UNIV 1000-004
First Year Experience
[Wednesdays and 12-2 pm]
Summer 2020

Peer Academic Leader: Tatiana Cortez  
Faculty: Danielle Klein, PhD  
Faculty Profile: 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Remind Code</th>
<th>Phone #:</th>
<th>UTA E-mail</th>
<th>UTA E-mail:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>@univ100004</td>
<td>(817) 272-6190</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Tatiana.cortez@uta.edu">Tatiana.cortez@uta.edu</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Danielle.klein@uta.edu">Danielle.klein@uta.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Office Location: Ransom Hall 202

Classroom Location: Online-canvas conferences

Mailbox Location: N/A

Office Hours: W 11am-12pm & 2-4 pm

Office Location: By Appointment

COURSE INFORMATION

Description
This is a course about learning to learn and gaining mastery in a set of critical thinking skills that will allow students to not just monitor their own comprehension as they acquire knowledge but also to build confidence to be successful as students through building patterns of self-authorship and self-assessment. The course will be co-taught by Peer Academic Leaders (PALS) and faculty, staff and/or graduate students to provide guidance, raise awareness and understanding of students' majors and help support collaborative and co-curricular opportunities available within the School/College.

Student Learning Outcomes
1. Identify traits of successful learners, assess which traits work best for individual learning, and integrate appropriate learning strategies into daily patterns of academic activity and college style learning.
2. Learn about and apply individual learning strategies across academic programs and in personal and career development.
3. Recognize and utilize the various academic and personal student resources available at UTA, including those related to financial literacy and wellness.
4. Demonstrate and apply critical thinking skills to analyze, interpret, and evaluate course content and information. Students will demonstrate critical thinking skills in the processes they use to identify and solve problems.
5. Taking part in this course will enhance the student's sense of belonging to the UTA community.

Required Texts
- *No Limits: Foundations and Strategies for College Success* 2nd or 3rd Edition
  (Can be found on-line; link available on Canvas page for the course)
- Selected Readings which will be on Canvas.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance Policy
You are required to attend all class meetings. **Missing more than one (1) class without consulting with your Peer Academic Leader will result in a 10% reduction of the final letter grade per additional**
**absence.** Entering late or leaving early (up to 5 minutes) three times equals one full absence. Arriving late or leaving early beyond the five-minute mark will result in a full absence.

Reasons for excused absences include medical emergencies or illness. In such situations, students are expected to contact the Peer Academic Leader in advance or as soon as possible after the absence. Proof of the illness or emergency will be required along with evidence that the event correlates with the time of the missed class. Examples of documentation would include items such as a doctor’s note or a hospital’s note.

At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. UTA does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients “begin attendance in a course.” UTA instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Canvas. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

**Major assignments and examinations**

Students will engage in a process of mastery exercises for critical thinking and academic skill building. A list of the assignments is below — the more detailed, actual assignment itself can be found on Canvas. More specific information on class readings, reflections, and other minor assignments can be found in the syllabus timeline.

1. In Class Assignments and Other Class Work
2. Mid-semester Assessment
3. Digital Storytelling Reflection Assignment

**Grading**

The Student Success course is a one-credit hour course and this class is graded on a P/F basis. Anything 70 and above is considered a P, and anything below a 70 is considered an F. **Missing more than one (1) class without consulting with your Peer Academic Leader will result in a 10% reduction of the final letter grade per additional absence.** Students with perfect attendance will be eligible for a 5% increase in the final grade as Extra Credit. Course grades will be determined according to your successful participation and completion of the following activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
<th>% OF FINAL GRADE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In Class Assignments and Other Class Work</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Storytelling Reflection Assignment</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term Assessment</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Incompletes will be given only for such reasons as medical emergencies, serious emotional distress, etc. The instructor reserves the right to make the final decision on a grade of Z.
Drop Policy
Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student’s responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (http://www.uta.edu/fao/).

Participation
Every student is expected to actively engage in every class meeting. Engagement is defined as paying attention, responding to Instructor’s questions, raising your own questions, adding your opinion to classroom discussions, participating in classroom activities, and generally positively contributing to the learning environment. Please note that sleeping, reading the newspaper, working on other coursework, and playing with phones or computers, are not acceptable and you will be invited to leave the classroom if you participate in these negative behaviors.

COURSE POLICIES

Non-Discrimination Policy
The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos.

Title IX Policy
The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or jmhood@uta.edu.

Academic Integrity
Students enrolled all UTA courses are expected to adhere to the UTA Honor Code:

> I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

> I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UTA faculty members may employ the Honor Code in their courses by having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System Regents’ Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be
disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University. Additional information is available at https://www.uta.edu/conduct/.

**Electronic Communication**
UTA has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php.

**Campus Carry**
Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/.

**Student Feedback Survey**
At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” are directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students’ anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UTA’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit http://www.uta.edu/sfs.

**Emergency Exit Procedures**
Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

**Division of Student Success**
UTA provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at the Division of Student Success (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-0777, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php.

**Success Series**
The Success Series is a workshop series designed to improve academic success and enhance important life skills. Topics range from basic skills such as effective note taking, tips for taking online classes, and how to become a better presenter to information about getting a job on campus and studying abroad. It is also a great way to learn about resources available and services offered by the various departments here at UTA. Visit the website to see the full schedule of upcoming topics and dates.

**Final Review Week**
For semester-long courses, a period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Classroom Technology**
Although laptops are an essential part of our educational process in today’s techno-savvy era, the Student Success course requires that if you bring a laptop into the classroom, its use is restricted to classroom activities pertinent to that day’s subject only. This means that students may not bring a laptop into the classroom and use that laptop for checking their email, browsing Facebook, surfing the web, or use it to complete other course work. NO EXCEPTION WILL BE MADE. If a student is found using their laptop for anything other than Student Success coursework, that student will be invited to leave the class for that day and will be marked as an unexcused absence.

Cell phones, MP3 players, beepers, and any other personal technology device should be placed on silent mode during class time. Interruptions such as ringing, beeping, vibrating, etc. will not be tolerated. Should a device “go off” during class time, the student will be invited to leave the class and will be marked as an unexcused absence.

**Disability Accommodations**
UTA is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. All instructors at UTA are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a letter certified by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting: **The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364.** Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability).

**LIBRARY library.uta.edu**

**RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS**

Research or General Library Help

Academic Plaza Consultation Services [library.uta.edu/academic-plaza](http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza)

Ask Us [ask.uta.edu/](http://ask.uta.edu/)

Library Tutorials [library.uta.edu/how-to](http://library.uta.edu/how-to)

Subject and Course Research Guides [libguides.uta.edu](http://libguides.uta.edu)
Librarians by Subject library.uta.edu/subject-librarians

Research Coaches  http://libguides.uta.edu/researchcoach

Resources

A to Z List of Library Databases libguides.uta.edu/az.php

Course Reserves pulse.uta.edu/vwebv/enterCourseReserve.do

FabLab fablab.uta.edu/


Scholarly Communications (info about digital humanities, data management, data visualization, copyright, open educational resources, open access publishing, and more) http://library.uta.edu/scholcomm

Special Collections library.uta.edu/special-collections

Study Room Reservations openroom.uta.edu/

TRiO-Student Support Services https://www.uta.edu/studentsuccess/learning-center/sss/index.php

University Tutorial & Supplemental Instruction https://www.uta.edu/studentsuccess/learning-center/utsi/index.php

OTHER RESOURCES

Environmental Health & Safety (http://www.uta.edu/ehsafety)

**Emergency Phone Numbers:** In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at 817-272-3003 (non-campus phone), 2-3003 (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381
**COURSE TIMELINE**

“As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class Topic</th>
<th>Assignment Due/Notes</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/10</td>
<td>Introduction and Course Review:</td>
<td>Online and In-Person Resources</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Campus Resources</td>
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<td>6/17</td>
<td>Note-Taking/Critical Listening</td>
<td>Introduction to styles of Note-Taking</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/24</td>
<td>Study Skills</td>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/1</td>
<td>Time Management</td>
<td>Introduction to 5 Day Study Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/8</td>
<td>Goal Setting</td>
<td>SMART Goals</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
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<td><em>Mid-semester Assessment DUE</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>7/15</td>
<td>Reading for Understanding</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/22</td>
<td>Memory, Test Taking, and Types of Exams</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/29</td>
<td>Developing a Mindset for Learning</td>
<td>VARK Assessment</td>
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<td><a href="https://vark-learn.com/the-vark-questionnaire/">https://vark-learn.com/the-vark-questionnaire/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>8/5</td>
<td>Self-Regulated Learning</td>
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<td>8/12</td>
<td>Grit</td>
<td>Digital Storytelling Reflection DUE</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Last Day of Class</td>
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