

UB 101 University Experience

Fridays 10:00-10:50am, Diefendorf Hall 205 (South Campus)

UBE 101 section BM, Class #15541

Instructor: Christian Urcia
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Office Hours: Monday-Friday, hours vary daily; appointments are required

Instructor: Clayton Connor
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Office Hours: Monday-Friday, hours vary daily; appointments are required

Course Description:

UB 101 is a one-credit hour seminar designed to assist first-year students in making the transition to the University at Buffalo, providing them a framework for their success as students. Through a small, interactive classroom environment intended to engage students in learning, the course focuses on providing resources, fostering important relationships, and helping students to understand their responsibilities and privileges within the University at Buffalo community.

Course Requirements and Grading:

This one-credit hour course is grade Pass/Fail (P/F). In order to receive a passing grade, students must earn at least 110 out of 130 possible points. Points are earned for attendance and in class participation, and for quality completion of the assignments described below.

- **Attendance and Participation**

Students are expected to attend, be prepared for, and actively participate in every class session. Each class session is worth a maximum of 5 points. **A total of 60 points may be earned for attendance and participation.**

- **Assignments**

Students are expected to thoughtfully complete and submit every assignment by the beginning of the class session when they are due by **submitting the assignment on the UB Learns page (under assignments)**. No points will be awarded for assignments submitted past the due date unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. The assignments and point totals are described in detail below. Students who are unsatisfied with the number of points earned for any individual assignment may revise the assignment and resubmit it (with the original that includes instructor comments) no later than one week after the graded assignment has been returned.

- **Introductory Reflection (10 points) – Due September 20th**

Students must share some of their thoughts about beginning college, by addressing the following questions (and any others that are pertinent to them):

- How are you feeling about starting college at UB? What has gone well/not-so-well?
- What are your goals as a college student (why are you here and what do you want to accomplish) – both in your first semester and over four years?
- What are the strengths (e.g. characteristics, experiences) you are bringing that will help you be successful at UB?
- What are you anxious about and/or what are some challenges you anticipate facing? What is your plan to overcome those challenges?
- Who are your biggest supporters and how do you plan to keep them updated on your college experience?

Students may complete this assignment by writing a paper (**about 2-3 pages**), or by expressing their thoughts in some other creative way such as creating a video, building a website/blog, creating a PowerPoint or Prezi presentation (with detailed notes), etc.

- **Individual Meeting with Instructor (10 points) – Due October 25th**

Students must schedule an individual meeting with the instructor of this course between **October 4th and October 25th, 2013**. During the meeting, students will be asked to share their reflections on their UB experience thus far, including successes and challenges to date, progress toward their goals, areas where they may need support, and strategies for finishing the semester successfully.

- **Event Reflection**

Students must attend a minimum of two events throughout the semester from at least two of the following categories:

- a) Student club/organization meeting
- b) Social/athletic program or event
- c) Educational workshop or event
- d) UB/Buffalo/Western New York cultural event or program.

- **Paper (10 points) - Due November 1st**

Students must submit a brief paper (**about 2-3 pages**) in which they react to two events attended. In the paper, students should describe each event and share their reflections by addressing questions such as: Did you like/dislike the events and why? What did you learn? Would you recommend these specific events to other first-year students and why/why not? Students should also discuss their thoughts about campus engagement in general by addressing questions such as: How has your UB experience been enhanced by attending a variety of campus events throughout your first semester? How do you plan to invest some of your out-of-class time and energy next semester?

- **Library Skills Workbook (10 points) – Due November 8th**
 Students must complete the Library Skills Workbook. The Workbook is an online “course” available through UBlerns. Details about this assignment, including instructions and answers to common questions, are available online at <http://library.buffalo.edu/help/instructional/libraryskillsworkbook.html>. Student may complete the general Library Skills Workbook or one of the discipline-specific versions of the Workbook to satisfy this requirement.
- **UB Reads Reflection (15 points) – Due November 22nd**
 Students are expected to attend the lecture by UB Reads author Malcolm Gladwell on November 13, 2013 at 8:00 p.m. in Alumni Arena; the instructor will provide tickets. Students are also encouraged to read the UB Reads book, *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference*, prior to the lecture. Students must submit a brief paper (about 2-3 pages) discussing their reactions to the lecture (and ideally, the book). In addition to overall reactions, students should discuss one quote from the lecture that resonated particularly well with them and how it relates to their life as a college student.
- **Final Reflection (15 points) – Due December 6th**
 Students must share some of their thoughts about finishing their first semester of college at UB by addressing the following questions (and any others that are pertinent to them):

 - How are you feeling about finishing your first semester at UB? What went well/not-so-well? What are the highlights (and low points)?
 - How have you changed as a result of your experience at UB so far? What are the key moments that stand out most from this first semester and what effect have they had on you?
 - What have you learned about yourself and about how to be successful as a student at UB?
 - What are your goals as a college student (why are you here and what do you want to accomplish over four years)? How have your goals changed since you started at UB? What progress have you made in working toward those goals? What will you do next semester to make even more progress toward your goals?

Students may complete this assignment by writing a paper (about 3-4 pages), or by expressing their thoughts in some other creative way such as creating a video, building a website/blog, creating a PowerPoint or Prezi presentation (with detailed notes), etc.

Course Policies:

- **Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is a fundamental university value. Through the honest completion of academic work, students sustain the integrity of the university while facilitating the university's imperative for the transmission of knowledge and culture based upon the generation of new and innovative ideas. For a complete description of UB's Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures, refer to the Undergraduate Catalog (<http://undergrad-catalog.buffalo.edu/policies/courses/integrity.shtml>).

- **Accessibility for All Students**

If a student has a disability and may require some type of instructional and/or other accommodation, s/he should inform the instructor of the course as soon as possible so that accommodations may be coordinated. If the student has not already done so, s/he should contact the Accessibility Resources office in 25 Capen Hall (phone number 716-645-2608).

Course Outline:

Date	Class Topic	Assignment Due
Aug 30	Introductions and Syllabus Review	
Sep 6	Values Exploration	
Sep 13	No Class	
Sep 20	Academic Success Skills 1	Introductory Reflection
Sep 27	Appreciating Cultural Diversity*	
Oct 4	Registering for Classes/Meeting with Advisor	
Oct 11	Time Management*	
Oct 18	Academic Success Skills 2	
Oct 25	Alcohol and Other Drugs	Individual Meeting
Nov 1	No Class	Event Reflection
Nov 8	Personal Wellness-Nutrition	Library Skills Workbook
Nov 15	No Class (UB Reads Lecture attendance required)	
Nov 22	Planning for Your Future*	UB Reads Reflection
Nov 29	No Class (Fall recess)	
Dec 6	Course Wrap-up	Final Reflection

Please note that class topics and locations are subject to change. Such changes will be communicated in class whenever possible and by e-mail and UBlearns.

Updated: 9/5/2013

