



## UWG 1101: The First Year University Experience

**Course Section Number: 16 – Tuesdays 3:00 pm – 4:50pm**  
**Classroom: Geography Room 12**

**Instructor:** Farooq A. Khan  
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**Office hours**

<b>Mondays</b>	11:00 am – 12:00 noon; 3:30 – 4:45 pm
<b>Wednesdays</b>	11:00 am – 12:00 noon; 3:30 – 4:45 pm
<b>Thursdays</b>	10:00 am – 12:00 noon; 1:00 – 4:45 pm

Additional office hours, by appointment

### Course Description:

**UWG 1101** is designed to help students succeed at West Georgia academically, personally and socially. The fundamental focus of the class is to provide an understanding of the basic structure of critical thinking and of academic disciplines in order to increase learning in the university classroom. The course will also provide an overview of available resources that will help to insure student success. Furthermore, UWG 1101 provides students with essential information about the university as a whole, its rules, procedures and resources. UWG 1101 classes include topics that cut across the academic and nonacademic lines of school; these topics include time management, college study skills, basic computer skills, the structure of the Core Curriculum, choosing a major and career, and using the UWG library.

**Course Characteristics:** UWG 1101 is a 2-semester-hour course that generally is limited to Freshmen. It does not fulfill general studies requirement, but counts as an elective that may be applied toward graduation. Based on student performance, the grade of *A*, *B*, *C*, *D*, or *F* will be awarded upon completion of the course. The grade in UWG 1101 is computed in a student's Grade Point Average (GPA).

## Course Goals

- To promote a positive adjustment and assimilation into the university for first year students;
- To help students learn to balance their freedom with a sense of responsibility as part of the process of enhancing self-knowledge and self-confidence;
- To develop a network of colleagues;  
To involve students in the total life of the university;
- To reduce student anxiety about written and oral communication;
- To enhance college-level analytical reading, and provide supplemental practice in applying the knowledge students gain in other first-year courses;  
To increase student awareness of particular majors and academic departments and assist them in career decision making, or to help them recognize that their most appropriate current choice is to remain undecided;  
To introduce students to American higher education with an emphasis on its history and current structure;
- To provide students additional training, practice, experience, and knowledge in the following skill areas: decision making, goal setting, planning, time management, and group/teamwork.
- **Learning Outcomes:**
  - Students will identify and utilize a set of adaptive study, coping, critical thinking, logical problem-solving, and success skills;
  - Students will demonstrate an understanding of some of the most typical pedagogical strategies of their professors' teaching and presentation styles;
  - Students will demonstrate their understanding of the function of a mentor and how to go about finding one;
  - Students will summarize basic information about UWG: its history, purposes, organization, rules and regulations, people, services, resources, and opportunities for student development;
  - Students will utilize the following resources available to them at UWG: the Library, the EXCEL Center, and the Health Center; students will also identify the location and function of other important offices on campus, such as Student Development Center, the Writing Center, and the Mathematics Laboratory and the Career Services Office;
- Students will identify some of the major health and wellness issues for students;  
Students will document their personal goals for careers and academic majors and their plans for achieving these goals;
- Students will demonstrate some basic skills in computer literacy through activities involving the use of e-mail and the Internet;
- Students will identify elements of democratic structures within which they will be civically engaged on the UWG campus, in the larger community and in the State of Georgia;

- Students will demonstrate the ability to examine and discuss ways in which UWG students, faculty, and staff identify, prioritize and debate issues affecting civic engagement and democracy.

**Textbooks:**

- A. First Year Success, Pearson Prentice Hall
- B. Connection and Student Handbook 2006-2007, Starling, University of West Georgia Press
- C. Other reading as assigned

**Grading :**

score >90% A; 89-80% B; 79-70% C; 69-60% D; <60% F

**Assessment**

*In-class writing (20%)*

**Attendance is required.** In-class writings will be done periodically. These will be open-book, and will mostly be based on reading assignments from your text.

*Campus Events (40%)*

A minimum of eight (8) out-of-class events must be attended, and one-page summaries must be submitted.

**At least two of these must be academic** (examples: a speaker sponsored by an academic department on campus, a discussion of current events hosted by an academic department on campus)

*In-class oral presentations (20%)*

*Papers(20%; 10 each)*

1. Please submit a comprehensive report (typed, double-spaced, font size 12, 1 inch margins) with the following components. The first draft due in class on October 16, and the revised version is due on October 30.
  - A 2 page essay describing your choice of a profession; and
  - A list of four potential employers;
2. Please prepare an application (cover letter and resume) for an internship/co-op/summer position relevant to your chosen profession. The first draft due in class on class November 6, and the revised version is due on November 20.

### **Policy on cheating**

Occurrences of cheating are rare. However, cheating by one individual raises questions about fairness for the rest of the class, and indeed, endangers the honor code that governs our examination system. It is after considerable thought and agonizing that I have arrived at the following formula. If an individual cheats on a report or quiz or examination for the first time, he/she will obtain a score of zero for that particular quiz or examination. If an individual is caught cheating a second time during the semester, he/she will receive a grade of F for the entire course.