

# UNIV 1010 - Freshman Seminar

**Section: 016**

**Instructors: Tessa Thibodeau & Megan Gray**

**Office Hours & Location: Tessa: M-F 8:30am-4:30pm ATC 1.505**

**Megan: M-F 8:00am-4:00pm JO 4.508B**

**Email: [tessa.thibodeau@utdallas.edu](mailto:tessa.thibodeau@utdallas.edu)**

**[megan.gray@utdallas.edu](mailto:megan.gray@utdallas.edu)**

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## **Course Description:**

This course is a graduation requirement for all first time in college freshman. This course is designed to introduce incoming freshmen to the intellectual and cultural environment of the university and the impact it will have on their lives as students. The course incorporates presentations by leading UT Dallas faculty members on research developments of major current interest, small section meetings to discuss matters of general concern to UT Dallas freshmen and to develop strategies and tactics that will lead to successful careers at UT Dallas and beyond. *ECS 1200 may be substituted for UNIV 1010, provided students attend the large faculty lectures and complete the on-line learning focused on developing the strategies and tactics that will lead to successful careers at UT Dallas and beyond.* Credit/No Credit only. (2-0) Y

**\*UNIV 1010 is a requirement for graduation. If you drop the course or do not receive credit at the end of the semester, you must take a designated section of UNIV 1010 in the Spring focusing on study skills and success planning.**

## **Required Materials:**

- UT Dallas student email account
- UT Dallas eLearning access
- Comet Card

## **Class Policies:**

- The Freshman Seminar is a course designed to introduce incoming freshmen to college life and academia. The introduction is made through close contact with university community members and peer mentors.
- The course is required for all incoming freshmen, but is graded credit / no credit. The point of the course is not to increase your academic workload, but rather to encourage you to think about the nature and purpose of your time at UT Dallas.

## **Small Section Sessions**

- This class meets for 13 small section sessions. The small section discussions provide an opportunity to connect with an instructor who will provide insight into the university and their academic interest. Arrive on time, and be ready for class discussion.
- Attendance and participation at every small section session is required. Attendance will be taken and documented. Documentation related to absences should be submitted to the eLearning coordinator in FO 2.202.

## **Campus Events**

- You are encouraged to attend one athletic event and/or one cultural event.

## **eLearning Modules**

- In E-learning you will find modules that will serve as a basis for class discussions and as a future resource. Please take the time to review them.

#### **Course Objectives:**

- To help you understand the nature and purpose of a university and how it fits into society.
- To help you understand how you fit within an academic setting and how you can succeed academically.
- To connect you to leading scholars on campus, their academic fields, and paths to success.
- To connect you with the UT Dallas campus community through department presentations, campus involvement, community service, and interactions with peers.
- To present tips, tactics, and techniques for more effective learning, emphasizing time management strategies, critical thinking, communication skills in various environments and the use of campus resources.

#### **Attendance:**

This is a discussion-based class that involves collaborative learning and interactive exercises in order to explore a variety of topics relative to your transition to college life and The University of Texas at Dallas. Therefore, it is critical that you come to class to take part in the activities and contribute to the class dynamics. More than two unexcused absences will result in not receiving credit for the course.

For an excused absence, you must adhere to the following:

- All students participating on UTD competitive teams (athletic and intellectual) must bring an official Intercollegiate Competition Memo signed by John Jackson **prior** to any sanctioned absences. Students must inform the instructor and eLearning coordinator of the impending absence **at least 2 weeks prior** to the absence.
- Any anticipated absence arranged through the Office of AccessAbility must be shared with the instructor and the eLearning coordinator **at least 2 weeks prior** to the absence.
- Students observing a holy day must inform the instructor **before** the class day to be missed.
- In the case of an emergency the student must notify the instructor and send an e-mail through eLearning to the course coordinator as soon as it is feasible.

#### **Grading:**

This course is designated as a credit/no-credit course. The requirements to receive credit are as follows:

- Attendance and participation at every small section session is required. However, more than two unexcused absences will result in not receiving credit for the course.

The grade for UNIV 1010 represents 20% of your grade in your disciplinary freshman course. There is no partial grade for the UNIV 1010 portion of your grade.

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#### **Small Section Course Schedule**

##### **Week:**

- 1. Introduction to your UNIVersity**
- 2. Getting Involved on Campus**

- 3. Testing Center Tutorial – Class held in the library basement**
- 4. Academic Culture – Getting to know your professors and university staff**
- 5. Campus Services**
- 6. Relationships (roommates, parents...)**
- 7. Life Skills (money, getting to know YOU)**
- 8. Academic Skills (time management, prepare for spring registration, know your degree plan)**
- 9. Civility**
- 10. Academic Technology (elearning, Galaxy/Orion, online academic information)**
- 11. Diversity/Values**
- 12. Wellness (fitness, mental health, alcohol, drugs, sex)**
- 13. TBD**

### **eLearning Instructions**

UNIV 1010 provides you an opportunity to get to know eLearning at UT Dallas. ELearning is an online course management and content distribution platform. During your time at UT Dallas, you will find that several of your professors will post assignments, quiz and test grades on eLearning. Other professors may request that you participate in online conversations through the eLearning course page.

For UNIV 1010, you will find that the eLearning platform is used as a content distribution tool. The Office of Undergraduate Education has developed a series of online modules designed to introduce you to UT Dallas and particular student resources that you may need during your time on campus. Additionally, there are several modules designed to introduce you to concepts that are particularly relevant to students entering college.

UNIV 1010 also uses the eLearning platform for course management. You should plan to log into eLearning at least twice a week to for course and schedule updates.

To log into eLearning, please proceed to the UT Dallas homepage at [www.utdallas.edu](http://www.utdallas.edu).

Select “eLearning” at the top of the page between Campus Map and Galaxy.

Select “Log In” using your NetID and Password.

Select the UNIV 1010 course

Everything else you need to know about eLearning and UNIV 1010 you can find on the eLearning platform.

**University Policies: (<http://provost.utdallas.edu/home/syllabus-policies>)**

*These descriptions and timelines are subject to change.*