



Course BIS 1100.003
Course Title Interdisciplinary Studies Freshman Seminar
Professor Dr. Larissa Werhnyak
Term Fall 2016
Meetings T 12.00-1.50 (CB1 1.104)

Professor's Contact Information

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Office Location HH 2.812
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Office Hours TTh 10.00-11.30 & by appointment
Other Information Please provide me with advance notice of your intent to visit my office hours.

General Course Information

Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, & other restrictions Co-requisite UNIV 1010.

Course Description This course is a graduation requirement for the University and for the School of Interdisciplinary Studies. Students will learn about the intellectual and cultural environment of the University and the School of Interdisciplinary Studies. Students will also learn about IS majors, careers, internships, clubs, and organizations while developing academic and interpersonal skills

Learning Outcomes

- 1) Students will be introduced to the UT Dallas campus community and the School of Interdisciplinary Studies, and will become integrated into the UTD and IS communities both academically and socially.
- 2) Students will develop skills of social responsibility, including intercultural competence and civic responsibility.
- 3) Student will develop skills of personal responsibility, connecting choices and actions to ethical decision-making.
- 4) Students will learn the importance of critical thinking and writing skills for academic success.
- 5) Students will examine their own skills and reflect on the relationships between those skills and their ability to succeed.

Required Texts & Materials UTD NetID and eLearning access
Comet Card
Paper + writing instrument

Class format & expectations

This course will consist of lectures, visits from guest speakers, discussions, activities, student presentations, and a variety of assignments to be completed in and out of class. Please arrive on time and ready to listen attentively and/or engage actively. I expect students to be attentive during class. No sleeping, reading newspapers, or studying for other classes! Please turn off and stow all electronic devices at the start of class.

During discussions, I expect students to be respectful and courteous towards each other at all times. Name-calling, swearing, and racist/sexist/homophobic statements will not be permitted. Disagreement is entirely compatible with decorous behavior. If you are having a problem with another student, please contact me to discuss it.

Class attendance

Attendance is mandatory and will be tabulated.

If you are unable to attend class, you are responsible for obtaining notes from another student. If, after doing so, you have questions about class materials, please plan to visit my office hours. If you are dealing with a situation that will or may require significant absences from class, please contact me at your earliest convenience to make arrangements.

Grading criteria

Portfolio:	20%
Class attendance:	20%
Group presentation:	20%
Career statement & resume:	20%
Field activity submission:	20%

Portfolio: You will post on eLearning a portfolio of your own design in PowerPoint format. It will include your self-assessment, career ideas, and field activities. It will be assessed for a grade and will also be reviewed at some future date to generate assessment numbers and possibly to review trends regarding the prevalence of various skills, issues, and ideas at UTD. More details will be provided on the relevant assignment sheet.

Presentation: In groups of five, students will make a five-minute video presentation about their majors or about an aspect of life at UTD. Your video will be assessed for a grade and will also be reviewed at some future date to generate assessment numbers and possibly to review trends regarding the prevalence of various skills, issues, and ideas at UTD. More details will be provided on the relevant assignment sheet.

Field activities: Alone or in groups, you will pursue field activities and submit reports regarding those activities. A student organization visit is required, as is a financial planning activity and a visit to your adviser's office. Other activities will be at your discretion. More details will be provided on the relevant assignment sheet.

Career statement & resume: You will develop a resume and will also write a short essay (2 pp.) or a career you are interested in pursuing. In your essay, you will consider pros and cons of this career, as well as the preparation that is required of practitioners. More details will be provided on the relevant assignment sheet.

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://provost.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies/>

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

Schedule

Week 1 (8.23)	Introductions
Week 2 (8.30)	Getting to know the University
Week 3 (9.6)	Diversity & Education
Guest speaker:	Representative of the Diversity Education Center
Week 4 (9.13)	Academics & Degree Plans
Guest speaker:	Tess Kuo & the academic advising team
DEADLINE:	Field Activity Report 1
Week 5 (9.20)	Library Information Session
MEET in the lobby of the McDermott Library.	
Week 6 (9.27)	Healthcare Studies
Guest speaker:	Dr. Kathleen Bynes, director of the Healthcare Studies program
Week 7 (10.4)	Financial Management
Guest speaker:	Representative from the Comet Cents program
Week 8 (10.11)	Financial Aid
Guest speaker:	Sarah Dorsey, Office of Financial Aid
Week 9 (10.18)	Internships & Careers
Guest speaker:	Paulette Minnaar, Career Center
Week 10 (10.25)	Alcohol & Substance Abuse
Guest speaker:	Representative from Student Wellness
Week 11 (11.1)	Time management
Guest speaker:	Representative of the PALS program
DEADLINE:	Career statement & resume
Week 12 (11.8)	Mental health
Guest speaker:	Representative from Counseling Center
Week 13 (11.15)	University Standards & Academic Dishonesty
Guest speaker:	Susan McKee, OCSC
**No classes week of 11.21 (Fall/Thanksgiving break)	
Week 14 (11.29)	Presentations
**Portfolios will be due to eLearning during the week of 12.5	