

# UNV 101 Syllabus

## The First-Year Student Experience

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EGC 209 • Wednesday 11-11:50

# UNV 101

## Course Description

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Who can answer my questions? What resources are available? How can I get the most out of college? A course that introduces you to the structure of higher education and the heritage of Mercer University, UNV 101 is intended to help you make a successful transition to college. You will better understand the value of a liberal arts education, identify campus support systems, develop better learning techniques, and succeed intellectually, socially, and personally during your first year at Mercer. Required of all first-year students who are not enrolled in a BUS 101 course. Graded S/U. 1 hour credit.

## Learning Outcomes

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Students who successfully complete UNV 101 will have been exposed to the following:

- the history and heritage of Mercer as a Baptist institution, and the importance of higher education.
- informal (or formal) methods for critical thinking, including decision making and problem solving within the context of weekly topics.
- appropriate study skills for their academic success.
- diversity issues that affect the individual, the institution, and the community.
- various applications of technology as they relate to the academic journey, including the University's e-mail system and MyMercer.
- available resources and opportunities for involvement, service-learning, and leadership on campus and in the community.
- academic and social policies of Mercer University.
- the advising and registration processes.
- ways to establish a productive relationship with their academic advisors and other faculty and staff.
- wellness issues that contribute to academic and personal success.
- issues related to career development and vocation.

## Statement of Academic Integrity

It is expected that each student will behave honorably throughout this (and every other) course. All students are expected to abide by the *Honor Code* as found in *The Lair*. All violations of the *Honor Code* will be referred to The Honor Council. I will provide as much information as possible to clarify my expectations for appropriate completion of assignments as they relate to issues of academic integrity (e.g. whether collaboration is permitted on a project, how sources should be documented, etc.). If you are unsure about any of these expectations, please feel free to ask me.

## Documented Disability Statement

Students requiring accommodations for a disability should inform the instructor at the close of the first class meeting or as soon as possible. The instructor will refer you to the Disability Support Services Coordinator to document your disability, determine eligibility for accommodations under the ADA/Section 504 and to request a Faculty Accommodation Form. Disability accommodations or status will not be indicated on academic transcripts.

In order to receive accommodations in a class, students with sensory, learning, psychological, physical or medical disabilities must provide their instructor with a Faculty Accommodation Form to sign. Students must return the signed form to the Disability Services Coordinator. A new form must be requested each semester.

Students with a history of a disability, perceived as having a disability or with a current disability who do not wish to use academic accommodations are also strongly encouraged to register with the Disability Services Coordinator and request a Faculty Accommodation Form each semester. For further information, please contact Carole Burrowbridge, Disability Services Coordinator, at 301-2778 or visit the Disability Support Services website at <http://www.mercer.edu/studentaffairs/disabilityservices>.



## Course Requirements

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### Attendance

You will get the most out of this course if you actively participate and interact with the other members of the group. You cannot participate if you do not attend, so attendance is vital. First Year Fridays are also included; you must attend at least three First Year Fridays.

### Grading

Attendance & Participation	90 points
Involvement in two different co-curricular events	20 points
Completion of the Letter To Me	20 points
Individual conferences with instructor	10 points
4-year Strategic Plan	10 points
Total	150 points

\*An S grade will be awarded for 120 points or higher.

### Four-Year Strategic Plan

Map out all the courses you will need to graduate from Mercer over the next four years. This project will help you learn about the various course requirements, their prerequisites (if any), the sequence in which some courses have to be taken, and their typical frequency of offerings. We will use this document as the basis for our advising sessions this semester and in the future.

### First Year Fridays

Attend three assemblies for first-year students during the fall semester.

### Class Participation

A large portion of the learning in this course happens in the classroom. Your interactions with your peers and the instructor will enhance your adjustments to college and further your likelihood for academic success. Class participation is critical to success in this course.

### Co-Curricular Activities

Students must participate in at least two co-curricular activities. Each one must be from a different category:

1. a visual or performing arts event
2. an athletic event (e.g. intercollegiate, intramurals, city team)
3. a meeting of a campus-wide organization (SGA, Quadworks, BSU, etc.)
4. a community service event (Service Saturdays, Be a Good Neighbor, etc.)

### Letter to Me

You must write a letter to yourself at this point in time answering the following questions:

- What are your biggest challenges thus far at Mercer?
- What are you most excited about this semester?
- What makes you most nervous about this semester?
- What is one goal you have for yourself personally?
- What is one goal you have for yourself academically?

You will hand in this letter, but no one, not even the instructor, will read this letter. You will receive the letter back on the final day of UNV 101.



**Important Dates!**

**Volunteer Fair**

Friday, August 22, 2014  
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Penfield Hall

**Be a Good NeighBEAR 2014**

Saturday, September 13, 2014  
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Kickoff on Cruz Plaza

**Lights on Afterschool**

Thursday, October 23, 2014  
4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

**Service Saturdays**

Time and locations TBD  
Sept. 27  
Oct. 25  
Nov. 22

<b>FALL 2014</b>	
<b>Open Registration Ends</b>	August 18
<b>First Day of Class</b>	August 19
<b>Late Registration &amp; Drop/Add</b>	August 19-22
<b>Last Day for Late Registration, Drop/Add</b>	August 22
<b>Holiday – Labor Day</b>	September 1
<b>Fall Break</b>	October 2-3
<b>Mid Term</b>	October 10
<b>Last Day for Course Withdrawal</b>	October 24
<b>Deadline for submitting Graduation Applications (for Spring and Summer 2015)</b>	TBA
<b>Advising/Priority Registration (for Spring 2015)</b>	TBA
<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>	November 26-28
<b>Last Class Day</b>	December 5
<b>Reading Days</b>	December 6, 7, 10
<b>Final Examinations</b>	December 8, 9, 11-13

**First Year Fridays**

10-10:50 in Willingham Auditorium (or Penfield Hall)

Friday, August 22  
Friday, September 5  
Friday, September 12  
Friday, September 19  
Friday, September 26  
Friday, October 10  
Friday, October 24  
Friday, November 7

Tip from Mercer Outstanding Faculty and Advisor Recipients  
Academic Excellence in the First Year...and Beyond!  
Responsible Decision-Making (Penfield Hall)  
Community Engagement: A Mercer Hallmark (Penfield Hall)  
Get Your Career Plan On! (Penfield Hall)  
The Many Faces of Aids  
Majors in Minutes (Penfield Hall)  
Registration Tip & Tricks

**Pilgrimage to Penfield**

Mercer Tradition  
Friday, October 17