

**First Year College
Course Description for Fall 2009
USC 101: Introduction to University Education I**

Prerequisite: None

A student cannot receive credit for both USC 101 and USC 103

This course does not meet a GEP requirement

In their first year at NC State University, all FYC students must take a one-hour, letter-graded course, USC 101: Introduction to University Education I (fall semester) and USC 102: Introduction to University Education II (spring semester). Your instructor for this course is your academic adviser, which gives you weekly contact with him or her. You will also meet individually with your adviser at least twice each semester.

FYC advisers and instructors are committed to being prepared for class, to grading fairly, and to being available to help students with their questions and concerns about the course and about advising issues. You should be committed to putting your best effort into your work for this class, including your out-of-class assignments, class discussions and activities, and co-curricular activities.

Academic Integrity

Students are required to comply with the university policy on academic integrity found in the Code of Student Conduct at

http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/student_services/student_discipline/POL11.35.1.php See that website, also, for a detailed explanation of academic honesty.

Your name on any assignment you submit means that you neither gave nor received unauthorized aid when you completed the assignment.

All academic integrity violations will be sent to Student Conduct. A violation on any forum report will, at a minimum, result in the loss of all 30 forum points. For violations on other assignments and activities, at a minimum, you will earn zero points for the assignment; other sanctions are possible, including failing the course. Chapter 7 of your textbook contains more information about academic integrity.

Policy on Discrimination

NC State University provides equality of opportunity in education and employment for all students and employees. Accordingly, NC State affirms its commitment to maintain a work environment for all employees and an academic environment for all students that is free from all forms of discrimination. Discrimination based on race, color, religion, creed, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation is a violation of state and federal law and/or NC State University policy and will not be tolerated. Harassment of any person (either in the form of quid pro quo or creation of a hostile environment) based on race, color, religion, creed, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation also is a violation of state and federal law and/or NC State University policy and will not be tolerated. Retaliation against any person who complains about discrimination is also prohibited. NC State's policies and regulations covering discrimination, harassment, and retaliation may be accessed at http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/campus_environ or http://www.ncsu.edu/equal_op. Any person who feels that he or she has been the subject of prohibited discrimination, harassment, or retaliation should contact the Office for Equal Opportunity (OEO) at 515-3148.

Students with Disabilities

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, student must register with the Disability Services Office

(<http://www.ncsu.edu/dso>) located at 1900 Student Health Center, Campus Box 7509, 515-7653. For more information on NC State's policy on working with students with disabilities, please see the Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Regulation at http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/courses_undergrad/REG02.20.1.php.

Learning Outcomes for USC 101

Upon completion of this course, students will

- (1) Identify the resources available to them within the University community and explore opportunities for connecting with the University community
- (2) Identify factors that affect academic success
- (3) Understand and apply University policies and procedures
- (4) Be knowledgeable about University majors, minors, and other academic programs
- (5) Be able to name the three main components of the FYC career decision making model, categorize class activities/topics based on these components, explain why the model is depicted as a cycle, and explain where they currently fit into the process
- (6) Be able to apply the information gained from personal assessments to the process of choosing a major

Grading

You will earn a letter grade (A, B, C, D, or F with plus/minus grading) in USC 101, a one-hour course. Grading will be based on a point system (maximum points = 300). **Neither USC 101 nor USC 102 may be taken for credit only (S/U); you must take the course for a letter grade.** The course cannot be audited.

Attendance

Regular class attendance in any college course is essential for success, and USC 101 is no exception. The basic attendance policy for USC 101 follows the University regulation for attendance. Attendance expectations for this course are as follows:

If a student misses more than two unexcused classes, the final course grade will be lowered one letter grade for each additional absence. For example, if you have an "A" in the course but have three absences, then your semester letter grade will be reduced to a "B;" for four absences, the final grade will become a "C;" for five absences a "D," etc. If you miss a class session, it is **your responsibility** to obtain information on any class assignments.

The NCSU policy on excused absences is described at the following URL:

http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/pols_regs/REG205.00.4.php

Please note that it is **up to you** to let your instructor know about these absences and to arrange to make up any missed work.

Course Text and Assignments

Textbook

The textbook for both USC 101 and USC 102 is ***THE (Transition to Higher Education) Workbook*** (The 2009-2010 edition is only available at the University Bookstore). The price of the book - \$46.65 - includes \$28 to cover the cost of testing and personalized reports for the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator[®] instrument, the Strong Interest Inventory[®] assessment, the combined Strong-MBTI Career Report and access to the DISCOVER[®] career exploration website. (If you have financial difficulties and cannot afford a textbook, speak with your adviser right away.)

You are encouraged to put your textbook pages, your assignments, and your notes for this course into a binder. Note: many of the assignments you complete this year will be used when you prepare your final writing assignment at the end of Spring, 2010.

Assignments

Your instructor will provide you a detailed list of assignments with their due dates and point values. Some of your assignments are in the **Workbook**, but your instructor will give most of them to you. However, due to the high cost of photocopying, your instructor may not always give you paper copies of your assignments. Your instructor will explain how you can locate your assignments and will provide them in enough time to complete them. As with any class, students have the responsibility to know how to find their assignments and to ask their instructor about any concerns or questions regarding an assignment.

Always keep a copy of the work you turn in for this or for any class, and always save returned work.

Late assignments: your instructor will inform you of his or her policy regarding late work. Late work policies vary by instructor.

FYC Co-Curricular Events

Learning within the University is not limited to attending class and completing assignments. Endless opportunities for learning and discovery occur *outside of class*. This extended learning is called "co-curricular" learning. You are required to attend the following co-curricular events:

A. Opening Convocation with Greg Mortenson

All FYC students were required to attend the Opening Convocation at the RBC Center featuring Greg Mortenson, author of the summer reading, *Three Cups of Tea*. If you did not attend this event, you will need to attend a designated makeup event – please speak with your instructor about the available makeup events. (15 points)

B. FYC Majors Fair

All FYC students are required to attend the FYC Majors Fair on October 1, in the Talley Student Center (times to be announced). The Majors Fair gives you the opportunity to speak personally with representatives from all NC State colleges and to obtain materials, curricula sheets, transfer information, and career-related information (25 points).

C. FYC Forum Series

Students in USC 101 are required to attend three forum events: one educational, one cultural, and one event from any category (the "student choice" event). You must attend at least one event in each time block (see the list of time blocks below). Choose the events from the calendar on the FYC Forum webpage: www.ncsu.edu/fyc/forum/

If you wish to attend an event that is not on the calendar, you must get approval from your instructor in advance. **To receive credit for attending a Forum Event, you must submit a Forum Report via the forum web page within one week of attending the event.** A Forum Report must be a thoughtful reflection on the event and answer all the questions asked about the event. *If you are attending events for the University Scholars program, you may count these events for your Forum Series requirement; be sure to submit reports on the events you attend.* Please ask your instructor if you have any questions. If you have to buy a ticket for an event, you are responsible for that cost. (10 points for each event; 30 points total)

Cultural Enrichment Forum Events

Events in this category will help you explore campus and community arts and multicultural events,

such as concerts, plays, gallery walks, international festivals, and so on. Keep in mind that some of these events require you to purchase a ticket in advance.

Educational Enrichment Forum Events

These events give you the opportunity to expand your academic skills and educational horizons. Typical events are academic skills workshops, selected campus club or organizational meetings (check with your instructor to see which ones qualify), faculty lectures, talks given by outside speakers, etc.

Vocational Forum Events

These events assist in your major or career decision-making process (e.g., College open houses, job fairs, Leadership Development certificate workshops, etc.).

Wellness Forum Events

This category includes experiences designed to educate you and enable your wellness in the physical, spiritual, emotional, and relational dimensions. These events include hands-on service to the community (e.g., Service NC State day, Habitat for Humanity, etc.).

FYC Student Council option (30 points)

The First Year College Student Council is the representative body for all FYC students. It works towards developing events that create unity for the College, as well as promoting FYC across campus. You can participate in Student Council for your forum credits in either the fall or spring semester (forum credit only for one semester, but you may participate in both semester). For information, go to the following URL and read the "forum contract guidelines," then talk to your USC 101 instructor about it.

www.ncsu.edu/fyc/current/opportunities/council/

Superforum Events (15 points)

During the semester FYC may designate a "Superforum Event" that focuses on an issue that is significant to the NC State community or to the larger community outside the University. In the past, Superforum Events included a panel and discussion on the causes and consequences of the 9/11 attacks and an interactive workshop on diversity. A Superforum Event can fulfill one of your three required forum events. Because the topics are so significant, you can earn additional credit (15 points instead of 10 points) for attending the event and submitting a thoughtful report. However, even if you attend a Superforum, you are still required to attend 3 events during the semester.

Time Blocks for FYC Forum Events

If you are not fulfilling the Student Council option for your forum requirement, you must follow the forum time block schedule below and complete at least one forum event in each time block. (You may complete all of your forum requirements earlier than listed below.)

Time Block 1 is: August 19 – September 27

Time Block 2 is: September 28 – November 1

Time Block 3 is: November 2 – December 6

COURSE GRADE FOR USC 101		
Assignments and Activities	Maximum Points Each	Total Points Possible
Assignments and class activities	variable	200
Co-curricular Events Greg Mortenson's Opening Convocation Address Forum requirement – 3 events [or Student Council option] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational Enrichment Forum Event • Cultural Enrichment Forum Event • Student Choice Forum Event FYC Majors Fair	15 10 10 25	70
Final Exam	30	30
TOTAL POINTS:		300

USC 101 COURSE GRADE				
A Ranges	B Ranges	C Ranges	D Ranges	F
A+ = 291 - 300	B+ = 261 - 269	C+ = 231 - 239	D+ = 200 - 209	F = 0 - 179
A = 279 - 290	B = 249 - 260	C = 219 - 230	D = 189 - 199	
A- = 270 - 278	B- = 240 - 248	C- = 210 - 218	D- = 180 - 188	

The co-curricular events and final exam have a set point value for all sections of USC 101. **For other assignments and activities for the course, your instructor will determine the point value.** You may find that you do not do exactly the same assignments as students in another section of USC 101, and similar assignments may have different point values in different sections of the course. However, all assignments and activities are designed to help you make a smooth transition from high school to college, learn how to succeed academically, learn about yourself, and explore majors and careers.

Incomplete grades

The university policy on incomplete grades is located at http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/grades_undergrad/REG02.50.3.php

If an extended deadline is not authorized by the instructor or department, an unfinished incomplete grade will automatically change to an F after either (a) the end of the next regular semester in which the student is enrolled (not including summer sessions), or (b) the end of 12 months if the student is not enrolled, whichever is shorter. Incompletes that change to F will count as an attempted course on transcripts. The burden of fulfilling an incomplete grade is the responsibility of the student.