

UNI 101 – First Year Seminar

Fall 2012, Section 079
SB 221, MW 3:30-4:45

Instructor: E. Ashley Bisette Sumerel
Office: MO 103D
Office Hours: MW 11:00-12:00 and by appt.

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COURSE OVERVIEW

Required Texts and Materials:

- *Thriving at UNCW and Beyond*
- *Ten Letters: The Stories Americans Tell Their President*
- Microsoft Word and PowerPoint (If you do not have access, you can use [“Tealware”](#))
- A saving device such as a flash drive

Course Description: A seminar course designed to integrate freshmen into the university community. Explores faculty and student roles, goals of liberal arts learning, academic ethics, and application of effective strategies for time management, study skills, critical thinking, public speaking, electronic communication, and career selection. Emphasis on the development of a mentor relationship between instructor and students.

Course Learning Outcomes:

- **Students will demonstrate an understanding of and participate in the powerful learning experience of higher education at UNCW.**
 - Demonstrate skills in critical thinking, study skills, time management, and project management.
 - Demonstrate ability to identify and apply academic strategies for analyzing, synthesizing, and critically evaluating information from all courses.
 - Demonstrate the ability to identify, locate and use university support services and resources necessary for success in a higher education experience.
- **Students will demonstrate self-knowledge & appreciate the value of human differences.**
 - Discover individual personality style and identify strengths based on an assessment or inventory
 - Demonstrate an awareness of and a greater willingness to consider a wide range of ideas, attitudes, biases and behaviors regarding cultural, racial, ethnic, and global diversity.
- **Students will understand and illustrate information literacy.**
 - Use library resources to answer a research question
 - Demonstrate the ability to find, evaluate & use information utilizing library resources
 - Use internet searches and UNCW technologies in an academic context.
- **Students will demonstrate and understand the health & wellness dimensions.**
 - Recognize and evaluate the importance of lifetime wellness and identify health risks relevant for college students.
 - Identify campus health-related resources available for self-care.
- **Students will identify and apply information to prepare the foundation for life-long learning.**
 - Clarify and explore personal values
 - Develop and articulate academic, career, and life goals
 - Identify and apply goals, values, and transferable skills in transitioning from college to future endeavors.

Course Requirements:

Participation – 20 points
Quizzes – 20 points
Weekly Journal Entries – 20 points
Final Project – 25 points
Current Events Assignment – 5 points
Campus Events – 10 points

Final Grading Scale:

93-100 points – A (Excellent)	73-76 points – C (Average)
90-92 points – A-	70-72 points – C-
87-89 points – B+	67-69 points – D+
83-86 points – B (Good)	63-66 points – D (Passing)
80-82 points – B-	60-62 points – D-
77-79 points – C+	Below 60 points – F (Failure)

BLACKBOARD

We will be using Blackboard quite a bit in this course. This is where important materials for the course will be posted. To login, go to learn.uncw.edu. If at any point during the semester you have problems with Blackboard, you can receive assistance from the Technology Assistance Center. The email address is tac@uncw.edu and the phone number is 910-962-HELP (4357). If you do email the TAC, be sure to put "Blackboard" in the subject line.

PARTICIPATION

Participation in this course is worth 20 points of your final grade. I will judge participation on the following:

- Evidence of having read the required material
- Participation in discussion, workshops, and other class activities
- Attentiveness during class
- Assigned classwork and homework
- Coming to class prepared. This means having completed all assignments before the class period, and bringing all necessary materials. For each class meeting, you should bring the following:
 - ✓ *Thriving at UNCW and Beyond*
 - ✓ *Ten Letters: The Stories Americans Tell Their President*
 - ✓ This syllabus
 - ✓ Pen and paper for taking notes
 - ✓ Other materials as requested

QUIZZES

There are several quizzes scheduled throughout the semester. Quizzes must be taken on Blackboard by 3:00pm on the date listed. They will be multiple-choice and may cover any information presented in class or in your readings. Once you begin a quiz, you will have 15 minutes to complete it. Quizzes may not be re-taken or completed after the deadline. All quiz grades will be averaged to comprise 20 points toward your final grade.

WEEKLY JOURNAL ENTRIES

Each week, you will complete a 3-4 paragraph journal entry to be turned in via Blackboard. Topics will be listed in Blackboard for each week. Unless otherwise noted, journal entries will be due each Friday by 11:59pm. Late journal entries or journal entries submitted incorrectly will not be accepted.

FINAL PROJECT

The final project will be a small group project that will give you the opportunity to collaborate with your peers in developing a project that will be presented to the class at the end of the semester. Each final project will include a final product, oral presentation, individual paper, and a peer evaluation of each group member. Each group will be assigned a presentation date. All group members must be present to present their project on the date specified. Presentations will not be rescheduled, and late work will not be accepted. If you know that you will have a conflict with your presentation date, you should let me know well in advance. More information regarding this assignment will be available on Blackboard.

CURRENT EVENTS ASSIGNMENT

Each student will be responsible for presenting on a current event at some point during the semester. At the beginning of the semester, each student will be assigned a partner, topic, and presentation date. More information on this assignment, as well as the schedule, will be posted on Blackboard.

CAMPUS EVENTS

Much of learning in college is experienced outside of the classroom. The Event Assignment in First Year Seminar encourages students to explore a variety of learning opportunities on campus, to engage with the campus community, and to broaden their early academic experience. Each First Year Seminar student is required to attend 5 campus events outside of class over the 15 weeks of the semester.

Event Category Requirements:

Category I – at least 1 Synergy (Common Reading) event - <http://www.uncw.edu/commonreading/>.

Category II – at least 1 event from Performing or Cultural Arts, Multi-cultural/Diversity, or Academic Lecture.

Category III - Three remaining events may be chosen from either of the categories above or from the following categories: Athletic Event (limit 1) Community Service, Learning Services Workshop, Career Services Workshop, Library Workshop, International Programs Information Session, Health Promotions Presentation, CARE Film Series Presentation, Technology Training Session, Other (with prior instructor approval)

Due Dates:

Students must attend at least 1 and no more than 3 events in any given 5 week period. Those periods are as follows:

- August 23 – September 28
- September 29 – November 2
- November 3 – December 5

In order to receive credit for each event, you must post a **2-3 paragraph blog entry** in Blackboard within 3 days of attending the event. Blog entries not posted within 3 days will not be accepted. The title of your entry should include the date, time, location, and title of the event. At a minimum, the blog entry should answer the following questions:

- What was the purpose of this event, and what happened there? Summarize in a few sentences.
- What did you learn from this event? Was there anything that surprised you about this event?
- Did you enjoy the event? Why or why not?

COMMUNICATION

Office Hours:

My office hours this semester are MW 11:00-12:00. I encourage students to visit me in person during office hours, but other options include email, phone, and Blackboard IM. My username is: **bissettee**. *You can download Blackboard IM by clicking the appropriate link on the left hand side of our Blackboard homepage. *If you would like to meet with me, but are unavailable during office hours, you may contact me to set up an appointment.*

Email / Phone:

I will often send information and updates via campus email, so you should check your campus email several times a week. All students will be responsible for knowing this information. “I forgot to check my email” is not an excuse. Email is also the best way to contact me if you have questions throughout the course. While I do check my email often, students should be aware that **I usually only respond to emails Monday – Thursday before 6:00pm, and Friday before 1:00pm (eastern time)**. Therefore, it is a good idea to work on assignments ahead of time in case you have questions. My cell phone number is listed at the top of this syllabus. Students are welcome to call or text this number in cases when email is insufficient. **However, I do ask that students only call or text Monday – Thursday between 10:00am and 5:00pm, and Friday 10:00am-1:00pm (eastern time).**

*When using text messaging or voicemail, include your full name, course title, and section number.

***For email, include course title, section number, and a few words about your question in the subject line.**

Your email should use correct grammar and complete sentences. Also, be sure to use proper etiquette, including a greeting such as “Dear Ms. Sumere!” and concluding with a salutation such as “Sincerely, John Doe.”

Seahawk Link:

Your Seahawk Link is available to discuss campus issues and answer related questions. While you should feel free to contact your Seahawk Link, you should not contact them with questions about deadlines, assignments, grades etc.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance in this course is mandatory. You may miss 3 classes without penalty. After that, your grade will be reduced by 2 points for each missed class, **regardless of the reason**. I recommend that you save your absences for when you really need them, as I do not make distinctions between excused and unexcused absences. *Arriving to class late, leaving early, or leaving during class for an extended period of time will count as half an absence.*

Religious Observance Policy:

In accordance with NC SL 2010-211, you are entitled to two excused absences for religious observances **per academic year**. You must inform me in writing the first week of class if you will be missing any classes due to religious observance. In addition, please inform the Registrar the first week of class who will then confirm your intentions with the impacted course instructors. *Please note that an absence due to religious observance WILL count as one of your 3 permitted absences. However, submitting this information in writing will make it possible for me to work with you if the religious observance falls on class periods such as peer editing days, conferences, etc.*

Student Athletes:

While I recognize that student athletes often need to miss class for sporting events, they are still held accountable for the attendance policy. In the event that an athlete needs to miss more than 3 classes for sporting events, that student must speak with me as soon as they are aware. *Student athletes must inform me in writing with a signature from their coach of the class days they plan to miss.*

Missed Classes:

If you do miss class, it is **your** responsibility to find out what you have missed from **another classmate**. I will not respond to any email that asks what was missed in class on a particular day (and neither will your Seahawk Link!). In the space below, write down the names, phone numbers, and email addresses of three people near you.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

POLICIES AND OTHER INFORMATION

Classroom Behavior:

It is imperative that the classroom be an environment that lends itself to discussion and learning. My expectation is that all students will behave in a way that is respectful to everyone. Students must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Unless given permission for a particular assignment, do not use laptops/tablets/Ipads in the classroom.
- **Turn off cell phones before entering the classroom; cell phones should remain off for the duration of the class period.** Use of cell phones for any reason will not be tolerated.
- Ipods/mp3 players and other distracting objects are prohibited.
- Do not work on assignments for other courses during class time.
- There should be no talking while the instructor, Seahawk Link, or a fellow student has the floor.
- Be open-minded and respectful to each other during discussions and the sharing of written work.
- Students should be awake and attentive during class. Sleeping during class is unacceptable.
- Students are expected to come to each class period with all required materials.
- Class is not over until the instructor dismisses it. **Students should not begin putting away their materials until this time.**

Failure to adhere to these guidelines will negatively affect your participation grade. Significantly disruptive students will be asked to leave the classroom, and will be counted absent for the day.

Zero Tolerance Policy:

UNCW practices a zero tolerance policy for violence and harassment of any kind. For emergencies, contact UNCW CARE at 962-2273; Campus Police at 962-3184; or Wilmington Police at 911. For University or community resources visit: <http://www.uncw.edu/safe-relate/campusResources.htm>. Violence prevention information and resources are available at <http://www.uncw.edu/safe%2Drelate/>.

Disabilities:

If you have a disability and need special accommodations, you should let me know *within the first week of classes*. You will also need to register with Disability Services for proper documentation. The phone number for Disability Services is 910-962-7555.

The UNCW Statement on Diversity in the University Community

As an institution of higher learning, the University of North Carolina Wilmington represents a rich diversity of human beings among its faculty, staff, and students and is committed to maintaining a campus environment that values that diversity. Accordingly, the university supports policies, curricula, and co-curricular activities that encourage understanding of and appreciation for all members of its community and will not tolerate any harassment or disrespect for persons because of race, gender, age, color, national origin, ethnicity, creed, religion, disability, sexual orientation, political affiliation, marital status, or relationship to other university constituents.

University Academic Expectations:

In choosing UNCW, you have become part of our community of scholars. We recognize that the UNCW learning experience is challenging and requires hard work. It also requires a commitment to make time available to do that hard work. The University expects you to make academics your highest priority by dedicating your time and energy to training your mind and acquiring knowledge. Academic success in critical thinking and problem solving prepares you for the changes and challenges you will encounter in the future. Our faculty and academic support resources are readily available as partners in this effort, but the primary responsibility for learning is yours.

The University Learning Center

DePaolo Hall, 910.962.7857, www.uncw.edu/ulc

The University Learning Center's (ULC) mission is to help students become successful, independent learners. Tutoring at the ULC is NOT remediation: the ULC offers a different type of learning opportunity for those students who want to increase the quality of their education. ULC services are free to all UNCW students and include the following:

- Learning Services (University Studies) <http://www.uncw.edu/ulc/learning/index.html>
- Math Services <http://www.uncw.edu/ulc/math/index.html>
- Study Skills <http://www.uncw.edu/ulc/study/index.html>
- Supplemental Instruction <http://www.uncw.edu/ulc/si/index.html>
- Writing Services <http://www.uncw.edu/ulc/writing/index.html>

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism:

Academic Dishonesty is unacceptable and is grounds for failure for this course. All students are responsible for knowing the guidelines listed in this UNCW Academic Honor Code:

http://www.uncw.edu/policies/documents/03_100FINALHONORCODE_Aug2009.pdf

Please be especially familiar with UNC-W's position on plagiarism as outlined on in the UNCW Student Handbook. Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty in which you take someone else's ideas and represent them as your own. Examples of plagiarism include:

1. You write about someone else's work in your paper and do not give them credit for it by referencing them.
2. You give a presentation and use someone else's ideas and do not state that the ideas are the other persons.
3. You get facts from your textbook or some other reference material and do not reference that material.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

(Subject to change)

***Unless otherwise noted, Journals are due via Blackboard each Friday.**

- | | | |
|--------|-------|---|
| Wed. | 8/22 | First Day of Classes - Introduction |
| Mon. | 8/27 | “Introduction” <i>Thriving</i> , xi-xvii
College Pressures (online) |
| Wed. | 8/29 | “Touching All the Bases” <i>Thriving</i> , 1-25
Guest Speaker – Advising
<i>Last day for drop/add</i> |
| Mon. | 9/3 | <i>Labor Day – No Classes</i> |
| Wed. | 9/5 | Scavenger Hunt Activity - Wear comfortable shoes! |
| Mon. | 9/10 | “Liberal Arts Education” <i>Thriving</i> , 31-52
“I lost my job, my health benefits...” <i>Ten Letters</i> 1-31
*Sign up for Current Events Presentations
Quiz #1 due by 3:00pm |
| Wed. | 9/12 | Guest Speaker – Academic Achievement Presentation |
| Mon. | 9/17 | “Time Management” <i>Thriving</i> , 83-96
“My own path to the presidency...” <i>Ten Letters</i> 31-56
Current Events Presentation: Education |
| Wed. | 9/19 | “Goal Setting, Motivation, and Character” <i>Thriving</i> , 59-76
Guest Speaker – Office of the Dean of Students
Current Events Presentation: Politics |
| Mon. | 9/24 | “Strategic Learning, Studying, and Test Taking” <i>Thriving</i> , 101-113 |
| Wed. | 9/26 | “Strategic Learning, Studying, and Test Taking” <i>Thriving</i> , 113-133
Current Events Presentation: Business
Quiz #2 due by 3:00pm |
| Mon. | 10/1 | “Achieving Peak Levels of Academic Performance” <i>Thriving</i> , 137-161
Current Events Presentation: UNCW News |
| Wed. | 10/3 | Guest Speaker – Advising
Current Events Presentation: Science/ Technology |
| Mon. | 10/8 | <i>Fall Break – No Classes</i> |
| Wed. | 10/10 | “William Madison Randall Library” <i>Thriving</i> , 405-413
Library Instruction Day – <u>Meet in Randall Library, room 1022</u>
Quiz #3 due by 3:00pm |
| Thurs. | 10/11 | <i>*Last day to drop with grade of W</i> |

- Mon. 10/15 “Educational Planning and Decision Making” *Thriving*, 251-284
 “Nobody is getting the same education” *Ten Letters*, 193-221
Current Events Presentation: North Carolina News
- Wed. 10/17 “Higher-Level Thinking” *Thriving*, 167-184
- Mon. 10/22 “Social and Emotional Intelligence” *Thriving*, 189-214
Current Events Presentation: Arts
Quiz #4 due by 3:00pm
- Wed. 10/24 “Diversity” 221-244
 “I Was Bullied in High School...” *Ten Letters* 223-249
- Mon. 10/29 Guest Speaker - Diversity
- Wed. 10/31 “Health and Wellness” 353-373
Current Events Presentation: Health
Quiz #5 due by 3:00pm
- Mon. 11/5 Guest Speaker – Health Center
- Wed. 11/7 “Health and Wellness” 373-381
- Mon. 11/12 “Career Exploration, Planning, and Preparation” 293-316
Current Events Presentation: World News
- Wed. 11/14 Career Center Presentation – Meet in Fisher University Union, room Azalea A
- Mon. 11/19 [Academic Writing: Some Basic Do’s and Don’ts](#) (online)
 “Thank you from my son, Doug...” *Ten Letters*, 57-83
Quiz #6 due by 3:00pm
- Wed. 11/21 *Thanksgiving Break – No Classes*
- Mon. 11/26 Work on projects
- Wed. 11/28 **Final Project Presentations**
- Mon. 12/3 **Final Project Presentations**
- Fri. 12/7 **Individual Paper Due**