PSY 1100.001 BBS FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE
FALL 2016
Instructor: Kevin Jackson kevin.jackson@utdallas.edu
Class Location, Day & Time: Lecture PSY1100.001: Tuesday's 9:00AM-9:50AM CR1.202
FYL Discussion Location, Day & Time:
1100.301 Thursday's 9:00AM-9:50AM CR 1.212
1100.302 Thursday's 9:00AM-9:50AM CR 1.202
First-Year Leaders:
Pranali Kamat psk130030@utdallas.edu; Mouctika Paluri mlp130030@utdallas.edu; Priyanka Jagannathan pxj140430@utdallas.edu; Kireet Koganti kxk140130@utdallas.edu

---

Course Description & Goals

Welcome to BBS. The course will introduce incoming first-year students to the intellectual and cultural environment of the university and to the various majors, faculty and research opportunities available in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences (BBS). Students will learn about plans of study and career paths for majors in Psychology, Neuroscience, Speech Language Pathology and Audiology, Child Learning and Development, and Cognitive Science. The course incorporates presentations, discussions, and in-class activities and you will complete activities to familiarize you with majors in behavioral and brain sciences and to help you explore careers that you can pursue after graduation.

The lecture class will be complemented by weekly discussion groups led by student peers known as first-year leaders (FYLs). These sections have the same course number but with section 301 and 302 are scheduled on Thursday's from 9:00pm-9:50pm. These groups will focus on learning about university-wide resources and information.

This course is a graduation requirement for all first year students. **If you drop or fail the course, you must retake the course the following fall semester.**

- This course is required for all incoming freshmen as this type of course is effective in raising GPAs, improving retention from the freshman to sophomore year, and enhancing overall student satisfaction and success.
- UTD is a selective admissions institution with one of the highest average Freshman class SAT scores in the state, therefore performance and participation in the PSY 1100 class is expected to reflect the caliber of students and academic standards of the university as a whole.
- The course objectives for PSY 1100 represent goals which are fundamental to student success both inside and outside of the college classroom.

Required Materials:

- UTD student email account
- Access to PSY1100 eLearning BBS Information Center in eLearning

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

- Students will be able to relate the core curriculum learning outcomes and degree program outcomes to the goal of being an educated individual in a democratic society after completion of their degree
- Students will examine their own skills as incoming university students through self-assessment: then compare their assessment to the skills necessary for success as university students including critical thinking skills, communication skills, teamwork skills, empirical and quantitative skills, and social and personal responsibility
- Students will use new skills presented in the course as a roadmap to academic success
- Students will be integrated into the university community

1100 Course Requirements:

Complete CLA+ exam (Constitutes grade for UNIV 1010):
- CLA+ is an assessment of students' skills and provides UT Dallas with a baseline for understanding the basic skills with which you enter the University.
- The CLA+ will be taken in the Testing Center from **Saturday Aug 27 – Friday Sept 30, 2016.** You must reserve a time to take the test by logging onto the Testing Center website www.utallas.edu/studentsuccess/testingcenter. Directions for reserving a test time can be found on the course eLearning webpage. The CLA+ is a 90-minute assessment. Completion of the CLA + is the only requirement for the UNIV 1010 course.
- **Failure to take the CLA+ will result in a grade of NC (No Credit) for UNIV 1010 and an Incomplete in this class. Removal of the Incomplete grade and the repeat of UNIV1010 (taking the CLA+) must be accomplished within the first 8 weeks of the following spring semester or the Incomplete automatically becomes an F (see UTD catalog).**

Research Exposure Credit Requirement (REC):
One unique opportunity within BBS is getting first-hand exposure to a variety of research activities by participating in experiments. Students in this course and other BBS classes acquire this experience by completing two research exposure credits. Details about this requirement are provided on the separate *Research Exposure Credit Requirement* handout distributed on the first day of class. *"Instructions for Research Exposure Credit Requirements"* are also posted on the BBS Information Center in eLearning (link on the left side under *Content*) and on the BBS website.

Failure to complete the research exposure requirement will result in lowering your total grade in this class. For each Research Exposure Credit you fail to complete, your course grade will be reduced by 1/3 letter grade. For example, if you only complete one of the two required credits and your grade for all other course requirements is an A+, then your grade would be lowered from an A+ to an A. If you do not complete both credits, your grade would be lowered from an A+ to A-. The **deadline** for completion of these credits is **Dec 15, 2016.**

Portfolio (45% course grade):

Students will complete a personalized portfolio that will include the following activities and reflection assignments:

"Why BBS?" Portfolio Assignment
Goal Setting/Values Assignment
Career Portfolio Assignment
Degree Planning Portfolio Assignment
Getting Involved in BBS Portfolio Assignment
Reflection on Complete Portfolio Assignment

Guidelines and resources for each section of the portfolio will be provided in eLearning. The due dates for each section are noted on the academic calendar below. The goal of the portfolio is to help you identify a major and career paths, learn how your strengths fit with your academic and career interests, and learn how to make use of university resources to achieve your goals.

Each portfolio will be individualized to each student. Students will also complete a reflection on the information they have acquired and what they have learned from developing this portfolio of assignments.

Group Project and Video Presentation (30% course grade):

Students will be randomly assigned to small groups of 6 or 7 students to complete a group project. The project will culminate in a group presentation; each presentation should be **no more than 5 minutes** in length and each person in the group will present a component of the presentation. You will video the project (you can use your phones) and you will upload your video onto a specific online site to be assigned (NOT eLearning). Explicit instructions for how to label and upload the videos as well guidelines for the group project will be provided in a separate handout.

Assignments & Academic Calendar

- Mandatory assigned readings will be posted on eLearning and announced throughout the semester.
- Your eLearning section will be used throughout the semester for recording your grades, for class announcements, for providing supplemental readings and handouts, and for submission of assignments. Make sure you have access to eLearning for this class section.
- Submission of the portfolio assignments and group project may require submission to a different online portal; instructions will be provided along with the assignment.

Dates	Topic	FYL Sessions	Assignment Due
Week One: Aug 23rd	Intro/Welcome to UTD and BBS	Intro to your **UNIV**ersity	
Week Two: Aug 30th	Exploring BBS Majors **Students take CLA+ in Testing Center**	Getting Involved on Campus & in BBS	DUE- "Why BBS?" Portfolio Assignment
Week Three: Sept 6th	Study Skills: TED talk and discussion	Academic Communication	
Week Four: Sept 13th	Researching like a BBS scientist	Campus Services	
Week Five: Sept 20th	Goals/Values	Managing your College Environment	DUE – Goal Setting/Values Assignment
Week Six: Sept 27th	"What Would You Do?"	Wellness-Part 1	
Week Seven: Oct 4th	BBS "In the News"	Mid Term Madness	DUE - Career Portfolio Assignment
Week Eight: Oct 11th	The Brain May Be Able To Repair itself: TED talk and discussion	Life Skills	
Week Nine: Oct 18th	Degree Planning, Advising Issues, Registration	Registration	DUE- Degree Planning Portfolio Assignment
Week Ten: Oct 25th	Getting Involved in Research in BBS	Being Civil in a Diverse Society	DUE- Getting Involved in BBS Portfolio Assignment
Week Eleven: Nov 1st	Trending Topic of the Day	Wellness-Part 2	
Week Twelve: Nov 8th	Presentation of Group Projects	FYL choice day	Group Project Due
Week Thirteen: Nov 15th	Presentation of Group Projects	FYL choice day	Group Project Due
Week Fourteen: Nov 22nd	FALL BREAK NO CLASS	NO CLASS	
Week Fifteen: Nov 29th	Concluding Thoughts	Semester Wrap Up	DUE- Reflection on Complete Portfolio Assignment

Grading Policy

Course Grades will be assigned as follows:

A+ = 100-97%	A = 96-94%	A- = 93-90%	
B+ = 89-87%	B = 86-84%	B- = 83-80%	
C+ = 79-77%	C = 76-74%	C- = 73-70%	
D+ = 69-67%	D = 66-64%	D- = 63-60%	F < 60%

The requirements that will contribute to your grade for this class are as follows:

Grade Component	Weight
In-class Activities/Attendance and Participation (class & FYL Section)	25 %
Group Project & Video Presentation	30 %
"Why BBS?" Portfolio Assignment Portfolio	5 %
Goal Setting/Values Assignment	5 %
Career Portfolio Assignment	5 %
Degree Planning Portfolio Assignment	5 %
Getting Involved in BBS Portfolio Assignment	5 %
Reflection Paper on Complete Portfolio Assignment	20 %
Total	100%

Note: There are no exams for this course.

Course & Instructor Policies

Assignment Policy:

- **NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED!!** Assignments that are to be uploaded to the eLearning site have a **day and time deadline**. ELearning will not accept submissions after the deadline.
- Assignments that are to be uploaded to the eLearning site will not be accepted via email or hardcopy.

Classroom Attendance Policy and Participation (25% course grade): Class attendance and participation is required and expected. The attendance grade is based on the percent of classes attended (allowing for 2 unexcused absences). Attendance will be taken at the start of each class, so please arrive on time and be seated at the start of each class time. If you come late to class consistently, this also may be reflected in your attendance and participation grade. Please be respectful of your classmates and your professor and refrain from talking to each other during presentations. Coming and going during class, talking to your neighbors and other disruptive activities will be reflected in the class participation grade (25%).

In addition, your FLY-led section attendance is also mandatory and attendance for that class will be factored into your final grade**.** There will be no opportunities to make-up missed Class Participation credit.

Excused absences:
Student may have an excused absence which will not count against their attendance grade. Types of excused absences and the policies that apply to them are noted here:
- All students participating on UTD competitive teams and musical groups (athletic and intellectual) must bring an official Intercollegiate Competition Memo prior to any sanctioned absences. Students must inform the instructor of the impending absence **at least 2 weeks prior to the absence.** If this does not occur, it is the instructor's discretion to excuse or not excuse the absence.

- Any anticipated absence arranged through Disability Services must be shared with the instructor at least 2 weeks prior to the absence. If this does not occur, it is at the instructor's discretion to excuse or not excuse the absence.
- Students observing a holy day must inform the instructor before the class day to be missed.
- Illness- in the event you are ill an unable to attend class, please adhere to the following:
  - Email your instructor before class informing them you will not be attending and why.
  - Obtain a doctor's note stating that you were ill and unable to attend class.
  - If you do not have a doctor's note, the absence will be considered unexcused.
- Other emergencies – students must present some form of documentation of the unforeseen event that could not have been prevented (police accident report, jury summons, etc).

Email: The best way to reach the instructor is via direct email. Please put the course name in your subject line and **email from your UTD email address**. Instructors only answer emails sent from students' UTD email addresses and addressed to the instructor's email address listed above. Please do NOT email via eLearning. Emails received by instructors in the evening and on the weekends will be responded to on the instructor's next working day.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES SUCH AS LAPTOPS, TABLETS, SMART PHONES, ETC., WILL NOT BE ALLOWED FOR USE DURING CLASS. There are no exceptions to this policy other than documented need for assistive devices provided by the Office of Student Accessibility. If students choose to ignore the policy, please note that compliance will be monitored and will be reflected in the class participation grade which is detailed below. Cell phones must be turned off or to vibrate and are not to be answered or used for text messaging during class time.

Note about UNIV 1010/2020:

Though students must register for UNIV 1010 & UNIV 2020, these are not actual classes. The only requirement for UNIV 1010 & UNIV 2020 is that students complete the CLA+ exam in the Testing Center. Students take UNIV 1010 upon entering UTD and then register for UNIV 2020 and complete the CLA+ exam when they finish their TX Core curriculum courses. Students will receive no semester credit hours but will have a marking of "credit" or "no credit" on their transcript. These are graduation requirements for the 2016 undergraduate catalog, and they must be completed in order for the student to graduate.

The Office of Undergraduate Education developed UNIV 1010/2020 to assess that the skills and knowledge needed for successful completion of the core academic requirements have been met. The TX Core curriculum was designed to provide the skills/knowledge that every student needs to succeed in their post-baccalaureate endeavors and the completion of the CLA+ before and after completing the TX Core curriculum helps the university assess our students' academic progress toward these goals.

Technical Support:
▪ If you experience any problems with your UTD email 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, contact the eLearning Helpdesk 866-588-3192.

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures
The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please go to http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of your Instructor.