

UNI 101-001 – Freshman Seminar

Fall 2009 Syllabus

Class Meets: Tuesdays & Thursdays 5:00-6:15 pm (*August 20 – November 3*)
Leutze Hall 107 (*unless otherwise noted*)

Instructor Name: *Marianella Jara*

Department: Foreign Languages and Literatures
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Academic Advisor: **Sammy Seahawk**

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Seahawk Link Name: **Victoria Hamed**

Seahawk Link Email : vjh5412@uncw.edu

Purpose of the Class:

UNI 101 is both an academic and personal enhancement course. The purpose of the course is to help you build community and make a successful transition into college by:

- Demonstrating skills in critical thinking, study skills, time management, and project management.
- Demonstrating the 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 from the success in a higher education experience.
- Discover individual personality style and identify strengths based on an assessment or inventory.
- Demonstrating 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.
- Recognizing and evaluating the importance of lifetime wellness and identify the health risks that are relevant for college students.
- Identifying campus health-related resources available for self-care.
- Using library resources to answer a research question
- Demonstrating the ability to find, evaluate and use information utilizing library resources
- Using internet searches and UNCW technologies in an academic context.
- Clarifying and explore personal values
- Developing & articulating academic, career, & life goals.
- Identifying and applying goals, values and transferable skills in transition from college to future endeavors.

Class Expectations:

- Attend and be on time to all class sessions and outside events
- Participate in all class discussions and activities
- Read all assignments prior to the start of class
- Turn all assignments completed and on time. **NO LATE OR UNCOMPLETED WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED!**
- Comply with the standards of the UNCW Academic Honor Code
- Turn cell phones OFF before the start of class
- Allow yourself to learn from others and others to learn from you
- Treat your classmates and instructor with respect

- No derogatory language or comments will be permitted
- Have a positive attitude towards class, your instructor and fellow students
- Always remember that even small assignments are important and serve a purpose
- Bring a smile, it really helps! ☺

Other important information:

- **Email:** Students are responsible for checking their UNCW email account daily. This is how your instructor will communicate with students outside the class. I will send important information, updates etc by email weekly. Also, make sure to clean your inbox weekly to have enough space to receive email.
- **Blackboard:** The class calendar, class information, handouts, events information and assignments will be available on blackboard. Blackboard is a password protective website which will contain most of the course’s materials. Make sure to check the calendar daily. You are responsible to meet all deadlines. Your instructor will not remind you in class of assignments, exams and deadlines. Our course calendar is subject to changes but your instructor will inform you of those changes by email or during class. To login to blackboard please follow these steps:
 1. Login to Blackboard (<http://ncvista.blackboard.com>)
 2. Use your UNCW email username in all CAPS (without @uncw.edu)
 3. Use your SeaNet PIN as the password
- **Seahawk Link:** A Seahawk link is an outstanding student who assists freshmen with their transition to college life during their first semester. Tori Hammed is our Seahawk link and she will attend one class session per week. She will be in charge to keep up with attendance to events and she will be also a resource with the Synergy (Commom reading program) to assist you with your final projects. You may email Tori at vjh5412@uncw.edu

Required Texts:

- Amundsen, S. (2009). Focus on Success. Dubuque, IA: Kendall-Hunt Publishing.
- Beah, I. (2007). A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier. New York: Sarah Crichton.

Course Requirements and Grade Breakdown:

- Participation & Class Activities 20%
- Exams 25 %
- Journals 20%
- Campus Involvement/Events 20%
- Final Group Project 15%

Grading Scale:

93-100 A	80-82 B-	67-69 D+
90-92 A-	77-79 C+	63-66 D
87-89 B+	73-76 C	60-62 D-
83-86 B	70-72 C-	0-59 F

Attendance & Participation Policy:

- You are expected to be in class and on time every day. Students who have perfect attendance at the end of the semester will be entitled to received an extra point on their final grade.
- All scheduled outside events are mandatory.
- Because of the seminar format, the success of our class depends on the participation of each student. Every student’s input is equally important and necessary. If you are out for any reason; you are fully responsible for all material covered in class and any assignments or announcements you missed. Not being in class does not exempt you from turning in assignments. Your participation is crucial to your success in this class and in your entire college career. Take every opportunity to participate; please DO

NOT BE SHY! Participation makes class more fun and time more productive. Raise your hand as much as possible.

- Textbook chapters should be read prior to class. For instance, if the class calendar says that we are going to discuss chapter 2 on September 1st, you should read the chapter and complete any assignments announced in class or posted on the course's calendar related to that chapter prior to this date.
- Familiarize yourself with the chapter's material to be able to participate in class discussions and projects.
- **Missing more than 3 classes will result in your final grade being lowered one letter grade for each additional class missed.**
- **Two tardies will equal one class absence.**
- You will be graded on class activities we do as groups or individually.

Exams:

- Exams will cover textbook information, class discussions, presentations given by speakers, as well as information from outside class events. Exams cannot be made up unless you present a doctor's or court note, funeral obituary or a UNCW official letter stating that you participated in an official campus event. We will take a total of 5 exams and the lowest grade will be dropped.

Journals

- You will be required to keep a journal during this first semester of college. This journal is intended to be an avenue for reflection on your new experiences here at UNCW and in this class. It is your opportunity to analyze and share your reactions, innermost thought and feelings about being here, and what you are doing. They are completely confidential; what you write is only between you and your instructor unless you choose or give permission to share. You will write 1 journal entry per week. Your entry should be a page or more in length and kept in a loose-leaf paper folder. (No spiral notebook!!) Journals will be collected every week on Thursdays at the beginning of class. Once, again, no late work will be accepted! They will be graded with respect to the seriousness and honesty with which you approach the exercise. This journal is not simply a diary- you must think deeply about the issues that are affecting your life. In case you do not feel inspired to write some days, you have a list of ideas and topics on blackboard under assignments. Although this is a free writing exercise I will require one of your journals to be about one of the events you will attend. Refer to the following point to read about the events. Spelling, grammar and punctuation will not be graded but they do need to be legible. ***Neat, clear handwriting is crucial! If I cannot read your journal entry, I will not grade it. If you do not have good handwriting please type your journal entry.***

Events

- Much of learning in college comes from experiences outside of the classroom. The Event Assignment for Freshman Seminar encourages freshmen to explore a variety of learning opportunities on campus, to engage with the campus community and to broaden their early academic experience. Each Freshman Seminar student is required to attend 5 campus events outside of class over the 10 weeks that Freshman Seminar is in session. Two of the events will be the same for the entire class which leaves You with three free options. Our class Seahawk Link will maintain a spreadsheet verifying the event choice and attendance. You have more specific information about this assignment on blackboard under Assignments. Please remember to write one journal entry about one of the events.

Final Project

- The final project will be a small group project that will give you the opportunity to use your new found knowledge and creativity to reflect on the book "**A Long Way Gone**" and the many social topics the story has to offer. In class, a lists of topics will be raffled among groups and each group will elaborate on a different topic. Groups should have maximum 4 members and each member must participate equally in the making and presentation of the project. We will dedicate 20-30 during two class periods to work on the project but it will require time outside the classroom. We will dedicate the last day of class to project presentations. Each group will have a maximum of 8-10 minutes to present their project. Please respect this time frame. Your instructor will submit the best 4 projects from the class to be considered for exhibition or performance at a festival. The 10 best poster sessions and 3-4 best creative interpretations

will be presented at the World Action Festival. Awards and prizes will be given to the top student performances and exhibitions at the festival.

More information on this project and group assignments will be posted on blackboard under assignments

FEDERAL AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

If you have a disability and need reasonable accommodation in order to participate fully in this course, you should inform the instructor of this fact in writing within the first week of class or as soon as possible. If you have not already done so, you must register with Disability Services in Westside Hall and obtain a copy of your Accommodations Letter. You should then meet with your instructor to make mutually agreeable arrangements based on the recommendations of the Accommodations Letter.

I am glad to have you as my student, I am sure we will have a wonderful semester.

Buckle up, get ready and enjoy the ride! 😊

DISCLAIMER: This syllabus is intended to give students a general outline of expectations for UNI 101. I reserve my right as an instructor to make adjustments to the course schedule and grading policy as needed. Students will be informed of any changes in advance.