



UWG 1101 The First-Year University Experience

Days and Times: Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:50-9:40 a.m.

Meeting Place: Center Pointe Suites MPR

Instructor: Duane Theobald	E-mail: dtheobal@westga.edu **Please use this email address for official course communication (rather than Course Den).**
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Office Hours: By appointment only.	

Course Description

UWG 1101 is designed to help students succeed at West Georgia: succeed academically as well as personally and socially. The fundamental focus of the class is to provide an understanding of the basic structure of critical thinking and of academic disciplines in order to increase learning in the university classroom. In addition, the course will provide an overview of resources, which will help to ensure student success in the university classroom. Furthermore, UWG 1101 provides students with essential information about the University as a whole, its rules, procedures, and resources. UWG 1101 classes include subjects that cut across the academic and nonacademic lines of school; these subjects include time management, college student skills, and computer and portal skills. Students are required to attend class and to interact with their instructors and classmates. While students must take responsibility for their own learning, the course attempts to support and enhance that responsibility by making the class a learning community within the University.

Course Objectives

- To promote for first-year students a positive transition, adjustment, and assimilation into the University
- To help students learn to balance their freedom with a sense of responsibility as part of the process of enhancing self-knowledge and self-confidence
- To develop a network of colleagues
- To involve students in the total life of the University
- To reduce student anxiety about written and oral communication
- To enhance college-level and analytical reading and provide supplemental practice in applying the knowledge students gain in other first-year courses. Journaling will play an important role in achieving this objective.
- To provide students additional training, practice, experience, and knowledge in the following skill areas: decision-making, goal setting, planning, time management, and
- teamwork

Learning Outcomes

- Students will identify and utilize a set of adaptive study, coping, critical thinking, logical problem solving, and other academic/personal/social success skills;
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of some of the most typical pedagogical strategies of their professors' teaching and presentation styles;

- Students will identify and understand their own personal learning style and how to best adapt to different instructional strategies in the classroom;
- Students will demonstrate their understanding of the function of a mentor and how to go about finding one;
- Students will summarize basic information about UWG: its purposes, organization, rules and regulations, people, services, resources, and opportunities for student development;
- Students will utilize the following resources available to them at UWG: the Library, the Center for Academic Success, and the Health Center; students will also identify the location and function of other important offices on campus, such as the Center for Student Involvement, the University Writing Center, the Mathematics Tutoring Center, and the Career Services Office and the Counseling Center
- Students will identify some of the major health and wellness issues for students;
- Students will document their personal goals for careers and academic majors and their plans for achieving these goals;
- Students will demonstrate basic skills in computer literacy through activities involving the use of e-mail and the Internet;
- Students will demonstrate personal responsibility and self-direction regarding their education;
- Students will identify the benefits of a college degree;
- Students will identify and demonstrate an appreciation of the value of diversity and of a liberal arts perspective in their education;
- Students will identify elements of democratic structures within which they will be civically engaged on the UWG campus, in the larger community and in the State of Georgia;
- Students will examine and discuss ways in which UWG students, faculty, and staff identify, prioritize and debate issues in ways that allow and support the principles of civic engagement and democracy.

Text, Readings and Instructional Resources

A. The Navigator: Your Guide West

B. Other readings as assigned (via CourseDen and in-class)

Expectations, Evaluation Procedures, and Grading Policy

Expectations: You are expected to arrive *on-time* to each class meeting having read the assigned portions of the text and be prepared to actively participate in class activities and discussions. If you miss class regularly and/or are late, you are likely to miss important information and in-class graded assignments (which cannot be made up).

Assessment — Course assignments will be weighted as follows:

Assignment	Percentage of Overall Grade
Attendance & Participation	15%
Daily Assignments (includes Quizzes, Discussion Posts, In-Class Activities, etc.)	20%
Explore UWG	5%

One-On-One Meeting	10%
Sustainability Module	5%
Campus Engagement Reflections	20%
Final Project (breakdown below):	25%
---Proposal (5%)	
---Annotated Bibliography (5%)	
---Final Project Product (15%)	
Total	100%

Assignments:

Attendance & Participation: This should be the easiest portion of your grade to earn. First, show-up to class and do so on-time. Do note that excessive tardiness and/or absences will negatively affect your grade. Participation occurs when you come to class prepared to discuss the day's readings, topics, etc. Your presence and contributions matter a great deal and can make the class extremely productive or lackluster—should you not prepare. Note that you'll receive two (2) attendance grades and two (2) participation grades—one a piece at midterm and one a piece at the end of the semester.

Daily Assignments: Daily assignments are comprised of quizzes, homework, in-class activities, and online discussion posts we complete during the course of the class. Always do your best to complete all assignments and follow instructions; however, do recognize that there will be quite a few of these grades taken. Doing poorly on one will not devastate your grade. Not showing-up to class regularly and missing several daily grades will lower your grade here.

Explore UWG: This activity will have you engaging with the campus community and resources therein. See instructions in CourseDen for more information (including the due date).

One-on-One Meeting: You will be required to schedule a one-on-one meeting with me during the course of the semester. This meeting will need to be held during the scheduled week for one-on-ones (located in the "Course Schedule" below). You are responsible for reaching out and scheduling the one-on-one meeting with me and can do so by emailing me (dtheobal@westga.edu).

Sustainability Module: This online module will be provided inside our course in CourseDen. Simply complete all of the readings and accompanying assignment, and then we'll have a follow-up discussion regarding the module's content in class.

Campus Engagement Reflections: You will have to attend **two campus events (different from those in the I-20 Passport)** during the semester, and write a thorough 1-page summary and reflection about each of them. Please choose two **different** types of events to attend (detailed below):

- *Academic* — a program about how to be a better student, a speaker sponsored by an academic department on campus, an academic discussion of current events.
- *Academic Support* – participate in a tutoring, academic peer coaching, supplemental instruction, or writing center session.

- *Social, entertainment, or service* — an event sponsored by a student organization, the Center for Student Involvement, University Recreation, an athletic event, or a campus service project, etc.
- *Cultural* — a film screening, a play, musical performance, art exhibit, etc.

Final Project: This will serve as the culminating assignment for the semester. What I'm asking you to do here is to look back on your first semester, consider everything you've learned and experienced, and pick **one** aspect of your university experience so far that has impacted you the most. This one aspect can be attending tutorials at a campus tutoring center, joining a club, a meaningful class you've taken, etc. Within this final project, you'll turn-in the following:

- **Proposal:** Prior to starting the research and writing process, you'll turn-in a **one-paragraph proposal** that outlines what aspect of college life you'll be exploring and how you'll be structuring your discussion or exploration of said aspect. This proposal will serve as a "snapshot" for you and me of what you'll present in your final paper.
- **Annotated Bibliography:** As you progress in your college career, you'll have to grapple with finding and utilizing secondary sources. Here, I'll be asking you to do just that (but in a much smaller sense). You'll find **at least one (1) secondary source** and complete an annotated bibliography entry for it. More details and examples will be coming in class.
- **Final Project Product:** Here is where you put everything together. You'll produce a final project product (blog post, listicle, podcast, video, piece of artwork, or something else entirely) in which you present the aspect of college life that has been meaningful to you and why it has been so impactful. You also want to present why this certain aspect of college life would be useful for students who will come to UWG after you. You will need to be sure to utilize your one (1) secondary source here in some capacity; however, the medium in which you deliver this final product is completely up to you!

Grading Scale

A = 90 - 100

B = 80 - 89.5

C = 70 - 79.5

D = 60 - 69.5

F = BELOW 60

Evaluation of Assignments – All assignments will be assessed on three basic criteria:

- 1) **Successful Completion:** I will look to see that you have done the work that was assigned and that you answered all aspects of the assignment.
- 2) **Thoughtful Consideration:** I will read & examine your submission to determine whether you took the assignment seriously and applied critical thinking and logical reasoning to it.
- 3) **Professionalism:** I will look to see whether you proofread your work, took the assignment seriously, and handed it in on time.

Extra Credit

Extra credit will be offered at the discretion of the instructor. These opportunities to earn bonus points will be offered at various points in the semester to the class as a whole. The instructor will not make special arrangements for individuals to earn bonus points.

Punctuality and Consideration for Others – Like most instructors, I expect you to participate professionally in this course, which means considering the effect that your behavior will have on your classmates, presenters, and other people in the UWG community.

- Please come to class on time, and do not leave early. If you must come to class late, enter as quietly as possible to avoid disrupting class. Be aware that if tardiness persists, points will be deducted from your “Attendance & Participation” grade at the discretion of the instructor. However, a discussion between you and I will occur prior to any action being taken.
- Turn off or silence cell phones, and do not use them in class.
- Please be sensitive of the perspectives of your classmates. Vigorous discussions about relevant, contemporary issues may arise; when this happens, I expect you to show respect to one another and not belittle the opinions of others. I completely recognize that you may disagree with me and with one another, but please do so in a respectful manner.
- Turn in assignments on time. As a general rule, late assignments result in the deduction of one letter grade per day; therefore, after an assignment is ten (10) days late, there is no need to turn in the assignment. I do understand, however, that life happens. In this case, simply communicate with me, and we’ll work something out.

Academic Honesty Policy — At UWG, we take academic honesty very seriously. Plagiarism of any sort will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is the use of someone else’s ideas or words as your own. This definition includes copying another student’s exam or assignment, as well as using material from a book, article or internet site without acknowledging the source. If you plagiarize any part of an assignment for this course, you will receive a zero for the entire assignment, and disciplinary action may be taken.

Special Needs – If you have any special needs associated with a disability, please make me aware so we may make the necessary accommodations that will allow you to be successful in the course.

Course Schedule – Here is a schedule of topics, along with assigned readings from your textbook. It is an accurate projection of the course at the time of printing. However, it is sometimes necessary to make changes in course content based on student needs, time constraints, or other factors. I will update this schedule as needed throughout the term, so come to class and be attentive. You will be responsible for any changes announced in advance.

Course Schedule

Schedule:

Week	Monday	Wednesday	Assignments Due
1 – 8/7, 8/9 Introduction	No class	Introductions & Syllabus Discussion: “What is a College Student?”	None
2 – 8/14, 8/16 Why College?/How College?	Discussion: Why College?; In-Class Reflections	How College?: Syllabus 101 & Expectations of Your Professors	M: Discussion Post #1 W: Replies to Discussion Post #1
3 – 8/21, 8/23 Academic Success	Guest Speaker: Center for Academic Success; Brief Presentation About Writing Center	Quiz: Chp. 3 & Speaker; Taking Notes & Annotating Texts (Discussion/Activity)	W: Ch. 3 reading

4 – 8/28, 8/30 Time Management	Discussion: How To Make Time For...; Receive “Where Has My Time Gone?” Activity	Quiz: Chp. 8; “Visualizing Time Management” Group Activity; Discuss Campus Engagement Reflections	M: Discussion Post #2 W: Replies to Discussion Post #2
5 – 9/4, 9/6 Check-In	No class (Labor Day)	Check-in/Discussion: First Month of College; Decide on Flex Day topic.	W: “Where Has My Time Gone?” Due
6 – 9/11, 9/13 Flex Day/Advising	Flex Day	Guest Speaker: Advising Center	M: Explore UWG (due in CourseDen by noon) W: Campus Engagement Reflection #1 (due on CourseDen by noon)
7 – 9/18, 9/20 Research	Field Trip – Library; Complete Library Assignment.	Intro. to Galileo, MLA, & Basic Annotated Bibliography info.	M: Discussion Post #3 W: Replies to Discussion Post #3 & Library Assignment Due
8 – 9/25, 9/27 One-on-ones	No class (one-on-ones)	No class (one-on-ones)	Be prepared to discuss Final Project ideas when we meet!
9 – 10/2, 10/4 Careers/Majors	Guest Speaker: Career Services	Quiz: Chp. 5 & Speaker “Values Exploration” Activity	M: Discussion Post #4 W: Chp. 5 reading & Replies to Discussion Post #4
10 – 10/9, 10/11 Diversity & Inclusion	“Privilege for Sale” Activity	Addressing Difficult Topics in Conversation: In-Class Viewing of “Gender” (from <i>The Carmichael Show</i>)	M: Discussion Post #5 W: Replies to Discussion Post #5
11 – 10/16, 10/18 Sustainability	No class. Complete sustainability module on CourseDen.	Sustainability Activity & Discussion; Discuss Final Project Details	W: Sustainability module due before class on Wednesday (on CourseDen)

12 – 10/23, 10/25 Finding Balance in Your College Life	Discussion: Considering School- Life & Work-Life Balance; In-Class Viewing of <i>Inner Workings</i> (Disney short)	Quiz: Chp. 2; Join the Pack: Getting Involved through Center for Student Involvement	M: Discussion Post #6 W: Chp. 2 Reading & Replies to Discussion Post #6
13 – 10/30, 11/1 Money/Budgeting	Guest Speaker: Financial Aid	Quiz: Chp. 7 & Speaker Budgeting Activity	M: Discussion Post #7 W: Chp. 7 Reading & Replies to Discussion Post #7
14 – 11/6, 11/8 Check-In/Projects	Final Project Brainstorming (& Review of Steps in Project Process); Decide on Flex Day topic.	Flex Day	M: Campus Engagement Reflection #2 (due on CourseDen by noon) W: Proposal (for Final Project) (due to CourseDen by noon)
15 – 11/13, 11/15 Service Learning	Quiz: Chp. 10 & Discussion; Distribute Service Learning Activity	In-Class Viewing: Natalie Warne (TED Talk) & Discussion	M: Ch. 10 reading W: Service Learning Activity & Annotated Bibliography Entry (for Final Project) (due to CourseDen by noon)
16 – 11/20, 11/22 Thanksgiving Break	No class	No class	
17 – 11/27, 11/29 Wrapping-Up	Semester Wrap-Up: “What Have You Learned?” Discussion/Sharing; Course Evaluations	No class, but Optional One-on-One meetings (for Final Project) available—email me to set one up!	
Finals Week 12/4-12/8	Final Project Product due **Turn-in either via CourseDen OR in- person to my office by 4 p.m.		Final Project Product due.