
UNIVERSITY STUDIES PROGRAM

<http://www.ncat.edu/~univstud/index.html>

Joseph L. Graves, Jr., Dean

MISSION

University Studies (UNST) is the interdisciplinary general education curriculum of North Carolina Agricultural and State University and provides the intellectual foundation for the University's degree-granting programs. Its goal is to provide students with a framework for critical inquiry that serves as a foundation for continuing academic development and life-long learning. Motivated by the principle that scholarship is best learned by the way it is practiced, University Studies applies discovery, inquiry, analysis, and application in the classroom to promote:

- broad-based critical-thinking skills,
- effective written and oral communication of ideas,
- appreciation for diverse cultures, and
- commitment to ongoing civic engagement and social responsibility.

Through coursework and co-curricular experiences, the University Studies core curriculum develops in students an understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of knowledge, encourage cross-disciplinary dialogue, and promotes the development of intentional learners who take responsibility for their learning.

ACCREDITATION

The general education program is accredited by Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

GENERAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The University Studies program requires a minimum of 37 credit hours of coursework, as specified below. Incoming freshmen are required to complete 13 credit hours of UNST foundation courses (UNST 100, 110, 120, 130, and 140) during their first 32 credit hours of study at NC A&T, 12 credit hours of theme-based courses, 9 credit hours of major-specified courses that support University Studies learning objectives, and 3–6 credit hours of a senior capstone experience (typically specified by the student's major department.)

Freshman students who do not meet Freshman proficiency competency requirements (see below) in English composition and/or mathematics must successfully complete UNST 103 (Basic Writing) and/or MATH 099, (Intermediate Mathematics) with a passing grade before being allowed to enroll in any University Studies Foundation courses.

Theme based University Studies courses are taken only after a student has completed all University Studies foundation courses. Students choose a University Studies thematic cluster in consultation with their advisor or major department chair prior to completing University Studies foundation coursework. Students are required to complete 12 credit hours in a single thematic cluster prior to the senior capstone experience. Students wishing to switch clusters must still complete 12 credit hours in a single thematic cluster, unless otherwise approved by the Dean of University Studies.

In addition to the 37 credit hour requirement, all North Carolina A&T State University students are required to complete 50 hours of service/experiential learning prior to the senior capstone experience. Student service/experiential learning hours will be monitored in conjunction with the Division of Student Affairs.

Students are reminded that performance in University Studies courses may influence eligibility for some majors. Many competitive major require minimum grade point averages (GPA's).

APPROVAL FOR TRANSFER CREDIT

Transfer students enrolling at North Carolina A&T State University must receive prior approval from the Office of Admissions at North Carolina A&T State University to substitute college-level coursework completed at other institutions for University Studies requirements. The Dean of University Studies and the Dean of the College or School in question will resolve any remaining questions regarding substitution for transfer credit. The list of approved transfer equivalencies can be found on the University Studies web site: <http://www.ncat.edu/~univstud/resources.html>.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) CREDIT

Entering students may obtain advanced placement and college credit based on their performance on the College Board Advanced Placement (AP) examinations. A score of three (3) or higher on the English Language and Composition or the English Literature and Composition examination will entitle the student to credit for Critical Writing (UNST 110). No other Advanced Placement examination will be considered for University Studies credit, since the field subject areas do not correspond to the interdisciplinary content of the remaining University Studies courses. The student's academic advisor and/or department chair will recommend AP credit. The final decision on accepting AP course credits as a substitute for Critical Writing (UNST 110) will be made by the Dean of the school/college in consultation with the Dean of University Studies.

FRESHMAN PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

All Freshman students are required to demonstrate proficiency in mathematics and English composition by their performance on proficiency examinations completed prior to the start of the first semester of coursework. The University assesses mathematics and composition skills separately. Students who fail to reach the minimum passing score for the English composition assessment will be required to complete UNST 103 (Basic Writing) with a passing grade. Students who fail to reach the minimum passing score for the Mathematics assessment will be required to complete MATH 099 (Intermediate Mathematics) with a passing grade. These courses do not count towards University Studies requirements.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS IN UNIVERSITY STUDIES

UNST 103. Basic Writing

Credit 3(3-0)

This course is designed to prepare students for writing college-level compositions. The course begins with a focus on paragraph writing, requiring that students demonstrate their ability to develop and organize paragraphs adequately and clearly. In addition, the course concentrates on the short composition, requiring that students demonstrate competency in writing short essays. Computer-based tools such as Criterion may be used to address fundamental skills in student writing. The course will be offered for a Pass/Fail grade.

Foundation Courses

University Studies foundation courses focus on the four major goals of the University Studies program: broad-based critical-thinking skills; effective written and oral communication of ideas; appreciation for diverse cultures; and commitment to ongoing civic engagement and social responsibility. Foundation-level courses emphasize active learning teaching strategies, ongoing formative assessment, and interdisciplinary thinking.

UNST 100. University Experience

Credit 1(1-0)

This seminar emphasizes the role of the University Studies program and presents a broad overview of the curriculum structure and rationale, including an introduction to a variety of interdisciplinary themes within the University Studies program. Introductory discussions on ethics, wellness and healthy lifestyles, diversity and civic engagement will be included.

UNST 110. Critical Writing**Credit 3(3-0)**

This course introduces students to reading comprehension and the writing process. Students will read and evaluate selected texts and apply critical thinking through writing and speaking. Students will engage in formal and informal writing, revise drafts and respond to constructive feedback related to critical thinking skills, use of grammar and conventions of standard written English. All students will develop a writing portfolio for course assessment.

UNST 120. The Contemporary World**Credit 3(3-0)**

This course examines the social, economic, political, and cultural roots of the contemporary world. It focuses on the major developments, events, and ideas that have shaped world societies since the beginning of the twentieth century. Close attention will be given to concepts and categories that allow students to grasp the nature and development of the contemporary world, thus providing them with a framework for understanding the contemporary global experience. The course helps students develop critical thinking skills in their oral and written work and to use information technology effectively.

UNST 130. Analytical Reasoning**Credit 3(3-0)**

This course engages students in scientific, quantitative and logical reasoning processes to prepare them to interpret and solve problems encountered in everyday life. Students will consider concepts from logic and the scientific disciplines including life, social and physical sciences. The scientific method and a variety of analytical approaches are explored, including numerical, graphical, verbal/logical, and algebraic reasoning.

UNST 140. The African American Experience: An Interdisciplinary Perspective**Credit 3(3-0)**

This interdisciplinary course introduces students to the important contributions made and challenges faced by people of African descent in America and the global community. This course will focus on oral, written and visual means of expression as a basis for discussion, analysis and debate. During fall 2006 the following courses can be used to fulfill the UNST 140 requirement: ENGL 333, 334, HIST 201, 202, 416, POLI 220, SOWK 414.

* The list of courses suitable for cross-listing with UNST 140 is subject to change and can be petitioned by individual students to the Dean of University Studies.

Theme-Based Courses

Students are required to complete 12 credit hours within a single thematic cluster. If a student decides to change to a different thematic cluster, he/she will have to satisfy all the course requirements for the new cluster. The Dean of University Studies will consider exceptions to this rule based on individual petitions. Theme-based courses are communication intensive (oral and written) and emphasize interdisciplinary learning motivated by societal issues and problems. Course descriptions of approved thematic courses offered by departments outside of University Studies can be found in the requisite sections of the Bulletin.

Science, Technology, and Society

AGEN 216	PHIL 266	UNST 206
COMP 390	POLI 410	UNST 207
ENGL 206	POLI 448	UNST 210
ENGL 231	SOCI 473	UNST 213
ENGL 331	SOWK 415	UNST 219
ENGL 336	UNST 201	UNST 221
HIST 307	UNST 203	

UNST 201. Inventing America: Science, Technology, and Progress

This course explores the complex relations among scientific discovery, technological advance, and societal change through analysis of key episodes in American history from the pre-industrial

era to the Information Age. In addition, students will debate the ethical issues triggered by scientific and technological innovation, examine how technology is portrayed in literature and the arts, and evaluate the frequently made claim that more advanced science and technology lead to better lives.

UNST 203. Technology, the Real, the Fake and the Authentic

This course encourages analysis and comparison of cultural systems through case studies of real, fake, virtual and authentic works and personal experiences studied from the standpoint of the technologies and cultural communities that produced and consumed them. These case studies include works of art, technological artifacts, and other experiences.

UNST 206. Scientific Revolutions and Social Change

This course highlights the complex connections between science, technology, scientific breakthroughs, and social, political and economic change. The experiences of and lessons from the Industrial Revolution of the 18th Century will be used to understand the social, political and ethical implications and challenges of the current revolution in nanotechnology. Students are led to discover the deeper relationships between seemingly unrelated events in history, and explore competing interpretations given by different disciplines.

UNST 207. Ethics and Technology

This course examines ethical issues arising from scientific and technological advancements. The central normative question students will consider is: Simply because we can do something does this mean we should? After exploring various standards of morality, students analyze issues such as reproductive technologies, cloning, genetic engineering, stem cell research, life-span extension, genetically modified foods, and ethical concerns within nanotechnology.

UNST 210. Ethics in Information Technology

This course will explore moral, ethical, and legal problems associated with information technologies including issues such as security and privacy. Students will critique ethical dilemmas, debate moral issues, and develop ideas for reducing ethical problems and coping with their effects.

UNST 213. Evolution and Social Implication of Technology. Theme:

Technology and Progress

This course examines diverse technology systems, such as biotechnology, communication, construction, manufacturing, medical, and transportation. Discussion focuses on the interaction of technology with human health, the environment, the global economy, and politics, as well as technological forecasting and assessment.

UNST 219. Technology and Public Wellness

This course describes, reviews and challenges issues arising from the development of technology and the implications for public health policy. Students explore the relationship between the development and implementation of technology and cultural factors such as religion, politics, history and economics. The course also examines how technology influences health and wellness in local and global contexts. In addition students critically evaluate how technology policies of the industrialized superpowers influence the well-being of people in non-industrialized nations.

UNST 221. Thematic Writing and Speaking: Technology and Society

This course is designed to improve students' abilities to write, speak and think critically about important issues in the contemporary world by focusing on the rhetoric of science, technology and progress. Students examine rhetoric as represented in fiction and nonfiction: essays, short stories, drama, poetry, novels, film, popular culture (including popular science writing and journalism), and speeches.

Energy, Environment and Society

AGEC 300	PHIL 308	SOCI 300
AGEN 216	POLI 250	UNST 205
EASC 201	POLI 410	UNST 211
GEOG 200	POLI 415	UNST 212
GEOG 322	POLI 448	UNST 229
HIST 435	SOCI 200	

UNST 205. The Impact of Energy and the Environment on Development in Non-Industrialized Countries

This course examines issues and challenges that result from the formation of energy and environmental practices and policies of non-industrialized countries. Students use historical perspective to explore why non-industrialized nations are energy dependent.

UNST 211. Case Studies in Environmental Issues

This course utilizes case studies to gain an understanding of the roles environmental law, journalism/communications, economics, and science/engineering play in environmental issues.

UNST 212. Contemporary Issues in Energy Uses and Sources

This course is designed to provide integrative experiences to students using contemporary energy issues as an underlying theme. It will cover the economic importance of the energy sector, the production and use of different types of energy, and their impact on the environment and health.

UNST 229. Contemporary Issues in Nuclear Energy

This course is designed to present a current understanding of nuclear energy. Different reactor designs, economics of nuclear energy, and management of nuclear energy will be reviewed. Nuclear power will be compared to other alternative energy sources. Emphasis will be placed upon regulations, environmental issues, health issues, and security and safety concerns. Nuclear power and options for the future will be examined.

Community, Conflict, and Society

ENGL 336	HIST 461	UNST 208
HIST 203	PHIL 260	UNST 216
HIST 312	POLI 446	UNST 220
HIST 332	POLI 448	UNST 222
HIST 334	SOCI 406	UNST 224
HIST 417	SOWK 413	UNST 230
HIST 418	UNST 204	UNST 231

UNST 204. 21st Century Organizations: Attitudes, Attention Drivers, and Angst

This course introduces students to the factors that affect organizations in the 21st century by exploring principles, practices, and pitfalls that affect organizational success or failure in a global society. The empowerment of individuals to create organizational cultures will be demonstrated through case studies of successful organizations (e.g., Fortune 100 companies). Students will learn about leadership, communication, and group dynamics through the investigation of targeted units.

UNST 208. Foundations of Negotiation and Conflict Resolution

This course explores negotiation, arbitration, and mediation techniques. It encourages students to manage conflict and negotiate peaceful solutions to business, economic development, social and political problems in our local communities and global societies.

UNST 216. Genocide in the Modern World

This course examines the concept of genocide, the deliberate murder of a specific group of people, through careful analysis and discussion of theoretical approaches, specific case studies, and relevant cultural artifacts, including literature and film.

UNST 220. Social Consequences of Scientific and Technological Progress In the African American Experience

This course presents an analytical approach to the issues of social justice and environmental racism with a focus on African-American communities. Students explore historical and contemporary social and economic impacts of science and technology, how and why they differentially affect African-American communities, and how these consequences can be mitigated.

UNST 222. Introduction to Crime Studies and Research

This course will introduce students to research methodologies used in the field of crime studies. Students examine the impact of crime studies research on public policy. The topics include math and quantitative research, competing theories of crime in society, and the relationship between legal and scientific reasoning.

UNST 224. Thematic Writing Fieldwork

This course explores the interdisciplinary applications of fieldwork and emphasizes the ethnographer's skill set: cultural awareness and sensitivity, precise observation, careful interviewing and note taking, and the crafting of convincing prose. Fieldwork is centered around the principles of ethnographic research,

UNST 230. Religion and Society

This course examines interactions between religion and societies as factors influencing the formation of community, the breakdown of community, and reconciliation within and among communities. Contemporary, historical, and nonwestern examples will be explored. Interrelations between religion and societies will be explored from different disciplinary perspectives, including those of psychology, history, sociology, philosophy, evolutionary biology, neurobiology, and neuropsychology.

UNST 231. Introduction to Christianity

This course introduces students to basic concepts and approaches to the academic study of religion including the origin and history of Christianity as evolving institutions, beliefs, practices, and the ongoing quest by Christians to define themselves in a changing, increasingly global world. The course will introduce students to the global diversity of Christian experience from its Middle Eastern and Greco-Roman origins, African, Eastern and Western forms of Orthodoxy, and contemporary international Pentecostal forms of Christianity in the global southern hemisphere.

Health, Lifestyles and Society

HEFS 135	SOCI 304	UNST 215
PHED 219	SOCI 308	UNST 217
PHED 221	SOWK 370	UNST 218
NURS 305	SOWK 409	UNST 225
NURS 315	SOWK 415	UNST 226
NURS 415	UNST 202	UNST 227
PHIL 266	UNST 209	UNST 228
PSYC 320	UNST 214	

UNST 202. Ecological Approach to an Active Healthy Lifestyle

This course examines the integration of cultural, psychological, sociological, and ethical issues affecting and affected by the health and wellness of individuals and the society in which they live. Students explore the contextual and theoretical basis of holistic approaches including the complex nature of humans with regard to health and well-being from ecological perspectives. Students gain experience with specific methods to foster greater appreciation for personal responsibility for health and strategies to enhance and preserve the individual's and public health. Societal health issues and the factors that impact on the health and wellness of communities and the individual's role in health policy are also examined.

UNST 209. Disparities in Public Health Care: The Effects on Race, Gender, and Class

This course is designed to explore the disparities that exist among the categories of race, gender, and class in relationship to healthcare. The course focuses on six areas of major health inequities including infant mortality, cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, HIV/AIDS and immunizations.

UNST 214. Maps, Mapping, and Environmental Health

This course encourages students to conceptualize and assess environmental and health issues from a spatial or geographical perspective. Topics such as air pollution, water pollution, population dynamics, occupational health, food protection, epidemiology, disease causation and prevention, vector-borne disease, and consumer protection are covered. Geographic Information Systems technology is used to model environmental health topics.

UNST 215. Comparative Socio-Cultural Environments of Health Care Systems

This course examines the differential effects of social, political, economic and cultural factors on development and utilization of health care systems across diverse societies. Students further explore the interrelationships between specific aspects of socio-cultural environment and the availability and use of health care.

UNST 217. Health and Wellness in the 21st Century

This course explores the impact of globalization on health and wellness from the perspectives of culture, religion, politics, history, economics and technology.

UNST 218. Fitness for Life

This course is a combination of classroom and activity-based learning activities with a focus on proper nutrition and the mastery of the knowledge and skills necessary for students to become accomplished monitors of their personal fitness.

UNST 225. Epidemiology

This course will introduce students to the basic principles, theories and concepts of epidemiology and their application specifically pertaining to the distribution and determinants of disease. The course will focus upon the biological, environmental, social, and analytical approaches to understanding the determinants of human health, and the application of that knowledge to improving the health of populations

UNST 226. A Personal Approach to Health

This course will address the relationship between lifestyle health-related issues, including sexual responsibility, psychological health, nutrition, and exercise. Additionally, issues such as weight control, stress management, tobacco, and alcohol use will be addressed.

UNST 227. Global Health and Socio-Economic Development

This course will introduce students to the main concepts of global health and the critical links between public health and social and economic development. The course reviews the determinants of health status in terms of biology, demography, epidemiology, culture, sociology, economics, and politics. Global Health introduces students to key concerns regarding reproductive health, child survival, nutrition, communicable diseases, and chronic diseases.

UNST 228. Contemporary Issues in Public Health

This course explores current public health, environmental health, and health service delivery issues in the U.S. Topics include organization and costs of health systems, access to care, and the interrelationships between risk factors and health.

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