



WSU 101. INTRODUCTION TO THE UNIVERSITY (3cr hr).
Fall 2011

Instructor:
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Office Hours: (Days and times)
Section Meets: (Room number; Day and time)
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How to use this syllabus

This syllabus provides you with information specific to this course, and it also provides information about important university policies and services. Consider this syllabus a guide to the course. Note that, given sufficient prior notice, any part of the syllabus is subject to change as the semester evolves. Any updates will be posted in the Blackboard course page.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

From the Catalog: **WSU 101. Introduction to the University (3).** Designed especially for first-year students in their first semester at WSU, this course prepares students to succeed in college. This course helps students form connections with each other, with faculty, with campus services, and with the institution as a whole. It assists students in developing intellectually, emotionally and socially. It provides information and training about: college expectations; academic majors, careers and life planning; study skills and test taking; teaching and learning styles; respecting diversity of thought and culture; critical thinking; leadership; university policies and procedures; managing time and money; health and wellness; and the benefits of engagement in student organizations. This course encourages and supports students as they adjust to college life, and it promotes reflective learning. In addition to other course projects, students will create an individualized graduation plan through a collaborative process that involves academic advisors, the course instructor and peer mentors assigned to the course. Students who successfully complete this course have greater academic success and an improved rate of graduation as compared to students who do not take this class.

In More Detail: This course is all about you. It is designed to help you formulate and achieve your own goals. It aims to provide you with helpful resources and information, to help you form good habits of mind and action, and to help you create an effective support system. The point is to help you learn to be successful in college, and throughout the rest of your life. Remember that learning is not something that someone else can give you: you have to seize it for yourself.

This course adopts a “reflective learning” approach. It asks you to reflect upon who you are and what your own strengths and interests are. It asks you to use that information about yourself in a strategic way to become the person you want to be. This includes exploring possible career options, degree paths, and life goals. It also includes forming habits and making decisions that promote your own success.

In order for this course to be effective for you, you must be open to exploring new and sometimes uncomfortable ideas. You must be fully engaged, and devote sufficient time and energy to the activities of the class. The reward is personal growth and a much increased chance of success in college and in life.

Going to college is a new experience. When you first begin college, despite what you may have learned from friends, family, teachers or the media, you simply don't know everything it takes to be successful in college. Some things you can't know until you experience them. Moreover, college is a "transformative experience." You will be very different when you graduate than you are today. (If not, something has gone wrong! The whole point of going to college is to learn and grow.) You can't anticipate in advance how you will change in college—what habits you will acquire, what people you will come to know, what subjects will turn out to interest you. This means that as you begin college you need to be strategic about leaving options open for yourself later. In general, the better your grades, the more deeply you engage yourself in college life, and the broader and more diverse the experiences you give yourself, the more options will be available to you in the future. Remember that many of the ideas you will encounter in college are complex and it may take some time to learn to appreciate them. Cultivate habits of openness, patience, attention and diligence, and you will be well on your way to maximizing your college experience.

A great deal of success (in college, work, life in general) has to do with making good decisions. This course will help you acquire knowledge, develop values, and establish habits that will help you make good decisions that lead to your success.

This course makes available to you a host of resources for dealing with any difficulties you might encounter while at WSU. The helping resources available to you include your section instructor and a peer mentor as well as various offices around campus. You can rely on these people and offices whenever you encounter difficulties. If they can't help you directly, they will know where to refer you. Everyone needs help sometimes. The difference between those who conquer adversity and those who don't is often the willingness to ask for help.

We know that college, done right, will change you. We also want you to change this college. It is only through your active involvement and dedication that Wichita State University can achieve excellence and fulfill its mission. We challenge you to leave your mark.

COURSE GOALS

Upon successful completion of this course, you will:

- Be familiar with WSU's history and traditions.
- Know how and why to join student organizations and participate in campus events.
- Be connected to faculty members, a peer mentor, fellow students, and the campus in general.
- Appreciate the value of diversity in society and know more about interacting with people from different cultures and backgrounds.
- Know where to locate and how to access the resources WSU provides for students.
- Have increased knowledge of effective techniques and habits for time management, studying, test taking and academic writing, and utilize campus resources when necessary to ensure academic success.
- Know how to use and develop your personal learning style to maximize your academic success.
- Have a detailed plan for completing your degree.
- Explore career options that would be a good fit for your strengths and interests and know how to prepare to be successful in the workforce.
- Know the basics of personal finance and the "do's and don'ts" for using money in college.
- Be aware of and practice behaviors that promote health and wellness.
- Know how to use WSU's electronic resources, including myWSU and Blackboard.

REQUIRED TEXTS/READINGS/EQUIPMENT

Textbook

John N. Gardner, A. Jerome Jeweler, and Betsy O. Barefoot. *Your College Experience: Introduction to Wichita State University*. (Custom text based on the 9th Edition.) Bedford-St. Martin's Press, 2010.

Other Readings

Additional articles, web pages, etc., will either be available electronically or handed out to you in class.

Other Equipment

Turning Point student response card (“clicker”). Available for purchase at the Bookstore. Be sure to purchase the Turning Point model. You will need this in every supersection class including the first one.

This is a hybrid class: Approximately 1/3rd of the course will be delivered online via WSU’s Blackboard course management system. You need to log on to the Blackboard page for the course at least once a week and complete the assignments there (www.blackboard.wichita.edu, or via myWSU.wichita.edu). Check your “@wichita.edu” email at least once per day for announcements and information related to the course. Students have free access to computers in the Ablah Library and in various student computing labs around campus (especially in Jabara Hall). If you intend to use public computers to complete the online portion of the course, be sure to bring headphones so that you can listen to the audio materials.

GRADING

Grade Points

WSU uses a +/- grading scale to calculate grade point averages for final grades.

A	4.00	C	2.00
A-	3.67	C-	1.67
B+	3.33	D+	1.33
B	3.00	D	1.00
B-	2.67	D-	0.67
C+	2.33	F	0.00

The A range denotes excellent performance.

The B range denotes good performance.

The C range denotes satisfactory performance.

The D range denotes unsatisfactory performance.

F denotes failing performance.

Grading Scale

In this class, grades are assigned according to the following percentage scales. (Note, other classes might assign grades differently: Be sure to understand the different grading scales in all of your classes.)

A	93.0-100	C	73.0-76.9
A-	90.0-92.9	C-	70.0-72.9
B+	87.0-89.9	D+	67.0-69.9
B	83.0-86.9	D	63.0-66.9
B-	80.0-82.9	D-	60.0-62.9
C+	77.0-79.9	F	Below 60.0

Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities may be available at various points throughout the course. (For example, by getting a certain number of stamps in your WSU Passport, by attending lectures and performances, or participating in service learning projects.) A maximum of five percentage points of your final grade can come from extra credit.

Late Assignments

Assignments turned in after 5pm on the due date but less than 24 hours late will automatically lose a full letter grade (10.0 percentage points). Assignments 24 or more hours late will receive a grade of zero. There will be no exceptions to this policy, even in the case of technology failure, so plan to finish your assignments well before their deadlines.

Missed Assignments

You must provide documentation of medical or compassionate reasons for missing an assignment in order to be allowed to make it up. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

Class Protocol

You will meet one hour per week in your section; your section and several other sections will meet together one hour per week in supersection; one third of the course will be delivered online through the Blackboard course management system.

Your section will be co-taught by an instructor and a peer mentor (an undergraduate student who has been at WSU for at least one year and who has received training on how to help other students adjust to college life.) You will meet with your peer mentor outside of class at least once a month.

Attendance in all section and supersection meetings is mandatory. For each absence, 1.11 percentage points will be deducted from your final grade. Failing to meet with your peer mentor at the mutually agreed time and location each month will also cost 1.11 per percentage points from your final grade.

Class will start precisely on time according to the digital clock in the room. You will lose participation points for arriving late to section meetings. No one will be admitted late to supersection meetings.

Ordinary standards of classroom civility will apply at all times. Raise your hand to speak and wait to be called upon. Do not speak while others are speaking. Personal electronic devices such as cell phones and laptops (but not including clickers) must be off and stowed away during class. Treat others with respect. At all times, all individuals in the classroom are responsible for ensuring that an atmosphere conducive to learning exists. If you are removed from class for violating these standards, it will count as an absence.

Assignments

The assignments in this class are weighted according to the following percentages of your final grade. (To calculate your grade at any given point in the course, multiply your grade on each assignment by its weight below, then divide the sum of those products by the percentage of the final grade that has been completed up to that point in the semester.)

Complete all “pre-tests” and surveys <i>CSI, VARK, NSSE, StrengthQuest, MBI, etc.</i>	10%
Weekly reflection papers	15%
Weekly online discussion	15%
Personal history project	10%
Meetings with peer mentor	10%
Time budget, career plan, degree plan	25%
In-class participation, quizzes	<u>15%</u>
TOTAL	100%

Due dates will be posted in the “Assignments” section of the Blackboard course page.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND SERVICES

Inclusive Excellence

Wichita State University is committed to achieving “Inclusive Excellence” and institutional strength through curricula, co-curricula, and other practices, which promote and encourage the intermingling of its students, faculty, and staff from different backgrounds, in a challenging intellectual and multicultural climate that is marked by respect and appreciation for the spectrum of human diversity. The University is also committed to an “all-inclusive” diversity and does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status, disability, religion, national origin, or military status.

Academic Integrity

Students are responsible for knowing and following the Student Code of Conduct http://webs.wichita.edu/inaudit/ch8_05.htm and the Student Academic Honesty policy http://webs.wichita.edu/inaudit/ch2_17.htm.

Students who commit acts of academic dishonesty in this course will automatically fail the assignment or fail the course, at the instructor's discretion. No exceptions will be made to this policy. It is up to the student to understand and follow standards of academic honesty, appropriate academic use and citation of materials created by others, and other standards for academic work. If you have questions about any of this, ask your instructor. Claiming to not understand the standards of academic integrity will never be an acceptable excuse in this class. Academic integrity will be covered in class early in the semester.

Disabilities

If you have a physical, psychiatric/emotional, or learning disability that may impact on your ability to carry out assigned course work, contact the Office of Disability Services (DS). The office is located in Grace Wilkie Annex, room 150, (316) 978-3309 (voice/tty). DS will review your concerns and determine, with you, what academic accommodations are necessary and appropriate for you. All information and documentation of your disability is confidential and will not be released by DS without your written permission.

Counseling & Testing

The WSU Counseling & Testing Center provides professional counseling services to students, faculty and staff; administers tests and offers test preparation workshops; and presents programs on topics promoting personal and professional growth. Services are low cost and confidential. They are located in room 320 of Grace Wilkie Hall, and their phone number is (316) 978-3440. The Counseling & Testing Center is open on all days that the University is officially open. If you have a mental health emergency during times that the Counseling & Testing Center is not open, please call COMCARE Crisis Services at (316) 660-7500.

Student Health Services

WSU's Student Health clinic is located in Ahlberg Hall. Hours are 8:00am to 4:00pm (3:00pm on Fridays), though the clinic may be closed occasionally on Wednesdays from noon to 1:30pm. In addition to outpatient and preventive care (including immunizations, a prescription service, and testing/counseling for sexually transmitted infections), Student Health can handle minor injuries. All services are confidential. For more information see www.wichita.edu/studenthealth.

Shocker Alert System

Get the emergency information you need instantly and effortlessly! With the Shocker Alert System, we will contact you by email and/or text message whenever there is an emergency or weather alert that affects the campus. Sign up at www.wichita.edu/alert.

Important Academic Dates

This semester, classes begin Monday, August 22, 2011, and end Thursday, December 8, 2011. The last date to drop a class and receive a W (withdrawn) instead of F (failed) is xxx. There are no classes on Labor Day (Monday, Sep. 5), Fall Break (Oct. 17 and 18), and Thanksgiving Break (Nov. 24 and 25).

WSU 101 Introduction to the University Fall 2011 Tentative Schedule

Week		Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Section Supersection Online Assignment	Introductions to each other, and to the course. Discussion: Why are you in college? Welcome event: WSU President Don Beggs; What WSU expects from you. What is college for? Syllabus quiz; reading assignment; letters from past students; learning technology. Complete pre-tests; complete your time budget; meet with peer mentor.
2	Section Supersection Online Assignment	Campus Involvement; Academic integrity; Study skills. Readings and discussion about campus resources, the goals of college. Money Matters; Note-taking techniques. Meet with professors; financial budget.
3	Section Supersection Online Assignment	Study skills. Becoming a strategic learner. Take StrengthsQuest survey; guided personal history reflection. Past/Present/Future Me collage or Digital Storytelling Project.
4	Section Supersection Online Assignment	Discuss StrengthsQuest results. Building on your Strengths. Acquiring skills and knowledge to promote your success. Learning Styles; complete the VARK survey. Reflection journal (strengths and future); visit Writing Center.
5	Section Supersection Online Assignment	Studying and taking tests. The WSU 101 Games. Information literacy—searches and sources. Time budget check-up
6	Section Supersection Online Assignment	Resource tour. Wellness (stress management). Stress management. Critical thinking test; report on note-taking technique; visit Library.
7	Section Supersection Online Assignment	Critical inquiry. Developing your value system. Reading on Values Reflection paper on values; meet with peer mentor.
8	Section Supersection Online Assignment	Fall Break. Fall Break. Reading on preparing for the world of work. No assignment due.
9	Section Supersection Online Assignment	Mid-term check-up: What have you done well, and what could you have done better? Diversity and inter-cultural competence. Diversity and inter-cultural competence. Interview someone from a different background.
10	Section Supersection Online Assignment	Diversity in the classroom. Leadership and public service. Preparation for service project. Service project and reflection.

11	Section Supersection Online Assignment	Degree planning. Getting the most out of academic advising. Registration worksheet. Degree plan; schedule building; meet with academic advisor.
12	Section Supersection Online Assignment	Career Exploration. Career Exploration. Career Exploration. Career plan; meet with peer mentor.
13	Section Supersection Online Assignment	Class presentations. Thanksgiving Break. Thanksgiving Break. No assignment due.
14	Section Supersection Online Assignment	Alcohol awareness. Personal relationships. Post-tests and surveys; meet with peer mentor.
15	Section Supersection Online Assignment	Preparing for finals. <i>tba</i> Wellness (sexual health). Letter to future students.
16	Section Supersection Online Assignment	Celebrate achievements; taking the next steps. Farewell event. Wellness (food and exercise). No assignment due.