



MAVS 1000: First Year Experience

Section 084 – Course ID 2148-89021

Mondays, 11:00 AM – 11:50 AM

Location: Kalpana Chawla Hall 112 (KCHAM112)

Instructional Team	Professor David J. Silva, Ph.D. <i>Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs</i> <i>Professor of Linguistics, Distinguished Teaching Professor</i>	Peer Leader Alexandra “Sasha” Beshkova <i>Graduate Assistant for MAVS 1000</i>
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Office Hours	Mondays, 12:00 PM–12:50 PM; by appointment	By appointment

Course Description. MAVS 1000, required of all first-time first-year students (new high school graduates) at UT Arlington, 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 that may affect their success;
- determine what resources are appropriate and available to them to be successful; and
- formulate a plan for an actively engaged and enriched experience on the campus.

Student Learning Outcomes. By the end of the semester, students enrolled in MAVS 1000 should be able to accomplish the following:

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.

Attendance and Participation. 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 professor for this section of MAVS 1000, I have determined **attendance is required** and will constitute 10% of the final grade, i.e., up to 100 points.

For each class meeting FULLY ATTENDED, a student will earn seven (7) points toward the maximum value of 100 points. To earn points for "full attendance," the student must be on time for class, must remain for the entire class period, and should be awake and engaged during the entire class period. Adjustments to the seven points earned for any given class meeting will be made at the discretion of the professor.

As there are 14 class meetings on the schedule, the total points earned on the basis of full attendance equals 98 (14 classes × 7 points/class). If, at the end of the term, a student has fully attended all 14 class meetings, an additional two (2) point will be added to the attendance score, bringing it to a perfect 100.

Students who miss one or two classes will receive five (5) points for each of those classes – NO QUESTIONS ASKED. Students who miss a third class must schedule a meeting with the professor to discuss optional activities to be completed to make up the third absence to earn five (5) points. Students who miss four or more classes will neither earn points for those classes nor be given the privilege of making up attendance points. Students who are absent for *any* class meeting, regardless of reason, will not be eligible for the additional two (2) points awarded for perfect attendance.

Students who are not present for a course meeting are responsible for all material covered that day.

Blackboard. Course content and assignments will be available through Blackboard (<http://elearn.uta.edu>). 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. There is no required textbook for this course. There are, however, other required materials.

1. Several online modules & supplemental texts, which 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 on the day, date, and time designated by the professor.
- Late assignments will be accepted but will incur a penalty of 5 points for each day late.
For purposes of determining late penalties, the "day" shall be defined each 24-hour period beginning one minute following the assignment's designated submission deadline.
- Work done during class time 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. Assignments will be graded on a numeric system mapped one of two letter grades: "P" (pass) and "F" (fail). To earn a "P" on an assignment, the student must have earned at least 75 out of 100 points. There are 10 assignments each worth 100 points (1000 points total for the course). To pass the course, a student must earn at least of 750 points.

Students should complete all work to the best of their ability and submit assignments by the specified deadline.

List of Assignments for MAVS 1000, section 084

The weeks indicated below are approximations of the actual due dates. Specific deadlines will be announced as we progress.

Number	Title	Due around...	Points
1	Campus Events Selfie Project	Week 13	100
2	Student Organization Investigation	Week 2	100
3	Visit a Campus Resource Office	Week 6	100
4	Study Skills Quiz	Week 5	100
5	My Maverick Way Group Project	Week 12	100
6	Faculty Interview	Week 10	100
7	Career Inventory Assignment	Week 12	100
8-A	Tracking Your Own Academic Performance (Part A)	Week 5	50
8-B	Tracking Your Own Academic Performance (Part B)	Week 9	50
9	Maverick Speaker Series Report	Week 11	100
10	Attendance Record	Week 14	100
Total Number of Points for the Semester			1,000
Points required to earn a grade of "P"			750

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: Student Organization Investigation

Students must attend Mav Cookout Featuring the Activities Fair Day and collect information from at least three (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 three 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: Tracking Your Own Academic Performance (parts A and B)

Students will be required to locate their interim grades (also known as "progress reports") in MyMav, print a copy of these grades, calculate the corresponding grade point average (GPA), and submit a signed / dated copy of these reports to the professor. Details on how this assignment will be implemented and graded are forthcoming.

Assignment 9: Maverick Speaker Series Report

Students must attend at least one of this fall's three Maverick Speaker Series events and write a report in which they document two major points and reflect upon who these two major points are relevant to their roles as either students or citizens. To learn more about the series and to determine which of this fall's events might best fit your schedule, visit <http://www.uta.edu/maverickspeakers/>.

The text of the Maverick Speaker Series Report should be typed double-spaced, using 12-point font size, Times New Roman, with 1" margins (top, bottom, sides). The assignment will be before Week 11.

Assignment 10: Course Attendance

See the Attendance Policy (above) for details. Students need not submit anything additional for this assignment.

ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES

Classroom Participation. College level behavior, courteousness, and attentiveness are expected from each student. During class, **all mobile phones must be turned off and placed out of sight**. 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 individuals requiring any additional assistance.

Drop Policy. Because MAVS 1000 is a required course for those enrolled, students are prohibited from dropping it.

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 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 or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities: (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.

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, or view the information at 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.

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. *-David J. Silva*

Week	Date	Topic / Overview
Week 1	August 25	Introduction
Week 1.5	September 1	Labor Day Holiday
Week 2	September 8	Navigating your Maverick Way
Week 3	September 15	Learning Styles
Week 4	September 22	Strategies and tools to become an active, independent learner
Week 5	September 29	Time Management
Week 6	October 6	Library – Information Literacy
Week 7	October 13	Healthy Mavs
Week 8	October 20	Making Teamwork Work
Week 9	October 27	Culture and Diversity
Week 10	November 3	Overcoming obstacles and failures
Week 11	November 10	The Career Development Process – the Journey Starts NOW
Week 12	November 17	My Maverick Way Presentations in Class
Week 13	November 24	Leaving a Legacy
Week 14	December 1	End of Semester Celebration and “Best in Show” Poster Presentations

Emergency Phone Numbers: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial **911**.