and offering any insight you gained through the interview by addressing the following:

- * Who did you interview and why? (please include the faculty member's name and department)
- * What was the focus of your interview or what were you hoping to gain from the experience?
- * What did you learn from the professor (in regard to your interview's focus)?

Sample Questions: (Ask a minimum of 10 questions)

1. Where did you receive your undergraduate/master/PhD degree? What was your major?
2. What is your favorite thing about being a professor?
3. What is your least favorite thing about being a professor?
4. If you had to offer one piece of advice to first-year students, what would that be? What would be your prescription for thriving at college?
5. What was your first year of college experience like?
6. When you were little, what did you want to be when you grew up?
7. How did you end up at UConn?
8. What does the term "Global Citizen" mean to you?

This journal is due on **Nov 12th**.

Critical Reflection Essay (20%): Global House will be organizing two Global Forums this semester. You are required to attend both of them but you will be asked to select one forum as the basis for a critical reflection paper. 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 your analysis and interpretation that answers the question, "so what?" Because revision and 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. Due date for the first draft is **Oct 15th** and due date for the final draft is **Dec 17th**.

Resume Assignment (20%): This assignment has five easy steps: 1) drafting the resume using the template provided by the Center 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 resume critique and 5) submitting your final package consisting of the original draft, critique notes, and final version. The final document is due on **Nov 5th**.

Country Project (20%): You will be asked to select a country (other than your own) to report on in class.

- Prior to the second class, email your top 3 choices of countries to your instructor (your choices need to cover at least 2 different continents and should not include your own country). For your #1 choice, explain in two sentences why you have chosen this country. Countries will be assigned during the third class.
- **News Info** (10%)- Every week, read news articles related to your country (ideally a newspaper from that country if you can find one in a language you can understand; if not try different news sources from other countries each week). Be prepared during each class to share what's going on in your country. Each student will be asked to share news about their country at least twice during the semester.
- **Country Presentation** (10%) – Give a 5-minute Powerpoint presentation about your country. Introduce your classmates to the country, its culture and any current issues or hot-topics. Presentations will be scheduled in the second half of the semester.

Final: This class does not have a final exam but you have to turn in the final draft of your critical reflection essay by **Dec 17th**.

Grading

<u>Component</u>	<u>Percent of grade</u>
Class Participation	10
Journal Assignments	30
Critical Reflection Essay	20
Resume Assignment	20
Country Project	20
Total:	100

The grading for this course is as follows

A	93-100	B	82-87	C	72-77	D	62-67
A-	90-92	B-	80-81	C-	70-71	D-	60-61
B+	88-89	C+	78-79	D+	68-69	F	<60

Attendance and conduct

As this class relies heavily on in-class discussions, it is important that you attend classes each week. If you are not able to attend your section of the course, please contact the course instructor prior to switching sections for one week. If you are not able to attend any section due to illness or are absent for a religious holiday or a university-sanctioned event, contact the course instructor prior to the class. Remember that a large portion of your grade is dependent upon your class participation, which requires your attendance.

Turn off cell phones and other messaging equipment before entering the classroom. Please be on time for classes and do not leave early unless this is unavoidable.

Academic integrity is a fundamental expectation for all students at UConn. Cheating, plagiarism (representing somebody else's work as your own) and other forms of academic misconduct will not be tolerated and can result in loss of grade for the assignment or even failure in the course. You should be familiar with the academic sections of the Student Code of Conduct (<http://community.uconn.edu/the-student-code>) and act accordingly.

Email and HuskyCT

We will frequently post important information and course materials online. You will need to check your email and HuskyCT regularly in order to keep up. Office hours are noted above and you can always talk to me after class or email me to set up an appointment at another time. I especially encourage you to come and see me before work is due if you are feeling stressed or confused about an assignment.

Special needs

The expectation is that all students can and will do well in this course. If you have any particular circumstances that may impact your ability to learn here, please discuss them with the instructor. The Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at UConn provides accommodations and services for qualified students with disabilities. If you have a documented disability for which you wish to request academic accommodations and have not contacted the CSD, please do so as soon as possible. The CSD is located in Wilbur Cross, Room 204 and can be reached at (860) 486-2020 or at csd@uconn.edu. Detailed information regarding the accommodations process is also available on their website at www.csd.uconn.edu.

Tentative class schedule

Dates may be revised depending on the progress of the class, interests of the students and world events.

Week	Dates	Topics	Due	Notes
1	3 Sept	Student introductions. Course Introduction and Overview		Give instructions for all the assignments Ask students to fill out student information sheet. Ask students to read the UConn FYE Student Success Guidebook.
2	10 Sept	Attend Involvement Fair and Education Abroad Fair	Top 3 choices for Country Assignment	
3	17 Sept	What have we learned from the Involvement Fair and Education Abroad Fair? Discuss Transition Problems Talk about the Constitution Day/Citizenship Day	Involvement Fair Journal and Education Abroad Fair Journal	Give instructions for Scavenger Hunt assignment. Provide the list of countries assigned.
4	24 Sept	Learning about our campus: Scavenger Hunt		Arrange a meeting spot on campus for the Scavenger Hunt
5	1 Oct	Academic resources at UConn: Expert-Led Lesson: Academic Achievement Center		Assign background readings for Global Forum I topic.

				Provide instructions on critical reflection essay
6	8 Oct	Global Forum I: Iran-US Nuclear Deal		Provide resume writing instructions.
7	15 Oct	Global Forum I– what did we learn? Midsemester Evaluation	Critical Reflection Essay (1st Draft- if you choose to write about this forum)	Remind students to make an appointment with the Writing Center.
8	22 Oct	In-class resume writing presentation	First draft resume	Remind students about online scheduling for small group resume workshop with Center for Career Development
9	29 Oct	Choosing Spring classes Majors and Career Planning, Goal Setting, Motivation and Character		Provide instructions for the interview journal
10	5 Nov	Health, Wellness and Safety: Expert-led Lesson: Violence Against Women Prevention	Final draft resume	Provide background readings for second Global Forum II
11	12 Nov	Global Forum II: Human Rights and Syrian Refugees	Interview journal	
12	19 Nov	Global Forum II: What did we learn?	Critical Reflection Essay (1st Draft- if you choose to write about this forum)	
13	26 Nov	No Class: Thanksgiving Recess		
14	3 Dec	Country Presentations	Country reports	
15	10 Dec	Country Presentations Reflections and wrap-up.	Country reports	
16	Finals Week- 17 Dec		Critical Reflection Essay (Final draft)	