

# UNI 201-004 – Transfer Seminar

## Fall 2014 Syllabus

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**Class Meets:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30pm - 4:45pm (Aug 21 – Dec 11) FR 2052 (unless otherwise noted)

**Instructor:** Reed T. Curtis  
Department: University College  
Office Hours: by appointment  
Email: [curtistr@uncw.edu](mailto:curtistr@uncw.edu)

**Peer Mentor:** Sammy Seahawk  
**Major:** History  
Email:

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*I reserve the right as an instructor to make adjustments to the course schedule and grading policy as needed. Students will be informed of changes in advance.*

### **Course Description:**

Seminar course designed to support transfer students in transitioning to campus and optimizing their UNCW experience. Critical thinking, informational literacy skills, discussion, and group collaboration are emphasized as students focus on issues often important to transfer student success and college success in general – academic strategies, campus resources, campus policies and procedures, major and career planning, conducting research, involvement and engagement, financial literacy, goal setting, and progress towards graduation.

### **Learning Goals and Outcomes:**

- 1 Students will demonstrate an understanding of and participate in the powerful learning experience of higher education at UNCW.**
  - 1.1 Demonstrating skills in critical thinking, study skills, time management, and project management.
  - 1.2 Recognizing, locating, and using university support services and resources necessary for a successful higher educational experience.
  - 1.3 Communicating and building relationships with faculty and staff.
- 2 Students will evaluate their transition into, anticipate their path through, and plan for their career after UNCW.**
  - 2.1 Describing student development theory related to transfer student transitions.
  - 2.2 Evaluating their personal, academic, and social transitions to UNCW and the factors that shape their experience.
  - 2.3 Creating a comprehensive academic plan using personal goals, UNCW major and minor requirements, and professional objectives.
  - 2.4 Researching careers and developing a career plan that includes a cover letter and résumé.
- 3 Students will understand and illustrate information literacy.**
  - 3.1 Determining the nature and extent of information needed to answer research questions, explore majors and careers, and conduct a literature review.
  - 3.2 Locating and using information from a variety of sources, including online tools and UNCW technologies to produce effective and efficient research.
  - 3.3 Critically evaluating and selecting credible sources of information to strengthen their knowledge base and research papers.
  - 3.4 Accessing, evaluating, and utilizing online academic, curricular, and career resources to evaluate and develop an effective academic and career plan.
  - 3.5 Understanding many of the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the access and use of information, and using information ethically and legally.
- 4 Students will strengthen writing skills by creating a research and reflection based Transfer Portfolio which includes an incremental draft process.**
  - 4.1 Using evidence to generalize, explain, critically write about, and interpret content related to student development theory, academic exploration, and career development.
  - 4.2 Consulting with and receiving feedback from the writing center, professors, and classmates in order to improve written work during the writing process (brainstorming, outlining, drafting, and revising).
  - 4.3 Accurately documenting research using the citation style most commonly used in their major.
  - 4.4 Evaluating claims, arguments, and theories presented in course materials.
- 5 Students will demonstrate self-knowledge and appreciate the value of human differences.**
  - 5.1 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.
  - 5.2 Formulating knowledge of and respect for offices and student organizations that cater to various diverse groups on campus.
- 6 Students will demonstrate and understand dimensions of health and wealth.**
  - 6.1 Evaluating personal wellness and identifying the health risks that are relevant for college students.
  - 6.2 Understanding financial challenges that are relevant for college students and utilizing financial literacy strategies.

### **Required Texts:**

- Weir, Susan B. (2008). *Transitions: A Guide for the Transfer Student*. Boston, MA: Wadsworth.
- Cline, Ernest. (2011). *Ready Player One*. New York, NY: Broadway Books.
- UNCW Career Center. (2013) *Career Planning Guide 2013-2014*. Wilmington, NC: UNCW. Access for free here: <http://uncw.edu/career/documents/careerguide.pdf>
- Rath, Tom. (2007) *Strengths Finder 2.0*. New York, NY: Gallup Press.

### **Course and Classroom Expectations**

- Comply with the standards of the UNCW Academic Honor Code as outlined in section 1 of the UNCW Code of Student Life.
- 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 in complete and on time. All work must be turned professionally (all major work must be typed, printed, and stapled). **NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED!**
- All work for this course must be original; papers written for other courses are not appropriate and a penalty will be assessed for submission of a “recycled” paper.
- Cell phones should be silenced and students are not to make calls, access applications or text during class. Laptops and other forms of technology are not allowed unless the activity warrants and instructor approves. Students who use devices during class will be asked to leave and will be counted absent.
- No electronic devices may be used while in class unless given permission from instructor.
- Be respectful of each other and the instructors while in class. We are all here to learn. You are encouraged to share your ideas and express your opinion in class, while also respecting other’s opinions and values.
- If you choose to eat or drink during class, please do not be disruptive and make sure to maintain a clean classroom by disposing of trash properly. If eating/drinking becomes distracting to the instructor or your classmates, you will be asked to put the food or drink away.
- Tobacco and alcohol products are prohibited. Electronic cigarettes are not allowed to be used in class.
- Disruptive and/or disrespectful behavior may result in your referral to the Office of the Dean of Students.
- The instructor will only speak to you about your grades and participation in UNI 201. Parents, siblings, partners, etc. will not be notified of your progress and they should not reach out to the instructor. If you have a concern about UNI 201, please speak to the instructor directly.

### **Information Literacy and Writing Intensive Competency**

Students who successfully complete this course will fulfill three credit hours of Information Literacy and three credit hours of Writing Intensive competency requirements. Students at UNCW are required to fulfill nine credit hours of each of these competencies. This course challenges transfer students to develop and strengthen the critical thinking skills required to effectively evaluate information. Further, this course challenges transfer students to develop and strengthen their writing skills in order to effectively communicate thoughtful arguments through various forms of written work. The assignments, activities, and assessments throughout the course will help you build these two important competencies that are required for your success at UNCW and in the workplace.

### **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. You are expected to strictly adhere to the Academic Honor Code, outlined in Section 1 of the UNCW Code of Student Life.

### **Technology Component and Blackboard**

This course will rely heavily on the use of the Internet, email, and Blackboard. All students must have regular access to:

- Internet access (computers are available at the library, residence halls, and other areas on campus)
- Printer
- An updated version of Microsoft Word
- UNCW email – Emails will and should be sent through UNCW accounts.
- Blackboard – <http://learn.uncw.edu> - Blackboard will be an integral part of this course. The syllabus, announcements, additional readings, and other course materials will be posted to Blackboard. Students will also submit journals and participate in discussion boards via this online tool. Students should access BB daily.

We all know technology causes complications sometimes. Therefore, it is your responsibility to prepare in advance. UNCW has numerous computer labs that you can access if your computer crashes, and printers are available across campus if your printer isn't working. Contact TAC with questions or concerns about technology issues and password errors. Also, it is wise to save your work in two places.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Attendance & Participation Policy**

You are expected to be in class and on time every day. Because of the seminar format, the success of our class depends on the participation of each student. If you are out for any reason, you are fully responsible for all material covered in class and any assignments or announcements you missed.

Missing more than 3 classes will result in your final grade being lowered up to a letter grade for each additional class missed. Two tardies will equate to one class absence. All scheduled outside events are mandatory, unless arrangements are made with your instructor prior to the event.

### **Quizzes/Exams/Class Activities**

Both quizzes and exams will include material covered in class, out-of-class assignments/events, and textbook information. You will also be graded on activities completed in and for class. If you are absent, this work may NOT be made up later, unless otherwise approved in advance.

### **Journals**

Your journal entries are intended to be an avenue for expression on your new experiences here at UNCW and an assignment to help you further understand/explore course topics. It is your opportunity to critically analyze and share your reactions. Journal entries are confidential; what you write is only between you, your instructor(s), and your Peer Mentor unless you choose to give permission to share or there is a threat to yourself or someone else. Journals should be between 300-450 words in length and are to be posted on Blackboard. They will be graded with respect to the seriousness and honesty with which you approach the exercise, your critical analysis of issues, and your writing style. Proper spelling and grammar is expected. Writing skill progression will be assessed each week based off your ability to adapt your writing style to address previous journal feedback. *Unless otherwise noted, these journal entries will be due every Sunday at 9pm within Blackboard. You should submit the journal entries within the Blackboard entry area, please do not attach a journal document unless asked to.*

### **Campus Involvement/Events**

Much of learning in college comes from experiences outside of the classroom. The event assignment in this Transfer Seminar encourages students to explore a variety of learning opportunities on campus, to engage with the campus community, and to broaden their academic experiences. In contrast to the journals, the event reflections are not confidential and are set up on Blackboard as a blog so that the class can share and learn from their experiences and those of others. Each student in this class is required to attend 5 campus events outside of class over the 15 weeks of the semester.

### **Event Category Requirements:**

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|---------------------|---|
| <b>Category I</b>   | At least two events from the following categories:<br>Performing Arts, Cultural Arts, Multi-cultural/Diversity, Academic Lecture, Synergy Events.   |
| <b>Category II</b>  | At least two events from the following categories: Athletic event (limit 1), Community Service, Learning Services Workshop, Career Services Workshop, Library Workshop, Study Abroad Information Session, Health Promotions Presentation, CARE Film Series Presentation, Technology Training Session. |
| <b>Category III</b> | One meeting of an on-campus student organization that you are not already a member of.  |

### **Due Dates:**

To encourage students to engage outside of the classroom during the length of this course, participation in the 5 required events will be spread over the 15 weeks period. Students must attend at least 1 event every 5 weeks.

### **Event Reflection Requirement:**

For each event, you will post an event reflection (275-300 words) on Blackboard. The response should include (1) the title and date of the event with a brief description and (2) your impression of and reflection of the event (your thoughts, what interested you, how was it meaningful or valuable, etc.). Your reflection must be posted within a week following each event. Reflections posted later than a week after the event will not earn points.

### **Group Project**

The group project will give you the opportunity to collaborate with your peers in developing a project that will be presented to the class. Each project will include the following components:

- Audiovisual Product: Power Point, DVD, Poster, Other (with prior approval only)
- Oral presentation: 15-20 minutes involving EACH member of the group
- Group paper: 2-3 pages, summarizing the content of your project and the group process, and including at least three scholarly references
- Peer evaluation of each member of the group

### Transfer Portfolio

The portfolio will give you the opportunity to evaluate your transition to UNCW, explore your academic and career interests, conduct scholarly research, and make effective written arguments utilizing your research findings. The project will require you to effectively participate in an active writing process. You will brainstorm, produce multiple drafts, receive feedback from the Writing Center, your peers, and your instructor(s), and make edits prior to final submission. Full details and requirements of the assignment will be given to you early in the semester.

Several aspects of the portfolio assignment are:

- Interviewing a current faculty member in your chosen major.
- Researching the field in which you plan to/are studying in.
- Reviewing and citing scholarly research articles from the field.
- Writing a paper using the interview, research, and scholarly articles you have obtained.
- Working with the instructor, peers, and the writing center to make appropriate edits through multiple draft iterations.
- Developing 1) an academic plan at UNCW and 2) a career plan for after graduation.
- Presenting your findings to the class.

### Course Grade Breakdown

Participation	10%	100 points
Group Project	10%	100 points
Journals	20%	200 points
Quizzes	20%	200 points
Campus Involvement/Events	15%	150 points
Portfolio	25%	<u>250 points</u>
		1,000 total possible points

<u>Course Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Course Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Course Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>
A	950-1000	B-	800-829	D+	670-699
A-	900-949	C+	770-799	D	630-669
B+	870-899	C	730-769	D-	600-629
B	830-869	C-	700-729	F	590 or below

### Students with Disabilities:

If you are a student with a disability and need accommodations, you must be registered with Disability Services (DePaolo Hall, 962-3746). Please provide your Accommodation Letter within the first week of class or as soon as possible. You should then meet with your instructor to make mutually agreed upon arrangements based upon the recommendations in the Accommodations Letter.

### Seahawk Respect Compact

In the pursuit of excellence, UNC Wilmington actively fosters, encourages, and promotes inclusiveness, mutual respect, acceptance, and open mindedness among students, faculty, staff, and the broader community.

- We affirm the dignity of all persons.
- We promote the right of every person to participate in the free exchange of thoughts and opinions within a climate of civility and mutual respect.
- We strive for openness and mutual understanding to learn from differences in people, ideas, and opinions.
- We foster an environment of respect for each individual where differences are celebrated by the elimination of prejudice and discrimination through education and interaction with others.

### 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 the 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.

### **Sexual Misconduct and Harassment Policy**

UNCW takes all forms of sexual harassment and sexual misconduct very seriously. When students disclose, first or third-hand, to faculty or staff about sexual harassment or misconduct, this information must be reported to the administration in order to ensure that students' rights are protected, appropriate resources are offered, and the need for further investigation is explored to maintain campus safety. There are three confidential resources who do not need to report sexual harassment or misconduct: UNCW CARE, the Student Health Center, and the Counseling Center. If you want to speak to someone in confidence, these resources are available, including CARE's 24-hour crisis line (910-512-4821). For more information, please visit [www.uncw.edu/sexualmisconduct](http://www.uncw.edu/sexualmisconduct) or [www.uncw.edu/care](http://www.uncw.edu/care).

### **Zero Tolerance Policy**

UNCW practices a zero tolerance policy for violence and harassment of any kind. For emergencies contact UNCW CARE at 910-962-2273; Campus Police at 910-962-3184; or Wilmington Police at 911. For University or community resources visit: <http://www.uncw.edu/safe-relate/campusresources.htm>

### **Religious Observance Policy**

In accordance with NC SL 2010-211, students are entitled to two excused absences for religious observances per academic year. These absences must be requested using the form provided on Seonet, under "Student Services." This request must be submitted to the instructor *prior* to the absence. Once the request is submitted, an email will be sent to all impacted instructors automatically. There is no need to send additional notification to the instructors or the Registrar's office. Any absence for religious purposes will be considered unexcused unless the appropriate form is submitted.

### **The University Learning Center**

DePaolo Hall, 910-962-7857, [www.uncw.edu/ulc](http://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>

### **The Career Center**

Fisher University Union Room 2035, 910.962.3174, [www.uncw.edu/career](http://www.uncw.edu/career)

The mission of the UNCW Career Center is to be a comprehensive career counseling and resource center dedicated to empowering students and alumni as active participants in their own career development. The Career Center operates on a Monday-Friday 8AM-5PM schedule during the regular academic year. Students and alumni can access services and resources during those hours, our special Career Express hours reserved for brief questions between 2:00 - 4:00PM Monday-Friday; Wednesday/Thursday 9:00 - 11:00AM.

*Last Update: 8/19/14 RTC*