

First Year College
Course Description for Spring 2010
USC 102: Introduction to University Education II

In their first year at NC State University, all FYC students must take two one-hour, letter-graded courses: Introduction to University Education I (USC 101 in the fall semester) and Introduction to University Education II (USC 102 in the 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.

Learning Outcomes for USC 102

Upon completion of this course, students will

- (1) Be able to analyze various components of the academic major and career decision process, drawing on both their personal experience and research; apply these findings to what they currently know about themselves and majors/careers; compare their options; and outline their next steps of action
- (2) Know how to conduct a career informational interview
- (3) Know how to use the University Plan of Work tool
- (4) Understand the University Progress Toward Degree policy
- (5) Be more aware of their own attitudes and experiences with respect to diversity

Academic Integrity

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

http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/student_services/student_discipline/POL11.35.1.php

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 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.

See the website referenced above, as well as Chapter 7 in your textbook, for a detailed explanation of academic honesty.

Fairness and Respect

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>

DSO is 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

Grading

You will earn a letter grade (A, B, C, D, or F with plus/minus grading) in USC 102, 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.**

Attendance

Regular class attendance in any college course is essential for success, and USC 102 is no exception. The basic attendance policy for USC 102 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.

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. For more information on excused absences, go to:

http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/courses_undergrad/REG02.20.3.php

Course Text and Assignments

Textbook

The textbook for both USC 101 and USC 102 is ***THE (Transition to Higher Education) Workbook*** (2009-2010 edition, \$46.65, available at the University Bookstore). The price of the book includes \$28 to

cover the cost of testing and personalized reports for the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator® instrument, the Strong Interest Inventory® assessment, and the DISCOVER® career exploration website. *If you did not purchase this textbook in the fall, speak to your instructor immediately.*

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 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.

Course website

Your instructor will give you the URL of his or her course website.

Significant Assignments

Career Information Interview

This assignment will familiarize you with a particular career and help you see how this career is connected to the majors you are considering. It will also give you a good model for informational interviews and allow you to practice networking and interviewing skills. The assignment is in chapter 12 of the **Workbook**. Note that your instructor may give you additional guidelines. (40 points)

Plan of Work

NC State requires all undergraduate students to show appropriate progress toward completing a degree program and to have a Plan of Work on file with the University. Equally as important, the Plan of Work helps you to focus and organize your major and career search, make decisions (co-op, study abroad, minor, etc) and look ahead to post-secondary education (graduate and professional school). You will complete an online Plan of Work this semester as a part of the course. Your instructor will give you the details, including the point value for this assignment.

Letter of Intent

The letter of intent is the final project of the semester. Writing your letter of intent gives you an opportunity to reflect on your first year at NC State, highlighting and bringing together what you have done this year to make an informed decision about your future. In it, you will think critically about your first year experience and the assignments and activities in USC 101 and USC 102, explain where you are in the process of deciding about your major and some possible careers, how you got to this point in your decision making, and what you expect to do next. Your instructor will give you the details, including the point value for this assignment.

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:**

FYC Convocation

Monday, January 25, at 7:30 pm in Stewart Theater, Talley Student Center

Your instructor will give you further details about the event and the report you will be expected to submit. (15 points)

Academic Networking

Saturday, February 20, 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

This event takes you from the "big picture" of the Majors Fair to a more in-depth look at the particular college(s) you are considering for a major. You will also have the opportunity to meet professionals in careers that might interest you. You will attend college session(s) that address key questions about majors and opportunities in the college via a panel of current students, recent grads, and faculty/administrators from the college. Career professionals will also be available to talk with you about real life experiences, careers, and college majors. (40 points)

FYC Forum Requirement

You must select one of two options for the FYC Forum Requirement as described below.

1. Individualized Proposal (30 points)

In order to provide a more in-depth experience, students are encouraged to submit their own individualized plan of involvement for the spring semester. Examples include:

- Joining and becoming an active member in a student club
- Volunteering weekly for the Molly Hays Glander Rape & Sexual Assault Response Line
- Becoming a voting member of the FYC Student Council or other campus governing body
- Contributing Saturdays throughout the semester to Habitat for Humanity (including the end of semester trip--either nationally or internationally)

Your proposal should explain clearly how your plan covers each of the categories of experience (educational, cultural, vocational, and/or wellness). Your instructor will give you a contract form for your proposal. If you choose this option, you must submit it to your instructor for approval. Your instructor must approve your proposal; just turning in the contract form is not enough. **The deadline for submitting a forum contract to your instructor is Friday, February 5.**

2. Event attendance (30 points)

Your other option is to attend three forum events (10 points for each event; 30 points total):

- one cultural,
- one educational or vocational,
- one event from any category (the "student choice" event).

You must attend at least one event in each time block (see chart below for time blocks). Choose the events from the calendar at:

<http://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 full credit for attending a Forum Event, 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 attend events for University Scholars, you may count them for your Forum Series requirement; be sure to submit reports on the events you attend. Please ask your instructor if you have any questions.

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. Some of these events require you to purchase a ticket in advance; it is your responsibility to do so.

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 a student's major or career decision-making process (e.g., College open houses, job fairs, individual appointment with University Career Center Counselor, etc.).

Wellness Forum Events

This category includes experiences designed to educate and enable student wellness in the physical, spiritual, emotional, and relational dimensions; includes hands-on service to the community (e.g., Habitat for Humanity, Health Center presentations on alcohol and drug use or on healthy eating, etc.).

***Superforum Events* (15 points)**

Each semester FYC may sponsor one (or more) "Superforum Event" that focuses on an issue that is significant to the NC State community, or to the larger community outside the University. In past years, some Superforum Events have been a panel and discussion on the causes and consequences of 9-11, 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.

Time Blocks for FYC Forum Events

You must complete at least one forum in each time block.

Time Block 1 is: Jan. 11 – Feb. 14

Time Block 2 is: Feb. 15 – March 28

Time Block 3 is: March 29 – May 2

COURSE GRADE FOR USC 102		
Assignments and Activities	Maximum Points Each	Total Points Possible
Writing and Class Assignments Plan of Work Letter of Intent Other assignments and activities	Your instructor will give you details on these assignments and their point values	175
Co-curricular Activities Academic Networking Career Information Interview Convocation Forum contract for total points (30) or individual forum events Cultural Enrichment Forum Event Educational or Vocational Forum Event Student's Choice Forum Event	 40 40 15 10 10 10	125
TOTAL POINTS:		300

USC 102 COURSE GRADE				
A Ranges	B Ranges	C Ranges	D Ranges	F
A+ = 291 - 300	B+ = 269 - 261	C+ = 239 - 231	D+ = 209 - 200	F = < 180
A = 290 - 279	B = 260 - 249	C = 230 - 219	D = 199 - 189	
A- = 278 - 270	B- = 248 - 240	C- = 218 - 210	D- = 188 - 180	

Incomplete Grades

The University's regulations about incomplete grades may be found at:

http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/grades_undergrad/REG02.50.3.php

Your instructor will talk with you about a grade of incomplete if your situation warrants it.