

HONORS 199

SYLLABUS

Commuter Section
MW 10:30 – 11:20
Honors Hall: 2nd Floor Study Lounge



Co-Mentor: Rebecca DiClemente-Drain

Rebecca DiClemente-Drain

Expected Graduation:

May 2011

with

B.A. in Communication Studies

Minor in Psychology

Birthday: August 2

Zodiac Sign: Leo

Age: 21

Favorite...

Color: Lime Green

Season: Fall

Band: The Killers

Video Game: Civilization

Actor: Russell Crowe

Actress(es): Rachel McAdams, Natalie Portman

Movie: *American Beauty*

TV Show(s): Grey's Anatomy, Desperate
Housewives, Real Housewives

Course description:

Honors Orientation is a 1-credit substitute course for UNIV 101 designed to acclimate Honors students to life at West Virginia University and the Honors College. Specifically, the course provides an overview of college and university resources as well as an introduction to the Honors College benefits and requirements.

Honors orientation also provides an opportunity for students to engage in discussion of salient topics with peers from diverse backgrounds, promoting interaction and the developing of social networking.

Course goals:

This course is designed to:

- Help students make a successful transition from high school to WVU and the Honors College.
- Instill a sense of awareness as a member of the WVU community and the city of Morgantown.
- Provide Honors students with the skills to excel while attending WVU and after graduation.

Social justice policy:

West Virginia University is committed to social justice. We concur with that commitment and expect to foster a nurturing learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation color or national origin. Any suggestion as to how to further such as positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration. If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise us and make appropriate arrangements with Disability Services (293-6700).

Academic integrity:

The integrity of the classes offered by any academic institution solidifies the foundation of its mission and cannot be sacrificed to expediency, ignorance, or blatant fraud. Therefore, I will enforce rigorous standards of academic integrity in all aspects and assignments of this course. For the detailed policy of West Virginia University regarding the definitions of acts considered to fall under academic dishonesty and possible ensuing sanctions, please see the Student Conduct Code at <http://www.arc.wvu.edu/rightsa.html>. Should you have any questions about possibly improper research citations or references, or any other activity that may be interpreted as an attempt at academic dishonesty, please see me *before* the assignment is due to discuss the matter. [Academic Integrity Statement as adopted by the West Virginia University Faculty Senate: 2-11-08]

Attendance policy:

Each student must attend the Honors Retreat, ALL of the 16 class sessions (2 sessions per week; the first session is at the Retreat), one academic lecture, one group or club meeting, and one cultural event during the fall semester.

Attendance is crucial to success in all classes; Honors Orientation is no exception. You are expected to attend every class. **There will be a one-letter grade reduction for each absence.**

# of absences	Final Grade
1	B
2	C
3	D
4	F

If a student must miss a class session, he/she must alert his/her Co-Mentor(s) in **advance**. Any student who misses a class session will not be excused unless he/she first e-mails **HonorsOrientation@mail.wvu.edu** to request an excuse.

If a student misses class session due to an emergency (i.e. s/he is hospitalized), s/he must submit an excuse **within one week** of the absence. If the excuse is submitted later than one week after the absence, it will NOT be accepted.

The appropriate individual in the Honors Office will process any properly submitted excuses and issue/deny an excused absence. Students will be notified via their Co-Mentor(s) of their excuse status.

Students who receive an approved excused absence must consult their Co-Mentors for any information that was missed in class and complete any required work.

If a serious medical problem or other extenuating circumstance results in your being absent from class for an extended period of time, you will need to contact the Office of Student Life (304.293.5811).

Tardiness will not be tolerated. Any student who comes in after class has started (the set class time) will be counted as tardy. Each two class sessions that a student is tardy, shall constitute one absence. Any student coming to class more than 20 minutes late shall be counted as **absent**.

Grading Policy:

Evaluation/assessment:

The grading criteria is as follows:

- Attendance
 - 16 in-class sessions
 - three out-of-class sessions
 - club meeting (50 points for attendance)
 - academic lecture
 - cultural event
- Summer reading essay (150 points)
- Two out-of class summaries
 - academic lecture (100 points)
 - cultural event (100 points)
- Reflection essay (100 points)
- Song of Myself (50 points)
- Homework Assignments (20 points each x 13 = 260)

The course is graded on a standard grading scale. The grading scale is as follows:

A	at or above 90%	D	60 – 69%
B	80 – 89%	F	at or below 59%
C	70 – 79%		

Students must pass this course with a grade of “C” or higher in order to remain in the Honors College. IF A STUDENT RECEIVES A GRADE OF “D” OR “F” HE/SHE WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM THE HONORS COLLEGE!

Assignments:

SUMMER READING

The summer reading essay is to be based off of the summer reading book that is assigned to each incoming Honors freshman. The essay must be at least 500 words in length.

Each student is expected to turn in his/her essay during the first week of classes (class session number 1).

OUT OF CLASS ESSAYS:

Academic Lecture

Each student is required to attend an academic lecture that is related to his/her major field of study or prospective career. S/he must turn in a essay about the lecture. The essay should not only include a summary of the ideas presented at the lecture but also the student's thoughts and opinions about the lecture and the ideas presented.

The essay should be between 1^{1/2} to 2 pages in length and will be graded based on promptness of submission (**no** essays will be accepted past the due date), a detailed summary of the lecture and ideas presented, and content of the student's thoughts and opinions.

Cultural Event

In order to introduce students to a culture other than his/her own, each student is required to attend a cultural event or lecture and write an essay about the event/lecture. The essay should not only include a summary of the activities and/or ideas presented at the event/lecture but also the student's thoughts and opinions about the culture and the activities and/or ideas presented.

The essay should be between 1^{1/2} to 2 pages in length and will be graded based on promptness of submission (**no** essays will be accepted past the due date), a detailed summary of the event/lecture/activities and ideas presented, and content of the student's thoughts and opinions.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS:

There will be a homework assignment given each class session; therefore, there will be a total of 13 assignments. Each homework assignment is to be completed and handed in the class session after the assignment is given. No assignments will be accepted past the due date. Each homework assignment will be worth a total of 20 points toward your final grade. The assignments will be assessed based on the promptness of submission (no assignments will be accepted past the due date) and content (meeting all required aspects of each specific assignment).

Tentative Degree Plan

Students will prepare a degree plan that will include the requirement for their major program, general education curriculum, and electives that will serve as a guide for scheduling and planning their academic career path.

Resume

Students will prepare a personal resume that they can build upon as they gain experiences.

OTHER ASSIGNMENTS:

Song of Myself

Students will be asked to prepare a description of who they are. The project must be tangible (you must bring it in to class) and must also be transferrable to their e-portfolio.

Reflection Essay

Students must summarize the semester in this essay, including what they learned, their likes and dislikes of the course, and how they think they will apply Honors 199 to the future.

The essay should be between 1^{1/2} to 2 pages in length and will be graded based on promptness of submission (**no** essays will be accepted past the due date), a detailed analysis of the semester, and content of the student's thoughts and opinions.

Schedule:

The schedule for the semester will be found on the next page.

*** indicates that this must be added to your e-portfolio

Date	Day	Topic	Homework Assigned	Homework Due
8/23	M	Intro to WVU	Find three academic lectures on the WVU Online academic calendar.	Summer reading essays.
8/25	W	University Services	Write an essay about the five types of wellness and how they relate to you.	Written: 3 academic lectures that you can attend.
8/30	M	Thriving in College I	Work in pairs to present on your learning styles and your main topic.	Typed: 1-2 page essay on wellness.
9/1	W	Thriving in College II	Song of Myself project; make something visual that describes who you think you are.	Presentation: 5-6 minutes about preparation and performance.
9/8	W	Stress/Time/Money Management	Write a short essay about what you learn about management.	Written: Song of Myself brainstorm list.
9/13	M	Being an Honors Student I	Honors College Visitation Verification Form.	Typed: 250-350 word essay about management.
9/15	W	Being an Honors Student II	Research what you would like to do after college.	SONG OF MYSELF PRESENTATIONS ***
9/20	M	ASPIRE and Grad School	Continue to research what you would like to do after college.	Completed: Honors College Visitation Verification Form.
9/22	W	Study Abroad and Internships	Choose one of your post-graduation options and make a plan on how to achieve that goal.	Written: A list of at least 10 viable options for your life after college.
9/27	M	Advising I	Find out who your advisor is and e-mail them to set up an appointment.	5 pamphlets/brochures from the Study Abroad Fair.
9/29	W	Advising II	Tentative Degree Plan.	Written: The name of your advisor and when your appointment is.
10/4	M	Resume Writing	Resume.	Typed: Tentative Degree Plan. ***
10/6	W	Community Service	Research your living plans for next semester, including known monetary contributions and expenditures.	Typed: Resume. *** ALL ESSAYS DUE TODAY.
10/11	M	Second Year Housing	Prepare one more item for your e-portfolio.	Written: Plans for housing next year.
10/13	W	Reflections	None.	Completed: New addition to e-portfolio. ***