

# NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY

## UNST 100: University Experience Spring 2008

Instructor:  
Office:  
Office Hours:

Email:  
Phone:  
Fax:

### **Course Description**

This course will emphasize the role the UNST program and present a broad overview of the curriculum structure and rationale, including an introduction to a variety of interdisciplinary themes within the UNST program. Introductory discussions on critical thinking, communication skills, ethics, diversity, civic engagement, and globalization will be included.

The course will also provide students with an introduction to study skills, career exploration, University policies and procedures, as well as University support services. Students should leave the course with an appreciation of how to successfully cope with the demands of college, to overcome the challenges of college life, and to take advantage of opportunities at the University.

### **Required Text**

Amos, L. (2007). *The successful student's guide to college, NCATSU custom version*. Littleton, MA: Tapestry Press.

### **Learning Outcomes**

#### Multicultural Relations Within a Global Society

10. Interact effectively with people from diverse cultures.

#### Ethics and Social Responsibility

14. Understand and apply ethical reasoning principles to resolve moral, social, and professional issues.

#### Health, Lifestyles, and Behavior

16. Understand and promote principles of wellness that include nutrition, exercise, avoidance of mind-altering chemicals, development of healthy relationships, and personal growth.

17. Recognize behaviors that place individuals, families, and communities at risk.

Additional Learning Objectives: After working through our readings and completing our scheduled tasks, you will be able to

- Describe the UNST Program curriculum structure and rationale, explaining how these relate to critical thinking, interdisciplinary inquiry, and potential professional careers.
- Explain the meaning of diversity and civic engagement in the context of the university.
- Demonstrate knowledge of policies and practices of academic integrity, as well as appropriate academic behavior in various campus contexts using the Aggie Pride Compact as a benchmark.
- Evaluate effective study skills, time management, and test-taking practices.
- Evaluate effective use of information technology, as well as be familiar with the use of Blackboard Learning systems, the campus website, email, and Aggie Access on-line.

### **Course Requirements**

University Studies is a bold, new approach to general education. Until now, general education utilized distribution requirements, which asked students to choose fairly and 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. Given that, 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 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 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 in a dynamic and complex world.

### **Academic Integrity**

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.

### **Attendance**

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. ***Doors to the classroom will be closed ten minutes after class begins. Students arriving after that point will have been marked absent.***

### **Students having four unexcused absences will automatically receive an "F" for the course.**

Attendance is absolutely essential to be successful in this course. It is strongly suggested that students see their instructor after a third unexcused absence to make a plan to successfully complete the course. 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 your course schedule is such that you could be consistently late (i.e. walking from one end of the campus to the other), you should consider dropping the course or rescheduling during a better time slot. 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.

You are responsible for all assignments whether you are present or not. Appropriate documentation for an excused absence must be provided to the instructor within one week of any missed classes.

Student athletes must submit a schedule of days they will be absent within the first week of classes.

### **Student Athletes (and other school group participants)**

Students participating in school athletics 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 group work. Student-athletes should identify themselves to their instructors, submit a schedule of days you will miss class as well as the name and contact information for

their coach within the first week of classes. The University Studies Department will follow the Department of Athletics Class attendance policy, which states:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Unexcused Absence: The student-athlete's coach will be notified.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Unexcused Absence: Mr. Wheeler Brown, Interim Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, will be notified. The student athlete will be required to have a conference with Mr. Brown or his designee.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Unexcused Absence: The student athlete's scholarship is subject to non-renewal.

### **Aggie Pride & Academic Integrity :**

Students will conduct themselves according to the ethical and behavioral principles of the Aggie Pride Compact, which calls on students to develop intellectual curiosity about a subject by adhering to the following principles and practices:

- (A) Study: active listening in class and taking good lecture notes; reading all assignments and good notes on the reading; reviewing notes for quizzes, exams; intellectual rigor
- (B) Collaboration: working effectively in small groups (teamwork), being accountable, sharing information, finding consensus among diverse viewpoints
- (C) Scholastic honesty: Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated, and the penalties are severe. We will follow university policies with regard to this matter. See the NCA&TSU Student Handbook at <http://www.ncat.edu/~acdaffrs/academicdishonestypolicy.htm>.

It reads as follows:

### **ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY**

“North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University is committed to a policy of academic honesty for all students. Examples of Academic Dishonesty include but are not limited to:

- Cheating or knowingly assisting another student in committing an act of academic dishonesty;
- Plagiarism (unauthorized use of another person's words or ideas as one's own) which includes but is not necessarily limited to submitting examinations, theses, reports, drawings, laboratory notes or other materials as one's own work when such work has been prepared by another person or copied from another person.
- Unauthorized possession of examinations or reserve library materials, destruction or hiding of source materials, library materials, or laboratory materials or experiments or any other similar action;
- Unauthorized changing of grades or marking on an examination or in an instructor's grade book, or such change of any grade record;
- Aiding or abetting in the infraction of any of the provisions anticipated under the general standards of student conduct; or
- Assisting another student in violating any of the above rules.

A student who has committed an act of academic dishonesty has failed to meet a basic requirement of satisfactory academic performance. Thus, academic dishonesty is not only a basis for disciplinary action but must also affect the evaluation of the student's level of performance. Any student who commits an act of academic dishonesty is subject to disciplinary action as defined below.

### **Course Materials**

#### **Required Text**

University Experience 100: 2007-2008 (2007). C. Jacobs, R. Artis, et al., eds. Littleton, MA: Tapestry Press.

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: The Course Website**

Learning to use Blackboard technology skillfully is an important objective for this course. To insure success, students must develop a level of basic mastery of its e-learning component. Students will be personally responsible for accessing and using Blackboard.

## **Required Material**

One three-ring binder notebook, at least one inch (1”) in size.

## **Clickers**

Sharing of clickers is never appropriate and constitutes academic dishonesty. If you lose your clicker you are required to purchase another from the bookstore at full price.

## **Educational Etiquette**

**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). Students will be respectful of their professor and colleagues. Any behavior that distracts (e.g., eating, talking while others are talking, etc.) or is disrespectful (e.g., 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.

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

## **Submitting Written Assignments**

All written assignments in UNST courses will be turned in electronically via **turnitin.com**. Access to this web site will be given to you by the instructor. Turnitin compares your writing with virtually every reference that exists on the Internet, as well as a bank of student papers that has been submitted from all over the world. Its purpose is to help students learn the difference between proper citation and quotation of other authors' work and plagiarism (copying others writing without citation). Students who do not own a PC will submit their work via one of the computer labs on campus.

The URL for turnitin.com is: <http://www.turnitin.org/static/home.html>

You will go there and create a user profile using the following information:

<b>class ID:</b>	To be supplied
<b>password</b>	To be supplied

## **Timely Submission of Work**

All assignments are due on the dates indicated in your syllabus. **No late work will be accepted in any UNST courses.** 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, child care 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.

## **Email Policy**

Instructors will reply to student email within 48 hours, Monday through Friday only. In order to insure a reply, students **must** use NCAT email accounts. Each email message must include the course number and section as well as a concise and clear statement of purpose in the subject line (e.g., UNST 100.04: Death

in Family). You must type your name, as it appears on the course roster, at the end of your message. All messages must be conveyed using standard English.

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

When a question cannot be easily or briefly answered by email, please come see me during my office hours, as listed on the syllabus.

Email Examples:

\_\_\_\_\_ Professional:

Dear Professor X:

My name is Student Z in section Y of UNST 100. I have a question about this week's readings. I have consulted the syllabus, Blackboard, and my classmates, but am still unsure which chapter we should read for next week. Could you please clarify the assignment?

Thank you,  
Student Z

\_\_\_\_\_ Unprofessional:

What's the homework?

### **Blackboard: The Course Website**

Learning to use Blackboard technology skillfully is a key element for success in your coursework.. Students must develop a basic mastery of its e-learning component. Students are personally responsible for accessing and using Blackboard.

Check your course Blackboard site daily for new information! You must establish Blackboard at the start of the semester, using your Aggie Email username and password.

You must resolve any A&T Email and Blackboard issues by exercising due diligence on your own. Call or visit the Aggie Help Desk at (336) 334-7195 (basement of Bluford Library) when you have any technical problems. For Aggie Email Accounts go to <http://www.ncat.edu/accounts/request.php>

### **Disabilities and Differences**

The Office of Disability Support Services operates as an integral part of the Division of Student Affairs at North Carolina A&T State University. The scope of the services offered are essential to our students' total development as they matriculate at the University. The basic philosophy of the Office reflects an attitude of human worth, value and ability in all persons. Thus, the mission is that of providing the necessary services and aid for the comprehensive development of the students served. Students with documented disability and who are registered with the Office have access to services such as: Personal, career and academic counseling, testing accommodations, note takers/scribes, assistive listening devices, use of tape recorders (2 and 4 track), accessible housing, classroom and program accessibility, assistance with textbooks on tape, and assistance with the registration process (This is only a partial listing of services available). Services are fashioned in response to individual student disability and need. Accommodations and academic adjustments must be requested by students. Office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday. For additional information, please contact Peggy Oliphant, Veteran and Disability Support Services, Room 005 Murphy Hall, 336.334.7765 or email her at [oliphant@ncat.edu](mailto:oliphant@ncat.edu).

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

Students who need developmental support should speak with their professors. All students should seek the support services of the Writing Center (A-309 General Classroom Building) and the Center for Student Success (312 Hodgin Hall).

**Academic Advisement Sessions**

To satisfy the requirements for this course, you are to schedule a minimum of three (3) advisement sessions with your Academic Counselor/Advisor.

**Assessment**

This course will be graded on a letter grade basis. Your grade will be determined according to the following evaluation criteria:

1. Class Activities (homework, in-class assignments, quizzes)	70 pts.
2. Three Individualized Sessions with Academic Advisor	30 pts.
3. Attendance/Participation	100 pts.
4. Exams (Midterm/Final)	<u>200 pts.</u>
	Total
	400 pts.

***Final Points***

360 – 400	A
320 – 359	B
280 – 319	C
240 – 279	D
Below 239	F