

UNIV 100
Section 1401
The Student in the University
Fall 2008
1131 Woods Hall Mon, 3:00-4:50

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Course Web Site: ELMS will be used to post course materials, announcements, and grades. Another useful web site for resources can be found at <http://www.geol.umd.edu/~jmerck/eltsite/univ1001402/>. This site can be accessed on the Earth, Life & Time home page: <http://www.geol.umd.edu/~jmerck/eltsite/>.

Overview:

UNIV100 is a one credit, 10-12 week course with these goals:

- To help freshmen understand how the University experience differs from high school
- To give freshmen access to the resources and skills essential for academic success
- To help freshmen clarify why they are in college and set realistic goals for college
- To introduce students to the variety of cultural and social resources of the University
- To help students make the most of the university as a transition to adult life.
- Above all, to enable freshmen to become sophomores.

Course Materials

- Weekly planner
- Current Undergraduate Catalog
- Additional to be provided

Grading: The final grade for this course will be earned on the basis of the following. Details follow.

- **Attendance and participation:** (Absolutely required- 20%) because this is a discussion-based course, your attendance and participation in class is essential. Attendance will be recorded at every session. If a situation arises that requires your absence please notify the instructors by email before class. Emergency cases should be handled within 48 hours. Each unexcused absence will drop your final grade by a letter.

- **Journal:** (20%) You are required to submit a bi-weekly journal entry, due by midnight the day after class. This will be done by email and you will send copies to the instructor and the TA.
- **Campus Web Memoir:** (20%) You are required to construct a web-memoir of events that you attend on campus and make a presentation to the class.
- **Faculty Interview:** (20%) You are required to select a faculty member from one of your classes other than ELT or UNIV100 and make an appointment to meet with him/her during office hours.
- **Time capsule** (20%) Instead of a final journal entry, we ask you to write a summation of your thoughts about your first semester in the form of a message to future freshmen. Include pictures of events and yourself. This message will be posted on the class web site where future freshmen can read it and be warned and encouraged.

Accessibility: you have a documented disability; you should contact Disability Support Services 0126 Shoemaker Hall. Each semester students with documented disabilities should apply to DSS for accommodation request forms which you can provide to your professors as proof of your eligibility for accommodations. The rules for eligibility and the types of accommodations a student may request can be reviewed on the DSS web site at http://www.counseling.umd.edu/DSS/receiving_serv.html.

Integrity: The University of Maryland has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit <http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/whatis.html>.

Journal Guidelines

The simple act of articulating one's thoughts can have a remarkably healthy effect on one's state of mind and ability to cope with new situations and confusion. For this reason, the maintenance of a journal is a cornerstone of UNIV100. In it, you may reflect on the things/people/places you encounter during this time of major change. Your adjustment to college life, thoughts on the new people you're meeting and those you're leaving behind, your relationship with your room-mate, and your reactions to college-level classes are all fair game. Of course, it's not really a proper journal because the class instructor and TA will be reading what you write and responding to it. So, really, it's more of a **blog**, just with an audience of two. Nevertheless, your thoughts and impressions will be the main focus. Use the journal as a means to communicate with us about any matter of concern. Anything you submit as a journal entry is considered confidential and will only be read by the instructor or TA, but....

We do reserve the right to take appropriate action if your entries suggest that you, or someone else, maybe in physical danger.

Although you are welcome to correspond as often as you like, you **must** submit two journal entries per month. They are due via email/web by **midnight the day after class**. The instructor and the TA will split the class and respond to half the class one week and the other half of the class the next week. You should always send the journal entry to both of us each time, however. Although it may not be possible, we will make every attempt to get them back to you before the next class. The journal format may be a continuous dialog, or it may be a separate discussion each time this is up to you. We may also give you a particular topic/assignment with which to reflect in your journals from time to time, but this need not supplant any other thoughts you may wish to share.

Journal entries should be a free-flowing reflection of your thoughts. We won't assign points to such a qualitative assignment or impose strict length guidelines; however we know the difference between a thoughtful entry and a hastily submitted paragraph of the things you did since the previous entry. If we consider your entry inadequate, we will count off; however we will allow you to submit revisions for a re-grade during the following week. Each Journal counts for 5% of the total 20%.

Faculty Interview

Set up an appointment with a faculty member and visit them during their office hours to discuss anything you wish. However, please include some or all of the following:

- What can one do with a major in this field?
- What is the job market like?
- How did he/she come to be a professor at UMCP?
- What kind of appointment does he/she have?
- What's a typical day like for the professor?
- What's the best/worst part of the job?
- Difficulties you may have with a course like this?
- How will this course fit into one's career goals?

And the one they'll really enjoy answering:

- What does your research entail?

The visit should be at least 20 minutes and you may inform the professor that this is an assignment. You will describe/discuss this meeting in a journal entry in October. A page of the course web site

<http://www.geol.umd.edu/~jmerck/eltsite/univ1001402/interview.html> explains the assignment for potential faculty interviewees. There is also a document for the faculty to sign please print out and have them do so; turn them in with assignment.

Remember: As an ELT sophomore, you will be required to perform a practicum project. This interview is a good time to scout for possible projects.

Campus Events Web-Memoir

In this project, you will sample a few of the many intellectual and cultural experiences that the University of Maryland has to offer. Your task will be to attend or participate in at least one activity from each of the following four areas and provide evidence of your attendance. You'll assemble a page for your personal web site (from the ELT colloquium) using whatever methods/materials you wish to express your experience in these activities. The following information must be included for each event: the date, location, and one to three paragraphs of reflection. At the last class meeting, you'll give a 5-minute presentation to the group sharing your experience. If there is an event that is not listed above but which you would like to attend, please get prior approval from the instructors before going.

Note: In addition to the web page, you must submit proof of attendance of some sort. In many cases, a program, ticket stub, or order of worship will be available. If not, be sure to have an organizer sign the generic **Activity Verification Form** that you can download at <http://www.geol.umd.edu/~jmerck/eltsite/studentforms.html>.

The categories and activities are:

- **Academic**
 - Departmental seminar
 - University guest speaker
 - Dissertation/thesis defense
 - Undergraduate honors thesis presentations
 - Health Center Program
 - OIT training
 - Other technology class
 - Lecture of a class of which you are not presently enrolled
 - Career Center Program
 - Counseling Center Program
 - Writing Center or other Campus Tutoring service
- **Recreational - cultural**
 - Leadership/Governance Organization
 - Religious Organization
 - Special Interest Club/Organization
 - Performing Group Tryout
 - Athletic Team Tryout
 - Athletic event
 - Homecoming event
 - Family Weekend Activity
 - Residence Hall Activity
 - Organized Campus Recreation Center Activity
 - First Look Fair
 - Movie at the Hoff
 - Stamp Student Union Activity
 - All-Nighter
 - Music Recital/Performance

- Art Exhibit
- Theater Performance
- **Diversity horizons:**
 - Meeting or function of a student organization representing some cultural group of which you are not a member.
 - A religious service for a religion to which you don't belong.
 - Other major cultural event of a culture outside your own (be sure to get my approval first.)
- **Citizenship:**
 - Participate in a Blood Drive
 - Write for the Diamondback
 - Register to Vote
 - Community Service for non-academic credit (other than Service Day)
 - Tutor someone else
 - Community Civic Organization
 - University Governance Meeting (Board of Regents, Faculty Senate)
 - SGA Meeting
 - Hall Council Meeting
 - Honors Advisory Council
 - CPS Student Advisory Council

Time capsule

Instead of a final journal entry, we ask you to write a summation of your thoughts about your first semester in the form of a message to future freshmen. This should include:

- The ways in which you found college to be unlike high school
- Methods that you learned to interact effectively with faculty
- The social and logistical challenges you faced interacting with other students, especially your roommate.
- The academic pitfalls you encountered and how you avoided or climbed out of them
- Your impressions of the University as a cultural community. This message will be posted on the class web site where future freshmen can read it and be warned and encouraged.

I reserve the right capriciously to alter this syllabus with minimal notice at my most trivial whim. - CS

Tentative Class Schedule

- 9-08
 - Course introduction.
 - Student introductions - Who are you? What do you want?
 - College: Goals & Fears
- 9-15
 - It's Their World-Making a good impression
 - Avoid the Drama: Personal management and study skills
 - Code of Academic Integrity
- 9-16
 - **DUE - Journal entry 1.** 1st Impressions of UM/CPS
- 9-22
 - Essential campus services - Know them. They're your friends.
 - Who knew -The First Look Fair (9/16-9/17)
- 9-29
 - "But everyone else is doing it" Healthy Choices
- 9-30
 - **DUE - Journal entry 2.**
- 10-06
 - Why does my roommate talk so much? "Personality Types"
- 10-13
 - The Social Scene and Responsible Choices: Why bad things happen to good people
- 10-14
 - **DUE - Journal entry 3. Faculty interview**
- 10-20
 - Maryland Traditions
 - Study skills II - Salvaging your semester.
- 10-27
 - Pre-registration and CORE
 - Citation requirements
 - Ideas for your Practicum
- 10-28
 - **DUE - Journal entry 4.**
- 11-03
 - Library Scavenger Hunt (**Field Trip**)
- 11-10
 - College Career Exploration: How to avoid hating your major
- 11-11
 - **DUE - Journal entry 5.** Revisiting Your Goals: Where do you stand?
- 11-17
 - Web-memoir presentations
 - **DUE - Web memoir.**
- 11-24
 - Why am I still here? - Course wrap-up and critique
 - **DUE - Time capsule.**