EPPS 1110
FRESHMAN SEMINAR
FALL 2016

INSTRUCTOR: Carol Cirulli Lanham, Ph.D.
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OFFICE HOURS: WEDNESDAYS 12:30-2:00 p.m. or by appointment
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CLASS TIME AND LOCATION:
SECTION 002 - WEDNESDAY 3:00– 5:00 p.m. Residence Hall Northwest, Multipurpose Room

COURSE PRE-REQUISITES, CO-REQUISITES AND/OR OTHER RESTRICTIONS:
UNIV 1010 - Completion of CLA+ Assessment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to introduce incoming freshmen to the intellectual and cultural environment of the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences (EPPS). Students will develop academic skills and integrate into the EPPS community through an exploration of topics related to the social sciences. They also will explore majors and how they relate to career outcomes. In keeping with the learning outcome of social responsibility, this course will take a service-learning approach. As students participate in a variety of service activities, they will learn how social scientists apply their analytical tools to real-world problems and policies.
NOTE: EPPS 1110 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.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Freshmen 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.

- Freshmen will examine their own skills as an incoming university student 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.

- Freshmen will use new skills presented in the course as a roadmap to academic success.

- Freshmen will be integrated into the university community.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- A two-pocket folder. Please write your full name on the outside of the folder. You will use this to turn in material related to your portfolio project. **I will only accept material placed in your folder with your name on it.**
- UT Dallas student email account
- UT Dallas eLearning Access
- Comet Card

CLASS FORMAT AND INSTRUCTOR'S EXPECTATIONS:

Welcome to EPPS 1110! Our theme this semester is **CONNECT AND EXPLORE**. You will be connecting with the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences and its faculty, students, organizations and clubs. You also will be connecting with the university and the community at large. During the course of the semester, you will be exploring your major and other social science disciplines within the school, as well as careers that you can pursue after graduation. The portfolio requirement outlined later in this syllabus will enable you to develop a game plan to help you achieve your goals. You also will be required to participate in one service project, either on or off campus. Service topics will be designed to stir your intellectual curiosity and inspire you to question and understand the workings of society. Class attendance is mandatory and will be documented.

GRADING POLICY

Class Attendance and Participation	10%
Attendance at one EPPS event	10%
Service Project and Learning Reflection	25%
Portfolio Requirements (2 assignments worth 15% each)	30%
Final Portfolio	15%
Team Project (completion grade)	10%
TOTAL	100%

Grading Scale

A	90-100		C	70-79		F	59 and below
B	80-89		D	60-69			

ASSIGNMENTS

CONNECT - EPPS EVENT/WIKI

You will be required to attend one EPPS event during the month of September and post photographic evidence (a selfie) on the class wiki in eLearning. To fulfill this requirement, you may attend an academic lecture, EPPS club or organization meeting or social function. Please your photo by creating your own page on the class wiki by following the instructions in eLearning.

CONNECT - SERVICE-LEARNING/REFLECTION

EPPS 1110 students will be required to complete one service activity by the end of October. Service opportunities will be related to specific areas of study within the social sciences: immigration, homelessness, food insecurity, access to health care, voter participation, educational inequality, criminal justice, and sustainability. We will be working with the UT Dallas Office of Volunteerism to ensure you can choose a service project that fits your interests, passions, skills and schedule. The goal is to encourage you to learn about issues related to the social sciences while engaging in a meaningful service activity that helps develop your sense of social responsibility.

Service learning is based in pedagogy, and therefore differs from volunteering. As a volunteer, you might work at a homeless shelter. As a service learner, you must also examine why homeless shelters are necessary, what type of people they serve, as well as circumstances that lead to homelessness. You also might research whether homeless shelters should be reformed in some way or even exist. To facilitate this connection between theory and practice and foster critical thinking, you will be required to research your selected topic before participating in a service activity. You will then combine theory and practice in a reflection posted on the class wiki in eLearning that will be used to document your service activity.

EXPLORE - PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENT

Even though you are a first-semester freshman, this course is designed to encourage you to look ahead to your post-graduation goals and develop a plan for achieving them. During the course of the semester, you will be completing two interim assignments that facilitate completion of your end-of-semester capstone project: The Portfolio. Your portfolio is unique to you and will reflect your interests, abilities, and passions. Four years from now, you will be able to reflect back on where you started and see how far you have come during your college journey More details on the portfolio requirement will be presented in class and on eLearning.

CLASS ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION

We will only meet for two hours per week, therefore it is essential that you are in class and participate in activities and discussion. **You are allowed 2 unexcused absences. If you miss more than two classes, you will not receive credit for the class.** For an excused absence, you must adhere to the following:

- All students participating on UT Dallas competitive teams (athletic and academic) must bring an official Intercollegiate Competition Memo **2 weeks prior** to any sanctioned absences.
- Students observing a holy day must inform the instructor **before** the class day to be missed.
- In the event you are ill and unable to attend class, email your instructor right away and obtain a doctor's note; if you do not have a doctor's note, the absence will be considered unexcused.

COURSE AND INSTRUCTOR POLICIES

CLASS CITIZENSHIP

Please be respectful of your classmates and your professors and refrain from talking to each other during lectures. Cell phones may only be used to participate in class polls. **NO LAPTOPS OR OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE ALLOWED IN THIS CLASS UNLESS EXPRESSLY STATED.**

eLEARNING SYSTEM

This class uses UTD's eLearning System for announcements on EPPS events as well as for hosting the class wiki. You should log in to your eLearning account before the first day of class to ensure that you have no problems accessing the site.

EMAIL ACCOUNT

Please be sure that you know how to access your UTD email account and can check it regularly. The university provides students with free email accounts in order to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of individuals corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. Therefore, the university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's UT Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. For help with your UTD email account, call 972-883-2911 or go to http://www.utdallas.edu/ir/helpdesk/

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY

Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Plagiarism, especially from the web, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism.

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 UT Dallas policy related to the following go to: http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies

Field Trip Policies
Student Conduct & Discipline	**Withdrawal from Class**	**Disability Services**
Email Use	**Student Grievance Procedures**	**Religious Holidays**

Comet Creed

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

CLASS SCHEDULE

August 24	**WELCOME TO EPPS 1110** Introductions, syllabus review, instructions on how to take the CLA+ Assessment, testing center tutorial.
August 31	**CONNECT AND EXPLORE: INTRODUCTION** EPPS activities and service opportunities will be presented; students will be introduced to the portfolio requirement and told how to complete the FOCUS2 Assessment by September 14
September 3	**Complete CLA+ Assessment by today**
September 7	**NO CLASS – LABOR DAY WEEK** Students should plan to attend the **EPPS Organization Fair** on **Tuesday, September 6** from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. in Founders Building Second Floor Atrium. **REQUIRED FOR LLC MEMBERS**
September 14	**EXPLORE UT DALLAS** Introduction to your university, campus services, Q&A with last year's EPPS freshmen.
September 14	**Complete FOCUS2 Career Readiness and Self Assessment (Work Interests Assessment, Personality Assessment, Skills Assessment, Values Assessment, Leisure Interests Assessment) by today**
September 19	**LLC REQUIRED ACTIVITY:** **Dinner with the Dean – Residence Hall Northwest – 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.**
September 21	**EXPLORE EPPS/FACULTY MIXER** Introduction to the core curriculum, learning outcomes and majors in EPPS followed by a mixer with EPPS program heads and faculty.
September 28	**EXPLORE CAREERS AFTER GRADUATION** Career Center presentation. Group interpretation of the FOCUS2 Assessment results
September 28	**EPPS Activity Post Due** **Portfolio Part I Due** **(Proof of completion of CLA+ and FOCUS2 Career Readiness & Self Assessment)*** ***Remember to turn in your portfolio requirements in a two-pocket folder with your name on it.**
October 3	**LLC Service Project – FOCUS ON TEENS** **OPEN TO ALL EPPS STUDENTS** **Residence Hall Northwest 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.**
October 5	**EXPLORE STRENGTHS** In this interactive session, guest lecturer and career consultant, Leigh Ellen Key, will share her own strengths story and how it has impacted her career. She will also relate how you can use this information as you choose a career direction.
October 12	**RESEARCH IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES** Library presentation

October 19	**WRITING IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES** Literature review, citations, academic communications
October 19	**REQUIRED LLC ACTIVITY:** **Presidential Debate – Residence Hall Northwest Multipurpose Room**
October 26	**LIFE SKILLS** Your First Year Leader will discuss relationships, money, wellness and being civil in a diverse society.
October 26	**Service Reflection Post Due** **Portfolio Part II Due** **FOCUS2 Action Plan (resume and plans for education, internships, volunteer work and study abroad)*** *** Remember to turn in your portfolio requirements in a two-pocket folder with your name on it.**
November 2	**ADVISING: SPRING 2017** EPPS academic advisors will visit the classroom to discuss the Spring 2017 schedule and answer questions
November 8	**REQUIRED LLC EVENT:** **Election Watch Party – Residence Hall Northwest – Multipurpose Room**
November 9	**CONNECT AND EXPLORE: TEAM PROJECT** Connect with other students and work together in teams in the classroom to plan a video project that explores your chosen topic.
November 16	**CONNECT AND EXPLORE: TEAM PROJECT** (continued)
November 16	**Final Portfolio Due**
November 23	**NO CLASS – FALL BREAK**
November 30	**LOOKING AHEAD**
December 7	**COURSE WRAP UP** Evaluations

NOTE: The description and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the professor.

CLA+ Assessment - Appointment Scheduling Instructions
TESTING DATES: AUGUST 27 TO SEPTEMBER 3

As an incoming freshman, please be aware that you are required to take the CLA+ assessment to satisfy UNIV 1010 requirements. You can take the assessment at the UT Dallas Student Success Center - **Testing Center** *only* from **Saturday, August 27, 2016 through Saturday, September 3, 2016.**

CLA+ Assessment - Appointment Scheduling Instructions

1. Log on to Testing Center website utdallas.edu/studentsuccess/testingcenter

2. Click on "RESERVE-A-SEAT" located at the right corner at top of page

3. Once prompted, **select the school** you are enrolled in (JSOM, ECS, NSM, etc.)

4. Click on the test *"CLA+ Assessment – UNIV 1010, Fall 2016"*

5. All available test dates will be either be displayed in a green-shaded date box with its time slot, **or** in a drop-down box.

6. **Click** on the green-shaded square to select your desired time slot, **or** select the desired time slot from the list of time slots available in the drop-down box

7. The **Exam Summary** page appears. Complete the required fields.

8. Read the **Student Acknowledgement** in the scroll box. Acknowledge the information **by clicking the check box underneath the scroll box.**

9. An **email confirmation** will be sent to your UTD email address you used to register for your test. You may print the receipt for your records.

10. If you wish to reschedule or cancel your appointment, please log back on to the Testing Center website and click on "How To Reschedule" tab.

Again, testing dates are Saturday, August 27, 2016 through **Saturday, September 3, 2016.**