

UNLF 10211**Introduction to University Life
Fall 2021**

course time: Thursdays, 3:30-4:50

classroom: Winton Scott Hall 115

Instructor:

Michael Strausz

<https://michaelstrausz.com>

in-person office hours: Thursdays 9:30-11:30 or by appointment

office: Scharbauer 2007F

virtual office hours: Tuesdays 2:30-3:20 (zoom link on D2L) or by appointment

e-mail: michael.strausz@tcu.edu

Peer Guide:

Zoe Sueltenfuss

Course Description & Overview

This one-hour, seminar-style course for first-year students provides knowledge, skills, and strategies to help students successfully transition into the academic community. Students are introduced to fundamental questions and issues of the university experience—understanding the nature and purpose(s) of higher education at TCU, practicing critical thinking, learning study strategies, reflecting upon course material and campus experiences, sustaining academic and personal integrity, setting learning goals, honoring diversity and inclusion in the academic community, taking responsibility, managing stress, exploring campus resources, and developing life-long learning habits. With an instructor and a peer guide, a cohort of first-year students will explore and discuss these and other topics relevant to navigating the college transition.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students in this course will:

- Discuss the purpose(s) of college and TCU's mission
- Develop both short and long-term goals
- Define and discuss critical thinking related to higher education and learning
- Discuss encountering diverse people and perspectives
- Discuss the importance of academic and personal integrity in a learning community
- Identify and implement self-management strategies such as time-management, study skills, managing stress, and cultivating well-being
- Identify campus resources
- Utilize a mentoring relationship with an instructor and a peer guide for support in the transition to college and in cultivating the habit of reflection as it pertains to their learning experiences.

Course Readings & Resources

These are archived in a Course Shell in TCU Online and will be added throughout the semester if necessary.

Grades in this course are determined by student performance on the following measures:

MEASURE	COURSE ELEMENTS & EXPECTATIONS	TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS
In-class reflections	<p>At the end of each class session, students will have a few minutes to write one to three sentences on one of these questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is something that you learned today? 2. What is the muddiest point for you from today's class? 3. What is something that we touched on today that you want to learn more about? <p>If students miss a class, they should log in to D2L before the next class to give a brief explanation of why they missed class. These explanations might include "I was sick," "my sister got married," "I was having some family issues," etc. I respect your privacy, so I do not need details in your explanations (no need to tell me about what kind of illness or doctor's appointment, for example).</p> <p>For each day that a student fills out a genuine reflection on the class or explanation for why he or she missed class, that student will get full credit (a 100). Failure to complete a day's prompt will result in a grade of 0 for that day.</p>	30
Online discussion of course materials	<p>Before each class, students are required to post a discussion question on the reading that we did or the video that we watched for that day. There is a more specific assignment in the module called "Course Syllabus and Assignments," and there are links to discussion boards after each reading.</p>	30
Written Reflections	<p>Students will write two short personal reflections (450-500 words each) in which they respond to compelling ideas from readings and class discussions. These papers are due on 10/21 and 11/18. <u>Each written reflection is worth up to 30 points.</u> More specific assignments and grading rubrics will be distributed later in the semester.</p>	60
Campus Experiences	<p>Students will attend three campus experiences during the semester (in person or virtually). Campus experiences are events organized by official campus groups or entities to contribute to student learning/growth and that contribute to campus culture. Instructors will suggest and/or approve experiences that qualify. Students receive 20 points for attending each campus</p>	60

MEASURE	COURSE ELEMENTS & EXPECTATIONS	TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS
	experience, as verified by the Instructor and/or Peer Guide. You must complete one of these two experiences and notify the professor by the end of September, one by the end of October, and the final one by the end of regular classes (the Wednesday before finals week).	
Mentor Meetings	Each student will meet with the Instructor and Peer Guide over Zoom once during the semester outside of normal class time. The purpose of these sessions is to provide an opportunity for students to reflect on their learning, explore challenges they are experiencing, and to seek feedback regarding any aspects of the student experience that they may have questions about. We will schedule these meetings and distribute an assignment and grading rubric later in the semester.	60
Semester-End Reflection & Presentation	We will end the semester with a final project with three parts. First, students will create an artifact (a video, photo slideshow, drawing, poem, diagram, infographic, short PowerPoint, etc.) that highlights their learning and growth this semester. Second, students will make a 4-5 minute presentation of their artifact to the class on Tuesday, 12/14 from 8:00-10:30. Third, students will write a short (450-500 word) paper that reflects on their first semester at TCU. This paper will be due on 12/2 . More specific assignments and grading rubrics will be distributed later in the semester. Each component of this assignment (the artifact, presentation, and paper) will be worth 20 points.	60
TOTAL	A: 270-300 pts B: 240-270 pts C: 210-240 D: 180-210 F: Below 180	300 Points

If you feel that you have been graded unfairly on any course assignment, please wait 24 hours after the assignment is returned and then contact me with a typed statement about why you believe you were graded unfairly. This statement must provide substantive reasons why you believe that you were graded unfairly. The appeal process must be started one week after the material was returned.

Late Work:

In general, late assignments lose 10 points (out of 100) per 24 hours late. So, if a paper is due at 3:30pm on Tuesday and you turn it in at 4:00pm, you will lose 10 points. And if you turn it in after 3:30pm on Wednesday, you will lose 20 points, (and after 3:30 on Thursday, you will lose 30 points... etc.). However, if you miss or are late in submitting any assignment because of an Official University Absence, an illness, or a personal or family emergency, please communicate with me as soon as you can we can discuss

rescheduling your work. You don't have to tell me the nature of the illness or emergency; just let me know that you are dealing with an illness or an emergency and we can discuss an alternate deadline for your work.

Office Hours:

I encourage students to take advantage of my office hours in order to ask questions about the course materials or to chat about issues related to the course or college life more generally. No appointment is necessary to come to my office hours. If you have classes or other obligations during my office hours and like to meet with me, I encourage you to email me to make an appointment.

Relevant TCU Policies

Campus Life and the Student Experience

The health and safety of students, faculty, and staff is Texas Christian University's highest priority. Safety protocols may change during the semester and may result in modifications or changes to the teaching format, delivery method, or the course schedule (e.g., altering meeting times or frequency; changing beginning or ending dates for a term; or partially or completely moving from a face-to-face classroom teaching to an online teaching or remote learning format). Any changes in teaching format, delivery method, or course schedule will not impact the credit hours for the course.

Health and Wellness

Have you gotten the COVID-19 vaccine? Let TCU know. →
Fill out the vaccine survey by scanning the QR code to the right.

Are you feeling unwell? Let TCU know.

If you are exhibiting symptoms that may be related to COVID-19 (fever or chills, dry cough, shortness of breath, etc.) or are concerned that you may have been exposed to COVID-19, you must self-quarantine and consult with the Brown Lupton Health Center at 817-257-7949 for further guidance.



In addition, you must notify the Campus Life Office immediately at 817-257-7926 or use the TCU COVID-19 Self-Report Hotline, 817-257-2684 (817-257-COVI). Campus Life will inform your professors that you are unable to attend class and provide any assistance and support needed. Click here for detailed information concerning COVID-19 symptoms: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>.

If you are unwell but are not exhibiting potential COVID-19-related symptoms, please notify your instructor as soon as possible that you are ill and will not be attending class.

Face Mask Statement

Face masks are currently required in TCU classrooms, per the TCU Campus Readiness Task Force: Face Mask Policy. Students not complying with classroom face mask requirements may be referred to Dean of Students Mike Russel.

If TCU lifts the face mask requirement before the end of Fall 2021, the instructor may continue to require face masks in their classrooms. At that point, the instructor will notify the students of their decision and update their syllabus accordingly.

TCU Policy for Religious Observations & Holidays

Students who are unable to participate in a class, in any related assignment or in a university required activity because of the religious observance of a holy day shall be provided with a reasonable opportunity to make up the examination or assignment, without penalty, provided that it does not create an unreasonable burden on the University. For more information, please visit the TCU Policy for Religious Observations & Holidays webpage.

Student Access and Accommodation

Texas Christian University affords students with disabilities reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. To be eligible for disability-related academic accommodations, students are required to register with the TCU Office of Student Access and Accommodation and have their requested accommodations evaluated. If approved for accommodations, students are required to discuss their official TCU Notification of Accommodation with their instructors. Accommodations are not retroactive and require advance notice to implement. The Office of Student Access and Accommodation is located in The Harrison, Suite 1200. More information on how to apply for accommodations can be found at <https://www.tcu.edu/access-accommodation/> or by calling Student Access and Accommodation at (817) 257-6567.

Audio Recording Notification:

Audio recordings of class lectures may be permitted by the instructor or as an approved disability accommodation through Student Access and Accommodation. Recordings are not to be shared with other students, posted to any online forum, or otherwise disseminated.

Course Materials

TCU students are prohibited from sharing any portion of course materials (including videos, PowerPoint slides, assignments, or notes) with others, including on social media, without written permission by the course instructor. Accessing, copying, transporting (to another person or location), modifying, or destroying programs, records, or data belonging to TCU or another user without authorization, whether such data is in transit or storage, is prohibited. The full policy can be found at: <https://security.tcu.edu/polproc/usage-policy/>.

Violating this policy is considered a violation of Section 3.2.15 of the Student Code of Conduct (this policy may be found in the Student Handbook at <https://tcu.codes/code/index/>), and may also constitute Academic Misconduct or Disruptive Classroom Behavior (these policies may be found in the undergraduate catalog at <https://tcu.smartcatalogiq.com/current/Undergraduate-Catalog/Student-Policies/Academic-Conduct-Policy-Details>). TCU encourages student debate and

discourse; accordingly, TCU generally interprets and applies its policies, including the policies referenced above, consistent with the values of free expression and First Amendment principles.

Statement on TCU's Non-Discrimination Policy

TCU is committed to providing a positive learning, living, and working environment free from unlawful discrimination, harassment, sexual misconduct, and retaliation. In support of this commitment, in its policy on Prohibited Discrimination, harassment, sexual misconduct and retaliation, TCU has a range of prohibited behaviors, including unlawful discrimination and harassment and related sexual and other misconduct based on age, race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, ethnic origin, disability, predisposing genetic information, covered veteran status, and any other basis protected by law. The Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) is responsible for responding to all reports of discrimination, harassment, sexual misconduct and retaliation.

Please use the following links to review TCU Policy 1.008 Prohibited Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Misconduct and Retaliation or to review TCU Policy 1.009 Responding to Reports of Prohibited Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, and Retaliation.

To make a report, you may call OIE at 817-257-8228, email oiie@tcu.edu, visit us at The Harrison, Suite 1800 or click here: [Make a Report](#).

To learn about the Campus Community Response Team (CCRT) and Report a Bias Incident click here: <https://inclusion.tcu.edu/campus-community-response-team/>

Title IX

TCU's Title IX Coordinator works within OIE. Andrea Vircks-McDew serves as TCU's Title IX Coordinator. You may call 817-257-8228 to make a report, email oiie@tcu.edu or a.vircks@tcu.edu, or make a report here. Additional Title IX resources and information are available at <https://www.tcu.edu/institutional-equity/title-ix/index.php>.

Mandatory Reporters

ALL TCU employees, except confidential resources, are considered Mandatory Reporters. Mandatory reporters are required to immediately report to OIE any conduct that raises Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Misconduct (Title IX or Violence Against Women (VAWA)) or Retaliation. Mandatory reporters cannot promise to refrain from forwarding the information to OIE.

Confidential On-Campus Resources

Campus Advocacy, Resources & Education, www.care.tcu.edu, 817-257-5225

Counseling & Mental Health Center, www.counseling.tcu.edu, 817-257-7863

Religious & Spiritual Life, www.faith.tcu.edu, 817-257-7830

TCU Police, www.police.tcu.edu
 817-257-8400 Non-emergency
 817-257-7777 Emergency

Emergency Response Information

Please review TCU's "L.E.S.S. is More" public safety video to learn about Lockdown, Evacuate, and Seek Shelter procedures. (<https://publicsafety.tcu.edu/less-is-more/>)

TCU's Public Safety website provides maps that show our building's rally point for evacuation and the seek shelter location. (<https://publicsafety.tcu.edu/>). In the event of an emergency, call the TCU Police Department at 817-257-7777. Download the Frogshield Campus Safety App on your phone. (<https://police.tcu.edu/frogshield/>)

Academic Misconduct

Academic Misconduct (Sec. 3.4 from the TCU Code of Student Conduct): Any act that violates the academic integrity of the institution is considered academic misconduct. The procedures used to resolve suspected acts of academic misconduct are available in the offices of Academic Deans and the Office of Campus Life and are also listed in detail in the Undergraduate Catalog and the Graduate Catalog.

Schedule:

Date	Theme and assigned reading
26-Aug	<i>Welcome, Introductions, and Overview of Course</i> <u>No assigned materials</u>
2-Sep	<i>The Purpose of College & The Mission of TCU: What are We Doing Here</i> <u>Assigned reading:</u> "What is College For?" <i>Chronicle of Higher Education</i> , 2013.
9-Sep	<i>Managing Your Life & Pursuing Well-being in College: Mindfulness</i> <u>Assigned reading:</u> Rogers, Holly. 2016. <i>The Mindful Twenty-Something: Life Skills to Handle Stress... and everything else</i> . Oakland, CA: New Harbinger Publications, Inc, Chapter 1.
16-Sep	<u>CLASS CANCELLED FOR YOM KIPPUR</u>
23-Sep	<i>Managing Your Life & Pursuing Well-being in College: Time Management</i> <u>Assigned materials:</u> Watch Tim Urban's TED talk "Inside the Mind of a Master Procrastinator."
30-Sep	<i>Identifying Campus Resources</i>

Date	Theme and assigned reading
	<u>No assigned materials</u>
7-Oct	<i>Self, Perspectives & Identities</i>
	<u>Assigned materials:</u> Watch Taiye Selasi's TED talk "Don't ask where I'm from, ask where I'm a local."
14-Oct	<u>FALL BREAK</u>
21-Oct	<i>Week 7: Learning in a Diverse & Inclusive Community</i>
	<u>Assigned reading:</u> Strike, Kenneth A, and Pamela A Moss. 2008. "Tolerance, Diversity, and Hate Speech." In <i>Ethics and College Student Life: A Case Study Approach</i> . 3 rd Edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson, pp. 32-41.
	<u>First reflection paper due by the beginning of class.</u>
28-Oct	<i>Advising Session: Preparing for Academic Advising</i>
	<u>No assigned materials</u>
4-Nov	<i>SMART Goal Setting for Your First Year of College</i>
	<u>Assigned reading:</u> Daniel Terry, "S.M.A.R.T. Goal Setting for your First Year of College."
11-Nov	<i>Thinking, Learning, & Studying in College</i>
	Cottrell, Stella. 2010. "What is Critical Thinking?" In <i>Critical Thinking Skills: Developing Effective Analysis and Argument</i> . New York, NY: Palgrave.
18-Nov	<i>Academic & Personal Integrity</i>
	<u>Assigned reading:</u> Strike, Kenneth A, and Pamela A Moss. 2003. "Case 2.1, Cheating." In <i>Ethics and College Student Life: A Case Study Approach</i> . 3 rd Edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.
	<u>Second reflection paper due by the beginning of class.</u>
25-Nov	<u>THANKSGIVING BREAK</u>
2-Dec	<i>Our Visions for our time at TCU</i>

Date	Theme and assigned reading
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No assigned reading, but gather some images for a vision board and bring them to class.

Final reflection paper due by the beginning of class.

14-Dec *Semester-end presentations from 8am-10:30am (this is a Tuesday)*