



**North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
Division of University Studies
Religion and Society**

University Studies is a bold, new approach to general education. Until now, general education utilized distribution requirements, which asked students to choose randomly among a list of introductory courses in the humanities, social and natural sciences. Exposing students to a wide variety of subject matter and critical approaches was the primary objective of this educational tradition. Thus, little attention was paid to the ways students might synthesize or profit from the learning objectives and outcomes of different disciplines. As a result, students proceeded into their major studies with few identifiable skills and abilities gleaned from their general education experience. University Studies was conceived to redress these problems.

The rationale for an interdisciplinary approach to general education stems from the acknowledged complexities of the contemporary world. The problems facing modern humanity are rarely if ever understood using the perspectives and tools of a single discipline. Hence, University Studies maintains that critical thinking, logic, writing, humanistic and artistic inquiry, as well as the social and natural sciences are best understood via interdisciplinary methods. Indeed many interdisciplinary fields, such as African American Studies, Science and Technology Studies, Cultural Studies, and Women's Studies developed due to either the unwillingness or the inability of the traditional disciplines to address the issues posed in these bodies of scholarship.

All University Studies [UNST] courses are interdisciplinary. This means that they combine the intellectual methods and subject matter from a variety of disciplines in order to help students learn critical thinking and problem solving. UNST courses are interconnected in such a manner that they can guarantee that a student will be exposed to specified learning objectives that address real-life concerns. During the first year, students will learn skills for critical engagement; during the second and third years, students will apply these newly honed skills in theme-based courses; in the senior year, students will exercise the skills and knowledge they have gained in a capstone experience and service-learning activity. If the University Studies curriculum is undertaken seriously and with intentionality, UNST students can expect to emerge with a set of useful intellectual tools that will allow them to engage effectively a dynamic and complex world.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines interactions between religion and societies as factors influencing the formation of community, the breakdown of community, and reconciliation within and among communities. Contemporary, historical, and nonwestern examples will be explored. Interrelations between religion and societies will be explored from different disciplinary perspectives, including those of psychology, history, sociology, philosophy, evolutionary, biology, neurobiology, and neuropsychology.

**NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY
GENERAL EDUCATION GOALS**

- Communication (written essay exams, papers, and in-class discussion)
- analytical reasoning (analysis of literary, artistic, and statistical arguments)
- multicultural relations within society (how religions are embedded within cultures, often understood to be identical to a culture, and both foster and impede intercultural relations)
- artistic and literary understanding (analysis and interpretation of religious texts and artistic expressions)
- ethics and social responsibility (explore ways in which religion contributes to personal and social goods and evils)
- as well as health, lifestyles, and behavior (explore the effects of religion on personal and social behavior and lifestyles).

UNST 230 SPECIFIC LEARNING OBJECTIVES

In this course students will:

1. Read, interpret, write about and discuss academic literature investigating the relations among religion, society, and conflict.
2. Analyze passages for argument type and evaluate arguments
3. Analyze and evaluate situations in light of Just War criteria
4. Employ typologies to organize and interpret complex and conflictual social, political, and religious situations
5. Identify positions and authors of important literature and arguments concerning the relations among religion, society, and conflict
6. Interpret graphs, charts and diagrams for information and conceptual models.
7. Write about and discuss important contemporary instances of religiously motivate social and political conflict.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Freud, Sigmund. *The Future of an Illusion*

Lincoln, Bruce. *Holy Terrors: Thinking About Religion after September 11.*

Kasulis, Thomas P. *Intimacy or Integrity: Philosophy and Cultural Difference*

Walker, David. *David Walker's Appeal*

Yusuf al-Qaradawi, http://lynch.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2009/07/09/qaradawis_revisions

Nero: After Nat Turner: A Letter from the North

Nat Turner, The Confessions, <http://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/turner/menu.html>

Just War Theory: <http://www.americancatholic.org/News/JustWar/justwar.asp>

ALSO REQUIRED: TurningPoint Personal Response Device (“clicker”), Scientific Calculator

GRADING

The grading curve will be adjusted to a standard scale: 100-90 = A; 89-80 = B; 79-70 = C; 69-60 = D; 59—F.

Summative Grades will be determined according to the following:

Examination #1	10%
Examination #2	20%
Examination #3	20%
Final Examination	25%
Essay Paper	20%
Participation	5%

QUIZZES AND HOMEWORK

- Quizzes and homework will be administered primarily through the Cengage Learning website. You may purchase a pass code for the site from the bookstore or directly from Cengage online. Be sure to save your work often. If you leave your computer, save your work. The window will shut down automatically if you leave it unattended.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICY

Academic honesty is absolutely essential. Cheating, plagiarism, **sharing of clickers** or other academic misconduct will not be tolerated. If you are caught cheating, you will not pass this course and will be subject to any and all penalties specified in the student honor code. If a student is found cheating, she or he will receive an “F” for that assignment. If a student is found cheating a second time, she or he will receive an “F” for the course. PLEASE NOTE THAT USING A “CLICKER” FOR A FRIEND CONSTITUTES ACADEMIC DISHONESTY. HAVING TWO “CLICKERS” IN CLASS WILL BE INTERPRETED AS ACADEMIC DISHONESTY. See pages 78-80 of the Undergraduate Bulletin 2006-2008 for the NCATSU Academic Dishonesty Policy.

UNIVERSITY STUDIES ATTENDANCE POLICY

University Studies strives to professionalize its students; therefore, regular attendance and punctuality are mandatory in all UNST courses. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Tardiness will not be tolerated. Absent or tardy students are responsible for any missed class work, including any changes to the syllabus or assignments announced in class. In short, absences and tardiness can/will diminish your grade. If you suffer prolonged illness or misfortune, you should consider dropping the course. Persistent tardiness and failure to observe established classroom etiquette will lead to failure of the course. Student athletes must submit a schedule of days they will be absent within the first week of classes.

Students will automatically receive an “F” for missing beyond the equivalent of two weeks of class:

M, W, F Schedule: Six (6) unexcused absences

- T, R Schedule: Four (4) unexcused absences
- 1-Class Per Week Schedule: Two (2) unexcused absences

At half the allotted absences (three (3) absences for M, W, F schedule; two (2) for T, R schedule; and one (1) for 1-class per week schedule), students are required to meet with their instructor(s) for a mandatory one-on-one conference concerning his/her performance in class. It is the student’s responsibility to meet with the instructor within one week of missing the equivalent of one week of class.

Absence or tardiness is only excused for emergency situations. Students are responsible for submitting acceptable documentation for the excused absence within one week of the absence. Examples of acceptable documentation include:

- Written doctor's note specifically requesting an excused absence (with the specific time and date on the notification)
- Obituary or service notice
- An official written summons to court

Student-athletes are held to the same attendance and performance expectation as non-athletes. Hence, they should coordinate their course schedules so that team practices and games do not conflict with class meetings and / or exams. Student-athletes should identify themselves to their professors and instructors, submit a schedule of days they will miss class as well as the name and contact information for their coach within the first week of classes. University Studies will follow the Department of Athletics class attendance policy, which states:

- **First Unexcused Absence** – The student-athlete's coach will be notified.
- **Second Unexcused Absence** – Ms. Dee Todd, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics will be notified. The student-athlete will be required to have a conference with Ms. Todd or her designee.
- **Third Unexcused Absence** – The student athlete will be suspended for one contest. IF the student-athlete is not currently in season, the suspension will apply to the following season.
- **Fourth Unexcused Absence** – The student-athlete's scholarship is subject to non-renewal.

COURSE MATERIALS

- **Books:** Serious scholarship requires procurement of essential course materials. Students will purchase all books and materials required for UNST courses within the first two weeks of the semester. Sharing of books thereafter is prohibited.
- **Blackboard:** Students are required to be familiar with the use of Blackboard. Information, assignments, tests and quizzes will be given on Blackboard; therefore, students must be able to navigate the site successfully in to do well in the course. If you are having problems with Blackboard, it is the student's responsibility to make the professor aware of your problems.

EDUCATIONAL ETIQUETTE

Students will demonstrate respect for their professors and colleagues. Any behavior that distracts (e.g., eating, talking while others are talking, etc.) or is disrespectful (inattention, personal attacks, studying for other courses during class, etc.) is unacceptable. Differences of opinion should be met with intellectual curiosity and rigor rather than insult, contumely, or discord.

All cell phones, pagers, and personal communication devices must be turned off for the duration of the class period. Students who fail to comply with this rule will be asked to leave the class and will be marked absent. Campus security will be asked to escort those students from the classroom who fail to leave as requested.

There will be no eating or drinking in class (other than bottled water).

Student success in this course depends upon the development of scholarly and collegial habits. Active participation in class discussion and group work is mandatory. Collegial responsibility and respect are also compulsory.

EMAIL POLICY

Official correspondence from faculty, instructors, and graduate assistants will use the NCAT email address. Students are responsible for the information received and are required to monitor their email accounts on a regular basis.

All faculty, instructors, and graduate assistants will reply to legitimate email inquiries from students within 48 hours with the exception of weekends or university holidays. If you do not receive a reply within this period, please resubmit your question(s) or phone your instructor. Leave a message if necessary.

In accordance with the Aggie Pride Code, students should consistently communicate and behave in a manner that displays integrity, honesty, and sound character when using email to communicate with faculty, instructors, or graduate teaching assistants.

Each email message must include the course name and number, section number, and a concise and clear statement of purpose in the subject line otherwise it is likely to be deleted, along with spam messages and messages potentially containing viruses. You must also type your name, as it appears on the course roster at the end of your message.

Please make sure you consult the course outline/syllabus, other handouts, and the course website **BEFORE** submitting inquiries by email.

When a question cannot be easily or briefly answered by email, your instructor will simply indicate that the student should see him, her, or the appropriate TA during office hours.

Email should **NOT** be seen as an alternative to meeting with your instructor or the TA during office hours. Nor should email be used as a mechanism to receive private tutorials (especially prior to tests) or to explain material that was covered in lectures you missed.

TIMELY SUBMISSION OF WORK

All assignments are due on the dates indicated in your syllabus. **No late work will be accepted in any UNST course.** Exceptions will be made only in cases of documented medical or family emergency or religious observance. Please notify your professor by email *before the assignment is due* should an acceptable absence occur. Employment, childcare or other academic pressures do not constitute a valid excuse for late work. There is no provision for additional papers or extra credit to substitute for missed course requirements.

OPEN DOOR POLICY

Each of your instructors maintains an open door policy. You are free to visit us during the posted office hours or, if you prefer a different time, arrange an appointment. If you are having a problem with the course, please contact your instructor immediately; problems, unlike fine wines, do not improve with age.

DISABILITIES AND DIFFERENCES

Students with documented learning disabilities or differences should identify themselves to their professor and present appropriate documentation during the first week of classes. No accommodations will be made later in the semester for students who do not identify themselves at the beginning of the course.

Students who need developmental support should ask their professors for extra help or referral. All students should seek the support services of the Writing Center (A-309 GCB; 334-7764) and the Center for Student Success (312 Hodgin Hall; 334-7855).

University Studies 130 Analytical Reasoning

Dates	<u>Outline of Topics to be Covered</u>	Readings
August 18	Introduction: Syllabus, Blackboard, Clickers Pretest	
August 20	Nat Turner	Confessions of Nat Turner
August 25	Nat Turner	Confessions of Nat Turner
August 27	Revenge	After Nat Turner: A Letter from the North
September 1	An Unjust System	David Walker, Preamble and Article I
September 3	An Unjust System	David Walker, Article II
September 7 Labor Day Holiday	<i>No Class</i>	No Class
September 8	Just War	Just War Theory: http://www.americancatholic.org/News/JustWar/justwar.asp
September 10	An Unjust System	David Walker
September 15	An Unjust System	David Walker Article III
September 17	An Unjust System	David Walker Article IV
September 22	Exam 1	Exam 1
September 24		Lincoln
September 29		Lincoln
October 1		Lincoln
October 6		Lincoln
October 8		Sayyid Qutb
October 13		Sayyid Qutb
October 15		Yusuf al-Qaradawi, http://lynch.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2009/07/09/qaradawis_revisions
October 19-20 Fall Break	<i>No Class</i> <i>Midterm Grades Due: October 22</i>	
October 22	Exam 2	Exam 2
October 27		Kasulis
October 29 Thursday Oct. 29 Fall Convocation Saturday October 31 Homecoming	<i>No Class: October 29 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM</i> <i>Homecoming</i>	Kasulis
November 3		Kasulis
November 5		Kasulis
November 10		Freud

November 12		Freud
November 17		Freud
November 19		Freud
November 24		Freud
November 25-27	<i>Thanksgiving Holidays</i>	No Classes
December 1		Review
December 3		Review
December 5	Reading Day	
December 7-11	December 9, 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM	Time and Date is not Negotiable: Please Make Arrangements

This syllabus is subject to revision as necessary at any time during the semester.

Exam Dates, Including the Final Exam, are not Negotiable: Please Make Arrangements

http://www.ncat.edu/~registra/fall_2009_exam_schedule.htm

This syllabus was revised 6-01-09

Fall 2009 Academic Calendar

August 12	Wednesday	Faculty Institute – Faculty Report
August 13	Thursday	Graduate Research And Teaching Assistant Training Residence Halls Open 9 AM - 3 PM For New Students Who Attended The New Student Orientation In June
August 14	Friday	Graduate Student Orientation Residence Halls Open 9 AM - 3 PM For New Student Who Did Not Attend The New Student Orientation In June
August 15	Saturday	Residence Halls Open 9 AM - 3 PM for Continuing Students
August 15-16	Saturday-Sunday	Welcome Program for New And Transfer Students
August 17	Monday	Classes Begin Late Registration Begins (\$50.00 Late Fee)
August 21	Friday	Last Day To Add Or Audit A Course Last Day To Drop And Receive Financial Credit Last Day To Receive Book Allowance Late Registration Ends (Includes Tuition Waivers)
September 4	Friday	Last Day To Apply For Fall 2009 Graduation (Undergraduate, Graduate and Doctoral Students)
September 7	Monday	University Holiday (Labor Day)
September 21	Monday	Deadline To Remove Incomplete(s) Received Spring And Summer 2009
September 28	Monday	Deadline To Apply For Certificate In Waste Management Deadline To Apply For Certificate In Entrepreneurship
October 12-16	Monday-Friday	Final Comprehensive Exam Week (Graduate Students)
October 19-20	Monday-Tuesday	Fall Break
October 21	Wednesday	Last Day to Defend Thesis/Dissertation
October 22	Thursday	Defended and Approved Thesis/Dissertation Due in Graduate School Office Mid-Term Grades Due
October 29	Thursday	Fall Convocation (Classed suspended 10 AM - 12 Noon)

October 30	Friday	Last Day to Withdraw from a Course without a Grade Evaluation
October 31	Saturday	Homecoming
November 2	Monday	Advisement and Registration For Spring and Summer 2010
November 6	Friday	Last Day To Withdraw from the University without a Grade Evaluation
November 23	Monday	Approved Printed Thesis/Dissertation Copies For Binding Due In The Graduate School Office
November 25-27	Wednesday-Friday	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 4	Friday	CLASSES END
December 5	Saturday	Reading Day
December 7-11	Monday-Friday	Final Exam Week
December 11	Friday	Waste Management Certificate Ceremony
December 12	Saturday	<p>Commencement</p> <p>Residence Halls Close for Non-graduating students at 12 noon</p> <p>Residence Halls close for graduating students at 5p.m.</p>
December 14	Monday	Final Grades are due

Fall 2009 Exam Schedule

Class Time and Day		Day of Examination	Time of Examination	
8:00 AM	MWF	Monday	December 7	8:00 AM - 10:00 AM
9:00 AM	MWF	Tuesday	December 8	8:00 AM - 10:00 AM
10:00 AM	MWF	Wednesday	December 9	8:00 AM - 10:00 AM
11:00 AM	MWF	Thursday	December 10	8:00 AM - 10:00 AM
12 Noon	MWF	Friday	December 11	8:00 AM - 10:00 AM
1:00 PM	MWF	Monday	December 7	10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
2:00 PM	MWF	Tuesday	December 8	10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
3:00 PM	MWF	Wednesday	December 9	10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
4:00 PM	MWF	Thursday	December 10	10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
5:00 PM	MWF	Friday	December 11	10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
6:00 PM	MWF	Monday	December 7	6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
7:30 AM	TR	Wednesday	December 9	6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
8:00 AM	TR	Monday	December 7	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
9:00 AM	TR	Tuesday	December 8	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
10:00 AM	TR	Wednesday	December 9	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
11:00 AM	TR	Thursday	December 10	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
12 Noon	TR	Friday	December 11	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
1:00 PM	TR	Monday	December 7	3:30 PM - 5:30 PM
2:00 PM	TR	Tuesday	December 8	3:30 PM - 5:30 PM
3:00 PM	TR	Wednesday	December 9	3:30 PM - 5:30 PM
4:00 PM	TR	Thursday	December 10	3:30 PM - 5:30 PM
5:00 PM	TR	Friday	December 11	3:30 PM - 5:30 PM
6:00 PM	TR	Tuesday	December 8	6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

1. Classes that meet on the half hour are to use the earlier hour for the purpose of determining time of examination.
2. Night classes meeting in three-hour blocks of time will have their final exam the regular meeting night during exam week.
3. All examinations will be held in the regular classroom, unless notified by the instructor.
4. All common examinations will be announced by the instructor. For the purpose of one common exam, the time of 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM on Thursday and Friday may be used.