

**Days and Time:** Fridays, 10:00-10:50 a.m.

**Instructor:** Professor Ericka Robinson-Freeman, LMSW

**Classroom:** Maverick Activity Center (MAC), Room #213

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**Instructor Profile:** <https://www.uta.edu/profiles/ericka-freeman>

**Office:** Social Work Complex, Building A, 101F

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays: 8-9:30 a.m. and 5-7 p.m.

Thursdays: 8-9:30 a.m. and 12:30-3 p.m.

*Other hours available by appointment only.*

**Peer Leader:** Tung Nguyen

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### **Course Description**

First-time freshmen students (new high school graduates) who have been accepted into UT Arlington are required to take MAVS 1000. MAVS 1000 orients students to life on campus and assists in the transition to college. Course content and assignments will help students identify their individual needs and skills which will affect their success, determine what resources are appropriate and available to them, and formulate a plan for an actively engaged and enriched experience on the campus.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

The First-Year Experience Course will allow students to do the following by the end of the semester:

#### **Personal Skill Development**

1. Identify a support network consisting of peers, staff, and faculty.
2. Know what a learning preference is, how to apply the learning preference to new material, and reflect on study techniques related to their preferences.
3. Identify campus resources to support their wellness goals.
4. Students will be able to describe their own cultural identity and analyze how that impacts their experience in the larger community.

#### **Academic Success**

1. Develop strategies and tools to become active independent learners.
2. Develop strategies for overcoming academic and personal obstacles and challenges.
3. Discover campus resources to support their learning and personal needs.
4. Identify library resources available to support their learning needs.

#### **Engagement Beyond the Classroom**

1. Connect skills and interests to future careers.
2. Design an intentional co-curricular plan for their collegiate journey.
3. Apply effective teamwork skills to complete a group project.

### Course Policies

Attendance: At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I have determined **attendance is required** and students may not miss more than 2 classes. Should a student miss more than 2 classes, the student is required to schedule a meeting with the instructor to discuss optional activities to be completed to make up for the absence.

Blackboard: Course content and assignments will be available through Blackboard. Students are required to submit written assignments to Blackboard by the due date. A schedule of assignments and due dates are available in the syllabus.

### Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:

1. There will be no required textbook for this course. However, there are several online modules and supplemental texts, which are a requirement and will need to be read and/or completed.
2. Three ring notebook or folder with brads for graded assignments, class information, and handouts.
3. Paper and pen/pencil for taking notes and completing in-class assignments.

### Assignment Guidelines

Assignments are designed to provide opportunity to practice and apply the skills and concepts discussed in class.

- Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date they are listed on the syllabus.
- In-class assignments may not be made up.
- All work done outside of class should be typed unless a worksheet is provided. In cases where work that is hand-written is accepted, be sure to write legibly. If I cannot read it, I will assume it is incorrect and points may be deducted.
- Assignments must be completed according to the specified assigned format.
- Assignments without a name will not be graded for credit.

### Grading

Course assignments will be graded on a Pass/Fail grading system. Students are expected to complete all work to the best of their ability and submit all assignments by the due date. There are 10 assignments each worth 100 points (1000 points total for the course) and a student must earn a total of 750 total points to earn a grade of "P" in the course.

Assignment	Due Date	Points Possible	Grade
Student Organization Investigation	Week 2	100	P/F
Study Skills Quiz	Week 5	100	P/F
Visit a Campus Resource Office	Week 6	100	P/F
Bring in Progress Report	Week 9	100	P/F
Faculty Interview	Week 10	100	P/F
My Maverick Way Group Project	Week 12	100	P/F
Career Inventory Assignment	Week 12	100	P/F
Campus Events Selfie Project	Week 13	100	P/F
Letter to Next Freshman	Week 14	100	P/F
Assignment #10 TBD	TBD	100	P/F

### Assignment Descriptions

#### **Assignment 1: Campus Events Selfie Project**

Students must select 6 campus events from the following categories and attend these during the term:

Maverick Way & Fine Arts:

Diversity and Inclusion

Pride and Tradition

Wellness

Fine Arts Performance

Three required events:

Welcome Week Event

Athletic Event

Parent and Family Weekend

Have fun at the events, take a selfie or ask someone to take a picture of you at the event. It is important to take picture at every event as you will use them in your paper. After attending the 6 different events, students must submit a one-page reflection paper that includes your pictures and answers to the following questions:

- List the 6 different events that you attended.
- Why did you choose these particular events or experiences?
- What is something new you learned or experienced by attending these events?
- How has attending these events helped you gain a deeper understanding of The Maverick Way?  
<http://www.uta.edu/maverickway/>
- How do the experiences relate to what you are learning in class?

Your paper should be typed double-spaced, using 12-point font size, Times New Roman, with 1" margins (top, bottom, sides). The assignment will be submitted on Blackboard and due during Week 13 of the course.

#### **Assignment 2: Students Organization Investigation**

Students must attend Mav Cookout Featuring the Activities Fair Day and collect information from at least 3 different student organizations that are of interest to them. Students may also use MavOrgs (<http://mavorgs.uta.edu>) to research student organizations.

Upon conclusion of the research the student must answer the following questions about the 3 organizations they selected (one paragraph for each organization):

- Summary of organization's purpose
- How the organization aligns with your interests
- How the organization could enhance your experience at UT Arlington
- When are the meetings?

Your paper should be typed double-spaced, using 12-point font size, Times New Roman, with 1" margins (top, bottom, sides). The assignment will be submitted to the Blackboard and is due during the Week 2 of the course.

#### **Assignment 3: Visit a Resource Office on Campus**

There are a number of resources offered to students on campus including Financial Aid, Tutoring, Academic Advising, Supplemental Instruction, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), Student Money Management Center, Office for Students with Disabilities, and so many more!

You are required to visit one of the many resources available to you and submit a short one-paragraph journal entry that should include the following:

- Information about the office you visited,
- The reason for selecting that office,

- Which situations you might use this source,
- How the service should be utilized.

The text should be typed double-spaced, using 12-point font size, Times New Roman, with 1" margins (top, bottom, sides). The assignment will be submitted to the Blackboard and is due during Week 6 of the course.

**Assignment 4: Study Skills Quiz**

Students will review the study skills resources provided in Week 4 on Blackboard and will take a short, 20-question quiz about reading comprehension, note-taking, study environments, academic writing, and test preparation.

**Assignment 5: "My Maverick Way" Group Project**

Students will work in groups of 4-5 to develop a timeline of their "Maverick Way" through their first semester. This project is a visual representation of the path they have taken through their first semester on campus. The students can choose different ways of showing their experience, such as videos, posters, picture collages, etc.

Groups will give a 5-7 minute presentation of their My Maverick Way project during Week 12 of the course. Additional requirements will be given in class.

**Assignment 6: Faculty Interview**

Identify a current course that is giving you trouble. Schedule an appointment to meet with the UTA instructor of that course to discuss the course content. Here are some questions you may want to ask the faculty member:

- a specific question about a topic you don't understand,
- what you can do to more adequately prepare for exams,
- and/or what s/he recommends you do to improve your performance in the course.

Write a one-page journal entry about what action steps are you going to take as a result of your meeting. In the journal you should also reflect on how consultation with faculty could assist you when you are struggling with future courses. The text should be typed double-spaced, using 12-point font size, Times New Roman, with 1" margins (top, bottom, sides). The assignment will be submitted to the Blackboard and is due during Week 10 of the course.

**Assignment 7: Career Inventory Journal**

Complete My Plan, a self-assessment tool. Use the O\*NET Online Skills Search feature

(<http://www.onetonline.org/skills/>) to identify careers that use some of the skills identified through My Plan.

Write a one-page journal entry about careers that are of interest to you and how those careers are a match with your skills and interests. The text should be typed double-spaced, using 12-point font size, Times New Roman, with 1" margins (top, bottom, sides). The assignment will be submitted to the Blackboard and is due during Week 12 of the course.

**Assignment 8: Progress Report**

Go to MyMav and print off your current, mid-semester grades for all courses. Bring a copy of this report to your instructor. This report will not be shared with anyone (including your peer leader). If your instructor has concerns regarding the status of your mid-semester grades, the instructor may request a meeting with the individual student. This assignment will be hand-delivered and is due during Week 9 of the course.

**Assignment 9: Letter to Upcoming Freshmen**

This is your end of semester narrative. Write a letter to "the next freshman" who will be coming to UTA next fall. Include the following:

- Your greatest areas of growth
- Learning opportunities that were available to you
- What you wish had been different about your experience
- The most difficult obstacle or challenge you faced as a new freshman
- Several “aha” moments or memorable events that you will take with you from your first semester at college experience
- Three things that will help a new freshman adjust easily to college life

This is your chance to be creative and open. Say what you really think. You will not be penalized for expressing negative feelings, concerns, issues or incidents. All experience leads to growth! Use this exercise as an opportunity to reflect on your personal growth. Plan your time so that you can give this narrative the time it deserves. Please review your letter for spelling and grammar. The assignment will be submitted to the Blackboard and is due during the last week, week 14, of the course.

### Assignment 10: To Be Determined

#### Course Policies

##### **Classroom Participation Policy**

College level behavior, courteousness, and attentiveness are expected from each student. **Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, and other electronic equipment.** Students that neglect to turn off their phones will be asked to leave class for the remainder of the class period and will be assessed absence deductions accordingly. Put away newspapers, magazines and assignments from other classes before the beginning of class. Each student is expected to keep up with course assignments, readings, and to attend class. An attitude of cooperation, a willingness to contribute ideas and experiences, and openness to new concepts and theories will enhance your collegiate experience.

Disruptions and/or distractions to the learning environment are not acceptable. Students who interfere with learning will be asked to leave class immediately and to schedule an instructor conference to discuss re-admission to class. Students with behavior or attitudes deemed inappropriate to the university setting will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

##### **Electronic Communication:**

UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

##### **Drop Policy**

Because MAVS 1000 is a required course for all incoming freshmen, students are prohibited from dropping MAVS 1000.

##### **Americans with Disabilities Act**

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Title IX:** The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law "Title IX" such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

### **Student Support Services**

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

### **Academic Integrity**

All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

Instructors may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

### **Student Feedback Survey:**

At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Final Review Week:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

DATE	TOPIC Overview
Week 1 8/22	Introduction
Week 2 8/29	Navigating your Maverick Way <b>Assignment 2: Students Organization Investigation DUE</b>
Week 3 9/5	Learning Styles
Week 4 9/12	Strategies and tools to become an active, independent learner
Week 5 9/19	Time Management <b>Assignment 4: Study Skills Quiz DUE</b>
Week 6 9/26	Library – Information Literacy <b>Assignment 3: Visit a Resource Office on Campus DUE</b>
Week 7 10/3	Healthy Mavs
Week 8 10/10	Making Teamwork Work
Week 9 10/17	Culture and Diversity <b>Assignment 8: Progress Report DUE</b>
Week 10 10/24	Overcoming obstacles and failures <b>Assignment 6: Faculty Interview DUE</b>
Week 11 10/31	The Career Development Process – the Journey Starts NOW
Week 12 11/7	My Maverick Way Presentations in Class <b>Assignment 5: “My Maverick Way” Group Project DUE</b> <b>Assignment 7: Career Inventory Journal DUE</b>
Week 13 11/14	Leaving a Legacy <b>Assignment 1: Campus Events Selfie Project DUE</b>
Week 14 11/21	End of Semester Celebration and “Best in Show” Poster Presentations <b>Assignment 9: Letter to Upcoming Freshmen DUE</b>

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

*As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course.*