

School of Interdisciplinary Studies
Freshman Seminar

BIS 1100 Section 002 and 004

Class Day& Time: Sec 2: Weds + Friday 10:00am-10:50 am, Wed Location:
CB2 1.206, Friday CB1 1.104

Sec 4: Tuesday + Thursday 4:00 p.m. – 4:50 p.m. Location CB2 1.204
Draft Version 8/14/15

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Office Hours: After classes, By appointment- and likely M, W, F 2:30-4:30

Course Description: BIS 1100-Freshman Seminar (1 Semester hour)

This course is a graduation requirement for the University and the School of Interdisciplinary Studies (IS). Incoming freshmen will learn about the intellectual and cultural environment of the University and the School of Interdisciplinary Studies. Students will learn about IS majors, careers, internships and clubs and organizations. This course consists of class and field activities. This course is also open to non-IS majors. Graded. Co-requisite UNIV 1010, where you register and take the CLA test by September 7. (College Learning Assessment)

NOTE: BIS 1100 is a requirement for graduation from UT Dallas. If you drop the course or do not receive credit at the end of the semester, you must take the course again in a subsequent fall semester. You must take the CLA to pass the class.

Course Objectives and Outcomes:

- To introduce you to the School of Interdisciplinary Studies, including majors, research and career opportunities.
- To connect you with the UT Dallas campus community through presentations, campus involvement, and interactions with faculty, staff and peers.
- Integrate academically and socially into the Interdisciplinary Studies community.
- Maintain mutually supportive relationships with freshman classmates, academic advisors, and instructors; learn to work as a team.
- Understand the importance of critical thinking and writing skills for academic success.

Relate the core curriculum learning outcomes and degree program outcomes to goal of being an educated individual in a democratic society after completion of your degree.

Do self-analysis of your own skills through self-assessment and compare to those needed for success, such as critical thinking, communication, teamwork, quantitative and social and personal responsibility skills.

Use new skills to follow a roadmap to academic success.

Required Materials:

- UT Dallas email account
- UT Dallas eLearning access
- Comet Card
- Additional material will be distributed in class

Class format and Instructor's Expectations:

This course will consist of lectures, guest speakers, discussions, student presentations, and a variety of assignments to be completed inside and outside of class. The purpose of the class activities is to familiarize you with the Interdisciplinary Studies undergraduate degree programs and its faculty. Class attendance is mandatory and will be documented. Cell phones need to be turned off or on silent as a courtesy to the instructor and fellow students. If your cell phone rings, it's mine for the day. Unless otherwise noted, laptops are NOT necessary for taking notes in class and should not be opened unless we are doing an online activity. Bring a pen and notebook if you wish to take notes.

Portfolio requirement: you will post on elearning a portfolio of your own design detailing your self-assessment, career ideas, and field activities. Some unknown rubric will be used to assess it at some future time. It will be reviewed at some later date by a panel of unknown people to possibly review what skills, issues and ideas are prevalent with today's UTD students. Do not include any personal material that you do not want to share with random strangers or see on the web in 10 years' time. It will eventually be uploaded to some website somewhere, the location and security of which is unknown. See assignments for more detail.

Video presentation: Students will join into groups of five and make a five minute video presentation about their majors or life at UTD. You will present them in class for your grade. A teamwork rubric will be on elearning for you to complete about your team.

It will also be posted somewhere to be reviewed at some later date by a panel of unknown people to possibly review what skills, issues and ideas are prevalent with today's UTD students. Do not include any material that you do not want to share with random strangers. Since all students may not have Smartphones, I-pads or video skills, we will ask for those with more skills and equipment to be team leaders and recorders.

Field Activities

For a number of sessions you will go off on your own or in groups to pursue field activities which will become part of your portfolio. Examples of some field activities include:

Required: (4 points apiece)

*Student organization visit: For a list of events go to: <http://www.utdallas.edu/calendar/>.

- Required. Review what community service activities are available to you through organizations. Attend a meeting of the organization and decide if it's something you want to join. React, Assess, Writeup. RAW

*Financial planning activity: required. Estimate the cost of your degree plan over 4 years. Estimate how you will pay for it. If you are planning on grad school, include that as well. Speak to financial aid office if necessary to find out resources available such as loans and scholarships. Estimate potential earnings from your chosen career. - RAW

*Adviser visit: Visit with your adviser to devise and review your 4 year degree plan. Reactions, assess and write up. RAW

Other possible activities – choose 2, or more for extra credit:

Visit with someone doing what you think you want to do for your career, reactions, assess, and write up. RAW

Library Tour: go on a 30 minute scheduled library tour to see the physical layout of the library and resources available. You can sign up for a tour on this website: RAW There will be one offered at a time your section is not meeting.
https://www.utdallas.edu/library/forms/tour_library.html

Career Center: go to Career Center, look over their resources, take self-assessments, speak to counselor. Pay particular attention to resources for internships. RAW

Study Abroad Office: go to office, look over resources, speak to counselor about process for this and what they offer. RAW

Faculty visit: go to office hours of a faculty member, ask questions related to courses you are in, find out how they got here and about their career and research. RAW

Student athletic event visit: go to an athletic event and cheer our team. RAW

Arts performance or lecture event: go to a campus event and partake in enjoyment or new knowledge. RAW

HPAC office or Teacher Education office: go to their office and find out about resources they offer. Meet with counselor. RAW (We will have classroom speakers about these as well)

Counseling center: go to counseling center or medical center on campus, see what resources they offer. Understand how to make an appointment, see counselor or nurse/doctor if advisable. RAW

Attendance:

Attendance is required for BIS 1100 . Please notify instructor via email of any circumstance preventing you from attending class. Documentation will be required for excused absences such as athletic participation. I personally don't want you spreading germs in class to infect others, so don't come to class sick. Your fellow students will appreciate it as well. Email me to let me know.

Group Presentation:

Students will work with a group of their classmates to explore a topic related to their university experience, major or area of interest within the Interdisciplinary Studies Department. Students will collaborate with other group members to share their findings with the class using a multimedia format that may include photos, video, and/or music. It will be submitted as a 5 minute video to a university website as well. Make this fun! Group presentations will take place on the week of November 30 and if needed December 8/9. Should be about 5 minutes per group of 5. I would rather you sing and dance rather than read PowerPoint's.

Career paper and resume: You will write a resume and also a short paper (2 or more pages) on a career you think you want. What are the pros and cons of this career? What preparation does it take? Explore what others in this career have said. Submit to me and also to turnitin on elearning.

Grading:

20% Portfolio
20% BIS 1100 Attendance
20% Group Presentation - video
20% career statement and resume
20% required and optional field activity submissions – 4 points apiece (3 required and 2 optional)
And 8 extra credit points possible for participation in class or extra field activities.

Assignment Policy:

NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED!! Assignments will be collected at the beginning of class.

General Policies and Procedures:

The University of Texas at Dallas has developed a number of policies and procedures designed to provide students with a safe and supportive learning environment. For UTD policies please go to: <http://coursebook.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies/> .

General Course Schedule for Week of:

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Topic</i> | <i>Assignment Due Dates</i> |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 1) August 24, 2015 | Getting Acquainted Syllabus Review & Class Expectations | <i>Register for CLA</i> |
| 2- August 31 | University culture and study skills | Get CLA done this week |
| 3- September 7 | Core curriculum review | Begin self assessments |
| 4- September 14, 2015 | Interdisciplinary Studies Department: Degree Plans & Programs / meet the advisers | |
| 5- September 21, 2015 | Library Intro - meet in Library. Meet Matt Makowka at MC 2.524 at back of reference section | |
| 6- September 28, 2015 | Health Care Studies program: Meet Dr Kathleen Byrnes | |
| 7- October 5, 2015 | Career Center - how to use/ and how to write resumes : Janie Shipman | Portfolio submission #1 |
| 8- October 12, 2015 | Plagiarism and academic standards - Susan McKee, JD | |
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| 9- October 19, 2015 | Clubs/ Activities/Volunteering : Student volunteers from AED, etc. | |
| 10- October 26, 2015 | Health Care Careers and preparation - Meet HPAC Director de Olivares | |
| 11 - November 2, 2015 | Internships & Teacher Certification, Meet Laurie Pollock | Portfolio submission #2 |
| 12- November 9, 2015 | Communication Skills - student services speaker | |
| 13 - November 16, 2015 | Stress and time management Student services speaker | |
| 14- November 23, 2015 | NO CLASS: FALL BREAK, Thanksgiving holiday | |
| 15- November 30, 2015 | Presentations | Groups presentation |
| 16- December 7, | Presentations contd, Wrap | |

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| 2015 | Up/Review | |
| December 14, 2015 | Career paper due Portfolio submitted Video posted | Career Paper |

****NOTE:** These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor