

Freshman Seminar

ARHM 1100 Syllabus

Section 001	M 3:00-3:50 p.m.	JO 3.516
Instructors:	Dr. Shelley Lane Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies	Shelley.Lane@utdallas.edu
	Megan Gray Hering Assistant Director of the Humanities	Megan.Gray@utdallas.edu
	Matt Johns Academic Advisor	Matthew.Johns@utdallas.edu
Office Hours & Location:	Dr. Lane - JO 4.510 (by appointment only) Megan & Matt – JO 4.508 (by appointment only)	

Required Materials:

- UTD student email account
- Access to course eLearning website
- **New copy** (must have assessment code) of *StrengthsFinder 2.0* by Tom Rath (Gallup Press; 1 edition, 2007).

Course Objectives – Students will learn:

- About skills and knowledge related to core student learning outcomes; specifically, critical thinking skills, communication skills, teamwork, social responsibility, and personal responsibility
 - Skills to help achieve academic, personal, and social success
 - About the value of the liberal arts and the marketable skills associated with the arts and humanities
 - About the School of Arts & Humanities and UT Dallas
 - Ways to engage with the campus community and the community at large
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Course Description:

ARHM 1100 - Freshman Seminar (1 semester hour) This course is a graduation requirement for all freshmen in the School of Arts and Humanities (A&H). Incoming freshmen will learn about the intellectual and cultural environment in the School of Arts and Humanities through lectures, activities, guest panels, and attendance at artistic and cultural events. Students will also learn about A&H majors (Art and Performance, Historical Studies, and Literary Studies), research opportunities, careers, and internships. This course is open to all non-A&H majors. Credit/No Credit. Co-requisite: [UNIV 1010](#). (1-1)
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University Mission Statement

The University is committed to (1) producing engaged graduates, prepared for life, work, and leadership in a constantly changing world, (2) advancing excellent educational and research programs in the natural and social sciences, engineering and technology, management, and the liberal, creative, and practical arts, and (3) transforming ideas into actions that directly benefit the personal, economic, social, and cultural lives of the citizens.

UT Dallas will invest in 6 strategic initiatives for success:

1. Preparing Students for Tomorrow's Challenges Managing Change in a Constantly Changing Society
2. Securing the Safety of the Future
3. Improving the Health and Quality of Life of Individuals and Society
4. Making a Great City Even Greater

These six initiatives are interlocked and deliberately overlap each other. They transcend traditional disciplines, involve the entire UT Dallas community, and will enable UT Dallas to better fulfill its mission to serve the region and the State.

School of Arts & Humanities Mission Statement

Through its innovative interdisciplinary approach and curriculum that emphasizes *connections* and *collaboration*, the School of Arts and Humanities fosters the qualities of intellect and imagination necessary for success in the 21st Century. A world characterized by global interaction and rapid, dynamic change requires men and women of agile intelligence who are able to combine expertise with imagination, communicate effectively across cultures and respond confidently to new challenges and opportunities.

Coursework & Grading Philosophy:

- ARHM 1100, "Freshman Seminar," is a required course for all incoming freshmen. The course is a part of "The Freshman Year Experience," a program that is effective in raising GPAs, retention rates from the freshman to sophomore year, and overall student satisfaction and success.

- UT Dallas is a selective admissions institution with one of the highest average Freshman class SAT scores in the state; therefore, performance and participation in ARHM 1100 is expected to reflect the caliber of students and academic standards of the university as a whole.
- The course objectives for ARHM 1100 represent goals which are fundamental to student success both inside and outside of the college classroom.

Grading:*

90 – 100 points = A
 80- 89 points = B
 70-79 points = C
 60 – 69 points = D
 59 points or less = F

***ARHM 1100 is a requirement for graduation.
 If you drop or fail ARHM 1100, you must retake the course the following fall semester.**

Point Distribution:

Attendance (Large + Small Sections)	25 points
Office Hours Selfie assignment	10 points
A&H Event Selfie assignment	10 points
Student Organization Selfie assignment	10 points
Strengths Finders results & “My Personal Strengths” assignment	15 points
“What Would You Do?” paragraph	5 points
Group Presentation	15 points
Group Presentation Notes	10 points

Assignments and Assignment Policy:

- Students will upload assignments to E-learning to begin an online portfolio. The portfolio will include “Strengths Finder” results; the Office Hours, A&H Event, and Student Organization “selfie assignments;” the “What Would You Do?” paragraph, and the group presentation notes. Students can transfer their E-Learning portfolio to another site and add information as they progress towards graduation. E-Portfolios allow students to creatively document their learning and showcase the knowledge they have created and skills they have acquired. See <http://facultyportfolioresource.weebly.com/eportfolio-examples-to-show-your-students.html> for examples of student E-portfolios.
- Students will provide evidence of their critical thinking skills, communication skills, and teamwork, and knowledge about social responsibility and personal responsibility by completing the CLA+ assessment; working in a team and presenting as a team member; writing about opportunities at UT Dallas to volunteer, study abroad, communicate with diverse others, participate in student government and Greek life; and completing the “What Would You Do?” paragraph.
- **NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED!!** Assignments that are to be uploaded to the course eLearning site have a date and time deadline. ELearning will not accept submissions after the deadline.
- Assignments that are to be uploaded to the course eLearning site will not be accepted via email or hardcopy.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance will be taken promptly at the start of class. You are only allowed to sign-in for yourself. Signing in for another person is considered academic misconduct (i.e. cheating) and is subject to sanctions enforced by the Dean of Students.

First Absence	No point deduction from attendance grade
Second Absence	5 points off attendance grade
Third Absence	10 points off attendance grade
Fourth Absence	Automatic failure of the course

Students may have an excused absence which will not count against their attendance grade. Excused absences must concern an unforeseeable event that could not be prevented. In order for a student's absence to be considered excused, the student must provide official documentation (e.g. a doctor's note or police report of accident) during the next class meeting. It is up to the discretion of the instructors to deem an absence as excused. Events that can be scheduled at a different time (e.g. a follow-up doctor's appointment or regular car maintenance) or situations that are preventable (e.g. sleeping through an alarm clock's "wake up" call or not having a ride) do not constitute an excused absence.

Arriving late and leaving early are disruptive to lecture and class activities and will affect your attendance/participation grade. If late, it is your responsibility to inform the instructors **immediately after class** that you actually attended class. Students will lose 2 points from their score for every tardy they receive after the first one (in other words, students have one "free" tardy). Students will lose points for leaving class early at the instructors' discretion.

Tentative Schedule:

WEEK	Large Group (Mon)	Small Group (Wed)	Assignments
1. 8/24	Course Intro	Breaking the College Ice	
2. 8/31	University Culture	Who am I?	
3. 9/7	Labor Day – NO CLASS	CLA+ – NO CLASS	
4. 9/14	Value of the Liberal Arts	Strength Finders	DUE: Strengths Finder Results (print copy due in small group on 9/16).
5. 9/21	The "F" Word	Ethics	DUE: Office Hours Selfie (upload to eLearning no later than 2:59pm on 9/23)
6. 9/28	Literary Studies – sample class	Study Skills	DUE: "What Would You Do?" paragraph (upload to eLearning no later than 2:59pm on 9/30)
7. 10/5	Historical Studies – sample class	Stress & Anxiety	DUE: "My Personal Strengths" (upload to eLearning no later than 2:59pm on 10/7)

8. 10/12	Art & Performance – sample class	Diversity & Values	
9. 10/19	Careers & the Future	Resumes	
10. 10/26	Leadership & Follower-ship	Money Management	
11. 11/2	Social Media Savvy	Relationships	
12. 11/9	TBD	Civility	DUE: A&H Event Selfie (upload to eLearning no later than 2:59pm on 11/11)
13. 11/16	Student Rights	Well-being	DUE: Student Org. Selfie (upload to eLearning no later than 2:59pm on 11/18)
(11/23)	Fall Break – NO CLASS	Fall Break – NO CLASS	
14. 11/30	Game Show	Group Work – NO CLASS	
15. 12/7	Home for the Holidays	Group Presentations	DUE: Group Presentation Notes (completed in small group class)

Course & Instructor Policies:

- Cell phones must be turned off or to vibrate and are not to be answered or used for text messaging during class time. Instructors will deduct 5 points per infraction from the attendance/participation score if we see students using their phone during class.
- Unless otherwise noted, laptops, notebooks, tablets and other electronic devices are NOT necessary for ARHM 1100 and should not be opened at any time. Instructors will deduct 5 points per infraction from the participation/attendance score if we see students using laptops, notebooks, tablets, etc.
- Instructors do not check their email outside of their work schedule. Instructors will respond to emails received in the evening and on the weekends on the next working day.

Comet Creed:

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

A Note about UNIV 1010/2020:

Although students must register for UNIV 1010/2020, these are not actual classes. In essence, UNIV 1010/2020 is an assessment about critical thinking which must be completed in the Testing Center. Students take the CLA+ assessment test upon entering UT Dallas and receive credit for UNIV 1010. Students will also take the CLA+ assessment when they finish their core courses and will receive credit for UNIV 2020. Students won't receive a grade for the CLA+ will receive either “credit” or “no credit” on

their transcript for UNIV 1010 and UNIV 2020. UNIV 1010 and UNIV 2020 are graduation requirements; this means they **must** be completed in order to graduate.

The Office of Undergraduate Education developed UNIV 1010/2020 to assess the breadth of skills and knowledge acquired by students who complete the general education core. There are several reasons why this assessment is necessary. The core is specifically assessed because core courses provide the skills/knowledge that all students need to succeed in their post-baccalaureate endeavors. Additionally, assessment results enable the university to provide evidence that are students are meeting the core academic student learning outcomes and are seeking ways to improve instruction. Essentially this process shows that the degrees offered by UTD are valuable as the results are considered in the calculation of national university rankings.

Technical Support:

If you experience any problems with your UTD account, you may send an email to: assist@utdallas.edu or call the UTD Computer Helpdesk at 972-883-2911.

If you need technology assistance with eLearning, you may contact the eLearning Helpdesk 866-588-3192.

This information is subject to change at the discretion of the instructors.

UT Dallas Standard Policies and Procedure can be accessed at: <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>.