

**UNIV 4800: Senior Year Experience
Spring 2016**

Lecture – Mondays 2:30 – 3:45 p.m., Room: Arjona 105
Discussion Times – Check PeopleSoft for your specific discussion section time and location
HuskyCT site: log in at <http://lms.uconn.edu>

Instructor:

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Discussion Facilitator(s): **Name(s):** _____

E-Mail(s): _____

Section Number: _____

Course Objectives:

The Senior Year Experience course provides learning opportunities that promote a successful transition for college students to the world beyond the University. Students who participate in the Senior Year Experience course will have an opportunity for life skill development, reflection to determine the meaning and value of the undergraduate experience, and consideration of their growing role as a productive, valued member of society and university alumni.

These opportunities will:

- Promote effective life planning and decision making with respect to practical issues likely to be encountered in life after college (for example: financial planning, continued professional development, and healthy living).
- Enhance awareness of and support for key personal adjustments encountered by seniors during their transition from college to post-college life or graduate school attendance.
- Promote meaningful connections between the college experience and work/career experiences and expectations.
- Improve career preparation and pre-professional development, and facilitate the transition from the academic to the professional world.

Learning Objectives:

Students will:

- Be able to identify currently held professional/life skills and areas in need of development;
- Be able to represent themselves professionally in one or more modalities;
- Be able to articulate how their experience at the University of Connecticut has prepared them to address the transitional challenges they may face upon graduation.

Course Structure and Expectations:

Your role in SYE is to be an active and engaged learner. You will have the opportunity to learn new material, select and complete assignments designed to facilitate personally relevant learning and skill development, discuss questions and concerns, and engage in peer-to-peer learning.

The SYE class has a lecture and discussion format. Each week the entire class meets to hear a content expert present on the scheduled topic. Students then meet with a facilitator in small discussion sections later in the week. In addition to being an active participant in lecture and discussion sections, students will complete 4 enrichment assignments and a final written assignment.

- You are expected to engage in lecture and discussion and complete all assignments.
- Class participation is VERY IMPORTANT. The degree to which you engage in the class will directly affect the extent of your learning.
- Please arrive for each class on time, and STAY until class is completed. Students arriving later than 10 minutes after the class start time will not receive participation credit for that day.
- Cell phones should be turned off or put on vibrate during class.
- Demonstrate respect and confidentiality to classmates, facilitators, and guest speakers.

Requirements for Satisfactory Completion of the Course

UNIV 4800 is an S/U course. To receive an S grade for the course, students must satisfactorily complete all course requirements. The course requirements are as follows:

- Completion of the Learning Plan (completed during the first week in discussion)
- Participation in at least 8 lectures by completing a lecture reflection for each lecture
- Participation in at least 9 discussions (you are encouraged to attend all 10 scheduled discussions)
- Completion of 4 enrichment activities, 2 reflection papers on the activities, and submission of appropriate supporting materials
- Satisfactory completion of the final written assignment

Description of the Class Components:

Learning Plan

You will complete a Learning Plan during the first discussion that will be approved by your discussion section facilitator. The Learning Plan will give you the opportunity to identify specific competency areas you would like to focus on and choose enrichment assignments corresponding to the identified competency areas.

Lecture Reflections

At the end of each lecture you will be asked to complete and submit a short reflection. Lecture Reflections will be collected and given to discussion facilitators to be recorded. You must turn in your lecture reflections at the end of lecture to receive credit for that week's reflection.

Discussion Section Participation

Your participation in discussion sessions will be demonstrated through your active contributions to discussions and your active participation in activities and exercises. Your learning will depend, to a large degree, on the quality of your participation and level of engagement.

Enrichment Activities

You will select 4 enrichment activities to complete. The activities you choose will depend on the competencies you wish to develop during the course of the semester. At least 3 out of the 4 activities you choose must be from the list of enrichment activities provided. If you have one alternate activity you wish to do, you must receive approval from your facilitator prior to completing the activity. Based on these experiences, you will write 2 Enrichment Activities Reflection papers of 2-3 pages in length. Each reflection paper will outline your learning from the 2 enrichment activities. For each enrichment activity you will submit the "supporting materials" listed

in the activity description. You will choose the activities as part of your Learning Plan. Full descriptions of the activities are available on HuskyCT.

Final Written Assignment

The final written assignment is an opportunity to reflect on your experiences at the University of Connecticut and your learning in the course. This assignment should outline the personal meaning of your UConn experience and/or how the SYE course has prepared you to address the transitional challenges you may face upon graduation. The paper should be 3-4 pages in length. Additional information regarding this assignment is on HuskyCT.

Academic Policies

You are responsible for completing all components of the course as outlined in the syllabus. It is your responsibility to contact your facilitator(s) explaining why you feel you are unable to meet any obligation related to the course. The facilitator(s) will determine the legitimacy of your reason, and how it may or may not affect the stated policies related to this course. Legitimate reasons might include serious illness, court appearances, jury duty, and other situations outside one's control. The facilitator(s) may request some form of written documentation to support the reason you provided.

Late Assignments

In situations other than serious illness, unforeseen emergency, or other situations outside of one's control, students are required to turn in assignments on the due date as listed in the course syllabus. Late assignments will not be accepted and will result in a class grade of "unsatisfactory." If you feel you have a legitimate reason outside your control for handing in an assignment late, it is your responsibility to contact your facilitator(s) before the assignment is due and explain your reasons. It is at the facilitator's discretion to determine the legitimacy of your reason, and how it may or may not affect the stated policy regarding late assignments. The facilitator(s) may request some form of written documentation to support the reason you provided.

Academic Integrity

Student behavior shall be consistent with conduct delineated in the University of Connecticut statement on Academic Integrity in Undergraduate Education and Research contained in Appendix A of Responsibilities of Community Life: The Student Code; available at http://www.community.uconn.edu/student_code.html. Students are responsible for understanding: (a) forms of academic and scholarly misconduct described in the Appendix A, and (b) procedures to be followed by an instructor, the University, and a student in the event of alleged misconduct.

Reasonable Accommodations

The University of Connecticut is committed to protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities. Qualified individuals who require reasonable accommodation are invited to make their needs and preferences known as soon as possible. Please contact either a course instructor or the Center for Students with Disabilities if you feel you may be qualified.

Observance of Religious Holidays

After reviewing the syllabus carefully, please contact your facilitator(s) if you foresee a conflict between the due date for a major assignment or a required meeting and your religious observations.

HuskyCT

This course is available on HuskyCT. Additional information regarding assignments, important announcements, important emails, and additional resources will be accessible through HuskyCT.

Course Schedule

Please note that the course schedule is subject to revision based on presenter availability

Date	Lecture Topic
February 8	Steps to a Successful Graduation
February 15	Career Planning - Gaining a Competitive Advantage in Resume and Professional Writing
February 22	Career Planning – Acing the Interview
February 29	Understanding and Evaluating the Job Offer
March 7	Long Term Financial Planning
March 21	Identity Theft and Fraud
March 28	Making Big Purchases – ‘How to Buy a Car’
April 4	Networking 101 – Unlocking the Hidden Job Market
April 11	Managing your Digital Footprint & Insurance – What Every New Grad Should Know
April 18	Panel of UConn Alumni

Day/Date	Item Due
Wednesday, March 2, 2016	1 st Enrichment Activities Reflection Paper
Wednesday, March 30, 2016	2 nd Enrichment Activities Reflection Paper
Wednesday, April 20, 2016	Final Written Assignment

The above schedule, policies, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances or by mutual agreement between the instructor and the students.

Appendix A – Enrichment Activities Summary

As part of the course you will complete 4 enrichment activities. These activities are designed to give you the opportunity to learn or develop skills in competency areas important to your future success. Please see HuskyCT for detailed information about each enrichment activity.

Each activity will ask you to engage in an experience or gather information outside the class, and then write a brief reflection on your learning relevant to the experience and how you will leverage that new knowledge or skills moving forward.

Career/Graduate School Options

Skills Identification

Identify your unique skillset and see how they align with your career choices.

Resume Critique

Write a resume and have it critiqued by the Center for Career Development.

Informational Interview

Conduct an informational interview and discover what a successful professional in your field does.

Grad School Search

Identify potential graduate school programs and develop a plan for applications.

Social Media and the Job Search

Learn how to leverage social media in your job search and create a LinkedIn profile.

Cover Letter Critique

Write a cover letter and have the letter critiqued by the Center for Career Development.

Practice (Mock) Interview

Complete a practice interview at the Center for Career Development.

Money Management/Transition Options

Budgeting

Learn how to manage your day-to-day finances.

Moving

Learn how to successfully anticipate, plan, and execute relocation to a new city.

Credit and Credit Cards

Learn the basics of credit, credit cards, and credit reports.

Insurance

Learn about different kinds of insurance and how to purchase insurance.

Savings and Retirement

Learn retirement options, talk with someone about their retirement plans, and create a retirement plan of your own.