

UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM PROPOSAL COVER SHEET

Title of Proposal – Must begin with Department Abbreviation:

USTU 125 First Year Studies: The UTC Experience

Check One: Full Proposal or Information Item

Effective Date for Curricular Offering: Fall 2009

FROM: Fran Bender, Assistant Professor, 324 Holt Hall, 425-4636, fran-bender@utc.edu

(proposal originator: include spokesperson's name, department, office number, telephone, e-mail)

Does this require new resources from the originating department or other department? No

Please attach explanation if yes.

Faculty of the originating department approved this proposal on NA (date),

by a vote of _____ aye votes; _____ nay votes; _____ abstentions: _____ eligible voting members absent

The following have examined this proposal:

Dept Head/Director: Fran Bender (printed name)  signature approve neutral disapprove*

College Curriculum Committee Date: _____ Vote: _____ Signature of Chair: _____

Spokespersons for Affected Departments:

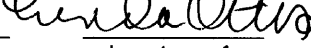
(name, department, date) signature approve neutral disapprove*



(name, department, date) signature approve neutral disapprove*

(name, department, date) signature approve neutral disapprove*

(name, department, date) signature approve neutral disapprove*

Dean/Director: _____ signature approve neutral disapprove*

University Registrar: Linda Orth (printed name)  signature approve neutral disapprove* Comments: _____

 **Provost:** Phil Oldham (printed name)  signature approve neutral disapprove*

*Those who disapprove may attach an explanation

ACTIONS on this proposal:	Curriculum Committee	Faculty Senate
Date the proposal was considered	_____	_____
Vote of the body:	_____	_____
Accepted as information item (indicate date)	_____	_____
Approved as submitted (indicate date)	_____	_____
Approved with amendments (amendments indicated and transmitted to all signatories above, date):	_____	_____
Signature of Chair:	_____	_____

**Course Proposal
For University Studies 125
First Year Studies: The UTC Experience**

Catalogue Description:

125 First Year Studies: The UTC Experience (1) An introduction to the academic community, including the nature and purpose of a college education, expectations for academic success, academic resources and opportunities, learning beyond the classroom, and special emphasis on academic and career planning. Elective available to all students with fewer than 30 hours. Recommended during the initial semester for students who enter UTC with fewer than 15 hours. A, B, C, No Credit grading. Credit not allowed in both USTU 125 and USTU 101.

Rationale:

UTC currently offers a three-hour course, the Freshman Seminar (FS), as an introductory course to familiarize freshmen with university life. The original FS course, offered in the early 1990's as a required course for all freshmen and later dropped as a requirement, is now taken as an elective by freshmen. In Fall 2008, 28 sections are being offered to about 700+ students, or about a third of the freshman class. As with some courses with large numbers of sections, the content varies somewhat, but tends to emphasize both the social and academic issues related to college life.

The proposed course, a one hour course, will emphasize the freshman student's transition from high school to college with more emphasis on academic issues related to the transition. The course will introduce students to the idea of a university, ways to achieve academic success, academic resources and opportunities at UTC, advisement and career exploration, and learning beyond the classroom. A one-hour course, commonly taught at universities across the country, better suits the course content and goals.

Lastly, this course will be a part of other one-hour courses for freshmen to support academic engagement and retention. It will be offered as an elective course.

Course Objectives:

- To introduce and stimulate students' thinking about the significance of a college education
- To develop strategies for academic success inside and outside the classroom
- To introduce students to the resources of the institution
- To empower students' planning for their academic and professional lives
- To promote the importance of learning beyond the classroom

Economic and pedagogical effects of the course :

We anticipate that the costs of the currently budgeted three-hour freshman seminar course will cover the costs of offering the new one hour course. This one hour course will also free students' schedules to take other courses of interest, including the new one-hour topics courses also to be offered in Fall 2009.

First Year Studies – Model Syllabus

Course: University Studies 125

Title: First Year Studies: The UTC Experience

Course Description: The UTC Experience is designed to help the students' transition from high school to college, to facilitate students' integration into academic life, and to provide students the opportunity to explore academic and career options at the university. Students enrolled in this course will earn one hour of graded, elective credit.

Course Objectives:

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Texts: Articles listed in schedule

General Information:

1. **Attendance** –Research supports the concept that students who attend class regularly learn more and make better grades than those who miss class. Attendance of activities and classes are vital to this course. One (1) absence is allowed for any and all reasons during the semester. Additional absences will result in the lowering of the final grade by one letter grade per absence.

2. **Make-ups and extra credit** – You earn points by attending classes when tests, quizzes, and writing assignments are given. You may not earn points for these assignments if you are not present to participate.
3. **Participation** -The classroom is a safe environment for you to explore your ideas and get feedback from others. I expect and reward your participation in class discussions. When you contribute to class discussions, your classmates can learn from you as you learn from them. Expect to become involved in the give-and-take of class discussions.
4. **Students with disabilities** - If you are a student with a disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) and think that you might need special assistance or a special accommodation in this class or any other class, call the Office for Students with Disabilities at 425-4006 or go by the office - 110 Frist Hall.
5. **Technology requirements** - To enhance student services, the University will use your UTC email address (firstname-lastname@utc.edu) for communications. (Log on to MocsNet for your exact address.) Please check your UTC email on a regular basis. If you have problems with accessing your email account, contact the Help Desk at 423/425-4000. I will be using your UTC email address, so make sure that you can access it wherever you are. You are responsible for all mail sent to your UTC address.
6. **Counseling and Career Planning Center** - If you find that personal problems, career indecision, study and time management difficulties, etc. are adversely affecting your successful progress at UTC, please contact the Counseling and Career Planning Center at 425-4438.

Evaluation:

Journal Entries	25%
Faculty Interview Paper	15%
Community Service Project	20%
Class Participation	15%
Student Development Open House	5%
Library iPod Project	5%
Student Success Series Participation	15%

Schedule of Assignments:

Weeks 1- 3 What is College?

- Introduction to the culture of a university
- Goals of a Liberal Arts Education
- Adjusting to the demands of college

Suggested Articles and Resources:

- **What's so good about a college education?**
<http://faculty.otterbein.edu/Amills/MillsCollegeEssay.html>
- **On the purpose of a liberal arts education**
<http://www.virtualsalt.com/libarted.htm>
- **How to ace your freshman year**
http://find.galegroup.com/itx/infomark.do?&contentSet=IAC-Documents&type=retrieve&tabID=T003&prodId=AONE&docId=A104762507&source=gale&userGroupName=tel_a_utc&version=1.0
- Dopp, Austin, and Thomas S. Parish. "**Ways to beat the stresses of going to college.**" *College Student Journal*. 41.4 (Dec 2007): 928(2).
<file:///C:/Documents%20and%20Settings/vhw598/Desktop/New%20Freshman%20Seminar/A172977988.html>
- Deekle, Peter V. "**Books, reading, and undergraduate education.**" *Library Trends*. 44.n2 (Fall 1995): 264(6).
http://find.galegroup.com/itx/infomark.do?&contentSet=IAC-Documents&type=retrieve&tabID=T002&prodId=AONE&docId=A17726334&source=gale&userGroupName=tel_a_utc&version=1.0

Weeks 4-6 Achieving Academic Success

- Learning Styles
- Goal Setting
- Time Management & Organization
- Study Skills—(active reading/active listening and note-taking)
- Test Preparation—(test-taking strategies)

Suggested Articles and Resources:

- **Your First Year of College: 25 Tips to Help You Survive and Thrive Your Freshman Year and Beyond**
http://www.quintcareers.com/first-year_success.html
- **Get it together: a little organization will save you a lot of headaches. (Life At College).**
http://find.galegroup.com/itx/infomark.do?&contentSet=IACDocuments&type=retrieve&tabID=T003&prodId=AONE&docId=A97725064&source=gale&userGroupName=tel_a_utc&version=1.0
- **Time management--Getting if done**
http://find.galegroup.com/itx/infomark.do?&contentSet=IACDocuments&type=retrieve&tabID=T003&prodId=AONE&docId=A144403602&source=gale&userGroupName=tel_a_utc&version=1.0
- **Freshman study guide.(Life at College).**
http://find.galegroup.com/itx/infomark.do?&contentSet=IACDocuments&type=retrieve&tabID=T003&prodId=AONE&docId=A113231222&source=gale&userGroupName=tel_a_utc&version=1.0

- **"Time is on your side: lectures and papers and tests--oh my! Here's how to get it all done and still save time for fun."** *Careers & Colleges*. (Summer 2007): 20(1).
<file:///C:/Documents%20and%20Settings/vhw598/Desktop/New%20Freshman%20Seminar/A166822166.html>

Weeks 7 – 9 Discovering UTC’s Resources and Opportunities

- Library and research tools
- Where to go for help: Academic
- Where to go for help: Personal/Social

Suggested Articles and Resources:

- **UTC Handbook**
<http://www.utc.edu/Administration/StudentDevelopment/studenthandbook.php>
- **Surfing Not Studying: Dealing With Internet Addiction on Campus**
http://www.netaddiction.com/articles/surfing_not_studying.htm
- **Smart Enough To Excel: CONFIDENCE, HARD WORK, AND PERSISTENCE.** " *Vital Speeches of the Day*. 66.2 (Nov 1, 1999): 62
http://find.galegroup.com/itx/infomark.do?&contentSet=IAC-Documents&type=retrieve&tabID=T003&prodId=AONE&docId=A57815378&source=gale&userGroupName=tel_a_utc&version=1.0
- Coffman, Elesha. "**6 don'ts for college success: avoid these common mistakes. (Life At College).**" *Campus Life*. 61.7 (Feb 2003): 52(4).
http://find.galegroup.com/itx/infomark.do?&contentSet=IAC-Documents&type=retrieve&tabID=T003&prodId=AONE&docId=A97725066&source=gale&userGroupName=tel_a_utc&version=1.0

Weeks 10-12 Planning Your Academic Future

- Advisement
- Schedules and Priority Registration
- RAP Sheet—Bachelor’s degree? Humanities? Social Science?
- Career Exploration and resume building
- Connect with faculty

Suggested Articles and Resources:

- **UTC Catalog**
<http://www.utc.edu/catalogs/Undergraduate/UndergraduateCatalog-2008-09.pdf>
- **What can I do with this major?**
<http://www.utc.edu/Administration/PlacementAndStudentEmployment/majors.php>
- **Occupational Outlook Handbook** <http://www.bls.gov/oco/>

- **Career-Exploration Calendar for College Students**
http://www.quintcareers.com/Career-Exploration_Calendar.html
- Yarbrough, David. "**The engagement model for effective academic advising with undergraduate college students and student organizations.**" *Journal of Humanistic Counseling, Education and Development*. 41.1 (Spring 2002): 61(8).
http://find.galegroup.com/itx/infomark.do?&contentSet=IAC- Documents&type=retrieve&tabID=T002&prodId=AONE&docId=A89429977 &source=gale&userGroupName=tel_a_utc&version=1.0
- Freeman, Lynn C. "**Establishing effective advising practices to influence student learning and success.(PRACTICE).**"
<file:///C:/Documents%20and%20Settings/vhw598/Desktop/New%20Fres hman%20Seminar/A179404431.html>

Weeks 13 – 15 Learning Beyond the Classroom

- Community Service
- Campus and community events (such as art, music, plays, exhibits, athletics and speakers)
- Wellness (staying healthy/feeding body and mind , healthy relationships)
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Suggested Articles and Resources:

- **Report Finds Sharp Increase in College Student Volunteering**
http://www.learnandserve.gov/about/newsroom/releases_detail.asp?tbl_pr id=489
- **Service Learning Is.....**http://www.servicelearning.org/what_is_service-learning/service-learning_is/index.php
- **Service-learning and civic education**
http://find.galegroup.com/itx/infomark.do?&contentSet=IAC- Documents&type=retrieve&tabID=T002&prodId=AONE&docId=A132867352& source=gale&userGroupName=tel_a_utc&version=1.0
- **Freshman fitness guide: like many college freshmen, you could be so busy studying and socializing, you won't notice that as your mind is expanding, so is your waistline.** http://find.galegroup.com/itx/infomark.do?&contentSet=IAC- Documents&type=retrieve&tabID=T003&prodId=AONE&docId=A166822165& source=gale&userGroupName=tel_a_utc&version=1.0
- Ullah, Hafeez, and Mardell A. Wilson. "**Students' academic success and its association to student involvement with learning and relationships with faculty and peers.(Report).**" *College Student Journal*. 41.4 (Dec 2007): 1192(11).
http://find.galegroup.com/itx/infomark.do?&contentSet=IAC- Documents&type=retrieve&tabID=T002&prodId=AONE&docId=A17297801 8&source=gale&userGroupName=tel_a_utc&version=1.0