

UGST 1000.817– Fall 2013

First Year Seminar: Exploring Majors and Careers

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Class Blog: <http://ugststory.wordpress.com/>

Class Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ugstSTORY>

Course Description:

This is a unique transition course designed to facilitate students' integration into the learning community of the University. The course enhances student's skills for academic success, develops understanding of university culture, increases understanding of self, and fosters educational engagement. In this course, we expect you to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by:

1. Thinking critically and creatively, learning to apply different systems of analysis
2. Engaging with a variety of others in thoughtful and well-crafted communication
3. Being able to articulate the values that reinforce your lives, the UNT community, and the larger society
4. Cultivating self-awareness, balance, and an openness to change

This section, designated "Exploring Majors and Careers," is specifically designed to assist undecided majors and others who wish to clarify their career goals through the process of self-exploration. Course activities focus on identifying interests, abilities and values. In addition, we will employ popular career assessments, fun tools, discussion and reflection to help determine what majors/careers might be the best fit.

Texts:

First Year Seminar, UNT Custom Edition (2013). **ONLY** available in the bookstore.

My Student Success Lab, online access through Blackboard Learn with code from textbook

UNT Advising Guidebook: Maxwell, L., ed. (2012). University of North Texas advising guidebook (7^h ed.).

UNT Undergraduate Catalog: Bissett, L., Ed. (2012) University of North Texas Undergraduate Catalog (2013-2014) <http://catalog.unt.edu/>

Blackboard Learn:

This course will post class materials, learning modules, and other required assignments to the UNT online learning management platform, Blackboard Learn. <https://learn.unt.edu/> If you need help or

support for using this website check out the On Demand Learning Center for Students <http://ondemand.blackboard.com/students.htm>

Course Objectives: By the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Formulate a plan to pursue a career or specific major based on survey findings, decision making skills, and articulated values
- Demonstrate how personality, readiness, strengths, and other surveys can be used in formulating learning strategies and goals
- Prepare a plan to integrate concepts of wellness as it relates to peers, UNT and society into the use of goal setting, decision making, and critical thinking
- Explain the connection between personal goals and the purpose of higher education
- Access a variety of resources online and on campus that could be used to promote student success
- Reflect on how diversity of ideas, cultures, ethnicity, physical ability, sexual orientation, and gender enhances a community
- Define specific values that form our lives, the UNT community, and society
- Explain key UNT policies/procedures

Grade Calculation: Each student will be responsible for all assignments. Grades will be earned based on the following calculations:

Assignment	Percent of Grade
1-on-1 Advising Meeting	1%
WordPress Blog Posts/Assignments	15%
Assignments	22%
Myers-Briggs Type Indicator	1%
Strong Interest Inventory	1%
Roadtrip Nation Group Project	15%
Class Participation/Twitter Contributions	15%
Final Major/Career Research Paper & Presentation	30%
Total	100%

Letter Grade	Percent
A	90%-100%
B	80%-89%

C	70%-79%
D	60%-69%
F	59% and below

Course Expectations: This course is designed to introduce you, the student, to the major and career exploration process. It is not designed to provide vocational skills, resume review or job placement. Additionally, while most students feel more confident about selecting a major at the end of the course, it is certainly not an expectation or guarantee that you will finish this semester with a declared major. This course will not give you the answers; it is up to you, the student, to utilize the content of the course to assist you in deciding upon a major when you are ready to decide.

Extra Credit: Extra credit opportunities will be available throughout the semester at the discretion of the instructor. For example, if you attended the **UGST 1000 Open House on 8/26/13** you already have earned points towards your final grade. Stay tuned for other happenings & events to earn points this semester.

ADA Statement: ADA Statement: The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://disability.unt.edu/>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323 or in person (SAGE 167).

Late Work Policy: Late assignments will not be accepted. I understand that things happen, but I also would respectfully suggest that a bit of planning ahead can help make the assignment load manageable.

Cheating and Plagiarism: Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for further penalty.

According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to:

- a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations;
- b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;
- c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university;
- d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or
- e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage.

The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to:

- a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and
- b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic material.

Student Evaluation of Teacher Effectiveness: An expectation of this class will be to complete the end-of-semester evaluation of the instructor known as the SETE, Student Evaluation of Teacher Effectiveness.

Acceptable Student Behavior: Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>.

Course Requirements: As part of this course you will need to use WordPress (www.wordpress.com) and Twitter (www.twitter.com). You will be required to create a blog and set up a Twitter account specifically for this class. **All course information will be found on the ugstJOUR WordPress Blog (www.ugststory.wordpress.com) & @ugstSTORY Twitter stream.** These will be resources used to connect with other students in class, for help with assignments, or to collaborate on projects. Blackboard will only be used for turning in assignments, tests, or housing files/resources for our UGST 1000 class.

Attendance Policy: Class Attendance is not mandatory. However, your participation grade will be based on your attendance and participation in class discussions. In addition, students are responsible for all information disbursed in class and all assignments due, regardless of attendance.

Class participation: I expect you to come to class prepared to discuss the material that has been assigned. That means having read the assigned chapters before class and having had enough rest the night before to engage in thoughtful discussion. Of course, you must be present for class to be able to participate! Much of the class content requires class discussion and interaction during class time. Participation will be graded as follows:

- A = helpful, honest, and thought-provoking comments to and with students
- B = helpful comments to and with students in discussions
- C = minimally helpful in class discussions
- D = unhelpful comments in class
- F = not engaged in class in any apparent way

Assignment Descriptions:

WordPress (WP) Posts: Throughout the semester you will be asked to reflect about class topics, assignments and other happenings having to do with major/career exploration. Rather than using a paper journal or requiring you to turn in a reflection, we would like you create your own WordPress blog to share your

journey with the class. Each WP post should have a **minimum of 300 words, and posts are due by 11:59 pm on the date** which are listed on the class schedule. This assignment will be graded as follows:

A = a response that is well-written at the level of both the sentence and the paragraph; it addresses with precision all the required elements and utilizes theory to develop a creative solution to the issue/topic

B = a response whose sentence and paragraph-level writing is good but not distinguished; it addresses with some degree of specificity the required elements and a creative solution to the issue/topic

C = a response whose sentence and paragraph level writing is average and not particularly clear; it addresses a potentially interesting point with the issue/topic being addressed but without precision

D = a poorly written and superficially conceived approach to the issue/topic

F = a work with barely coherent response to the issue/topic or not meeting the word minimum

About WordPress. Wordpress blog accounts are free and can be created by visiting <http://wordpress.com>. If you are able to write in a word document, then you should be okay to write blog posts. For more information, be sure to read the instructions at the end of this syllabus. **By default, all posts to WordPress are public and open for everyone to see.** Since we hope that our class is a sharing and connected community, we would like to keep all blogs public. If there are topics or posts that you do not want to share with the class or world at large, **please feel free to post these privately to share with only the instructors.** Just be sure to provide us with the password for that individual post so that I may read them for grading purposes. Additionally, when creating posts for WP, you are free to express yourself in any way you see fit. While every class-assigned post (you are free to post more than is required) must include some form of written explanation, you are totally free to include pictures, videos, audio, etc. In fact, **I encourage this.** Because these are blog posts and personal reflections, I will not be asking you to create bibliographies or citation pages, but do be aware that it is good netiquette to link back to the sites that provided your material. You can find the Official **UGST 1000.817 WordPress blog** at <http://ugststory.wordpress.com/>. For help go to: **[HOW TO: Set Up a WordPress Blog](#)**

About Twitter: We will be using Twitter (<https://twitter.com/>) as a forum to engage in conversation inside and outside of our class meetings. Twitter is a form of communication where you can share short, 140-character messages with others. During the semester, you can follow the class twitter handle [@ugstSTORY](https://twitter.com/ugstSTORY) [<https://twitter.com/ugstJOUR>] and we will be using the hashtag [#ugstJOUR](#) to connect our messages. You can sign up for a free Twitter account, upload a picture and create your own bio. Regular questions and prompts will be given to respond with using the #ugstJOUR hashtag, and you will be required to respond to others tweets as well. For help go to: **[HOW TO: Set Up a Twitter Account](#)**

Once Your Twitter & WP Accounts are Set Up

Be sure to follow the class **[#ugstSTORY WP Blog](#)** and Twitter handle **[@ugstSTORY](#)**. This two spaces will be used during the semester for general class announcements, campus updates, information sharing, helpful resources and they will serve as a model for your own blogging and tweeting experiences. Also be sure to follow your fellow **#ugstSTORY blogs & Twitter accounts [TO BE ADDED AFTER 9-5-13]**. This learning network will be a great space for you to connect, post, communicate & share both inside and outside of our class meeting times. It is encouraged to read and post comments on other blog posts from our class.

Myers-Briggs and Strong Interest instruments: These assessments will provide critical information to you and are essential for successfully completing the class. They are web-based surveys designed to be

completed outside of class. We will provide the information you need to complete the assessments, and individual and group processing of these assessments will occur throughout the semester. DUE: Complete BOTH assessments by **Sunday, September 15, 2013 at 11:59 pm.**

Roadtrip Nation (RTN) group project: In teams of 3-4, you will be send out into the DFW area to interview professionals in your occupational areas of interest or potential career fields. RTN teams must interview someone outside of their own family, and connect to these professionals to complete an informational interview. The deliverable is a PowerPoint and/or [Prezi](#) presentation about the interviews that need to incorporate pictures, videos, quotes and resources about the occupation. It is critical that every group member interview one professional per group member. The Roadtrip Nation Groups will be given a designated class period to present what they have learned about their experience and provide helpful suggestions for academic and career planning in the RTN fields interviewed - **these will be scheduled between October 15-31, 2013.** The presentation should include handouts (at least one page per RTN interview) for the class to use as a resource.

One-on-one meeting: As part of this class, advising meetings will be required to discuss possible majors and courses for the next semester. When the deadline gets closer, information will be shared about how to schedule meetings. There may be more than one meeting time to discuss academic transition, career options and class scheduling for Spring 2014. These meetings will be scheduled between **September 15-October 15, 2013.**

Homework: There will be assignments that will require work outside of class. These may be individual or group assignments. Homework is due at the beginning of the class period for which it is due.

FINAL Major/Career Research Paper and Presentation – This is an individual assignment that requires research into two careers and two educational areas or majors that interest you. The deliverable will be a paper of a minimum of five pages, double-spaced, that describes your research. There will be a research paper rubric given to you detailing the specific components required to complete the paper. The presentations will be in class assigned for in November, and the final paper will be due on **Tuesday, November 26, 2013 by 11:59 pm.**

This assignment will be graded as follows:

A = a clearly thesis-driven, well-written/well-expressed work at the levels of the sentence, paragraph, and overall argument

B = a clearly thesis-driven, mostly well-written/well-expressed work at levels of the sentence, paragraph, and overall argument

C = a work whose thesis is vague; the work is bland and occasionally flawed at the levels of the sentence, paragraph, and / or overall argument

D = a work whose thesis is barely evident; there are serious flaws at the levels of the sentence, paragraph, and overall argument

F = a work that is not “work” at all

UGST 1000.817 Class Schedule {subject to change-be sure to check online version}



= Assignment



= Tweet on Twitter using the #ugstSTORY hashtag



= WordPress (WP) Blog post



= Change of class location and/or event on campus

Class Schedule	Date	Topic	Reading	Homework
Week 1	8/29	First Class – Introductions, Syllabus, Class Expectations, etc.	N/A	UGST 1000.817 - Instructor Information Sheet http://bit.ly/1411vTO Reminder: UNT is Closed for Labor Day on Monday (9/2) Pick up or register for tickets for the UNT Distinguished Lecture Series: Rainn Wilson creator of SoulPancake http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/wilson (September 19th at 7 pm)
Week 2	9/3	Digital Identity & Our Storytelling Tools Twitter & WP 101 HOW TO: Steps to Set-up Your WordPress Blog & Twitter Account - http://bit.ly/N01PIP		Set up WordPress (WP) Blog and Twitter Account. WP Blog Post #1: Intro DUE: 9/3 at 11:59 pm Set up Twitter Account – with picture & bio; Tweet using our hashtag = #ugstSTORY

				 MEET at Sage Hall #237 at 11 am (In Sage Computer Lab 330)  Just “Google It” Assignment: Each student is given another student's name & asked to Google to learn about them to share a 2 min introduction in class on 9/5. Hint: Reading blog intros might help - Check the class blog roll.
Week 2	9/5	Google Introductions University Expectations & Goal Setting Why are you at college?  MEET back at Wooten Hall 118	Chapter 2: Engage Guidebook 1, 2, 3 (read BEFORE class)	 UGST 1000 Pre-Test in “Complete Assessments” Bb Learn; DUE: Friday (9/6) by 11:59pm  Complete MBTI & Strong Inventory Online; Due: 9/15 by 11:59 pm  Top 3 Values: Tweet your top values using the #ugstSTORY hashtag (DUE by 11:59 pm TODAY)  WP Post #2: What’s On Your Bucket List? (DUE by 11:59 pm TODAY)
Week 3	9/10	Campus Scavenger Hunt Personal vs. Work Values - Intro to Roadtrip Nation (RTN)	READ: Chapter 5 Pg. 88-96	 #ugstSTORY: You’re on a UNT campus mission. Tweet your location, a picture and what you find during today’s activity.  WP Post #3: What career or profession do you want to know more about for the RTN project? Blog about it, and comment on at LEAST one (1) other blog post

Week 3	9/12	<p>Motivation & Persistence</p> <p>Learning Styles</p>	<p>READ: Chapter 3 Persist</p> <p>READ: Chapter 5 Pg. 88-96</p>	<p> Schedule 1:1 Advising Appointments before (9/17) - Contact Office for Exploring Majors by phone (940.565.2457) or in person (SAGE 302).</p> <p> WP COMMENT on a WP Post #3: Are you interested in the same area as someone in the class? Leave at least ONE (1) comment on another #ugstSTORY blog post by 11:59 pm tonight (help form teams for RTN project)</p>
Week 4	9/17	<p>Introduction to MBTI</p> <p>RTN Project - Teams Assigned & Assignment</p>		<p> WP Post #4: What is your MBTI & what do you think about it? Share your MBTI & thoughts results and reflect in a 200 word blog post. Share at least FIVE (5) things you learned from your MBTI report or lesson. Due at 11 :59 pm TONIGHT.</p>
Week 4	9/19	<p>Time management</p> <p>Your Family Career/Major Tree</p> <p></p>		<p> WP Post #5: How Do You Spend Your Time? Complete Activity: Post results and reflect. Include a visual representation of time management, where your time is used, and how you will think about your time</p> <p> Soulpancake - Rainn Wilson - 7 pm Coliseum http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/wilson</p> <p>  Your Family Career/Major Tree Assignment; DUE on 9/24 on your WP Blog Post #6</p>
Week 5	9/24	<p>Memory: Study Tips & Tricks</p> <p>Your Family</p>	<p>Chapter 5: Pg. 96-99</p>	<p> **BRING: Your either your History Notes or other lecture notes to Class for Thursday (9/26)</p>

		Career/Major Tree		 Brainstorm: Tweet questions for the Library Visit (10/3) using the #ugstSTORY hashtag e.g. L: Where can I learn more about a major in _____?
Week 5	9/26	Listening & Note-taking Introduce CANstruction		 WP #6: Values – Personal and Professional: Family Tree Activity  RTN Group Proposals Due; Presentations & Projects due in class 10/1   Reality Check c/o the Student Money Management Center - BLB 255 from 5-6 pm =>Bonus: Attend Event & post a 300 word WP Blog about what you learned
Week 6	10/1	 RTN Group Proposals Due	CS 1.4	 Brainstorm: Tweet questions for the Career Center Visit (10/10) using the #ugstSTORY hashtag e.g. CC: How do I find an alumni in my major?
Week 6	10/3	Information Literacy & Media Library - 		 Meet at Willis Library room 136