UCRS 1100.002 – Fall 2017

Foundations for Learning: MARTIAL Eagles

WED, 2:00-2:50pm, Rawlins Hall 270A

INSTRUCTORS

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OFFICE HRS:	Wednesdays, 3:00-5:30 (RAWLINS)	Wednesdays, 3:00-5:00pm (RAWLINS)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will be commonly referred to as First Year Seminar and will feature two components; we will critically examine the history of and cultural formation among African American males in the U.S., with a special emphasis on music; students will also learn about strategies and techniques for transitioning successfully from high school to college.

REQUIRED TEXT

Throughout the semester, you will be directed via Blackboard to various internet links to read, listen, or watch selected works. Physical copies of the following books will be provided by the MARTIAL Eagle program office:

Davis, S., Jenkins, G., Hunt, R. *The Pact: Three young men make a promise and fulfill a dream.* Riverhead Books, 2002.

Dweck, C. S. *Mindset: The new psychology of success.* Ballantine Books, 2008.

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

Each week, you will find a new folder in Blackboard that contains the assignments and activities you should complete *before* the following class meeting. Outside of the required physical texts above, you will read, watch, and listen to additional selected works both online and in pre-determined settings (i.e. the library or residence hall). This material will be provided to you at no extra cost. You'll simply need to click on the provided links or attend scheduled viewings.

For students who wish to further their knowledge, we will have a few selections available in a "lending library" in our offices in Sage Hall. These titles include:

Berry, D. R. *The Price for Their Pound of Flesh*. Beacon Press, 2017.

Blassingame, J. W. *The Slave Community: Plantation life in the antebellum south.* Oxford Press, 1979.

Palmer, C. A. *Passageways: An Interpretive History of Black America*. Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2002.

Southern, E. *The Music of Black Americans: A history*. 3rd ed. W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1997.

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

- All MARTIAL Eagles enrolled in this course should also be enrolled in SOCI 2070: Intro to Race & Ethnic Relations. In discussing strategies for success, we may refer to assignments you are required to complete in this companion course. **You are expected to attend each of your classes, every week.**
- UCRS 1100 is a 1-credit-hour course; we will meet formally for one hour each week during our scheduled time. To achieve course objectives, it is critical that you come prepared to class each week having completed each assigned activity (reading, listening, watching) beforehand. You can expect to spend 2-3 hours each week completing assignments for this course outside of class.
- Students are responsible for all material disbursed and discussed during the class period, *regardless of attendance.* You are expected to communicate with your instructors regarding planned or unplanned absences. Please remember there are many other students in our community with whom you are able to discuss notes, assignments, etc.
- This course requires you to engage with campus resources and various activities sponsored by other departments. You are expected to participate to the best of your ability, communicating well in advance any scheduling conflicts.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The academic calendar provided at the end of this document is your guide to what we will be doing each week in class. It also outlines a few of the extra-curricular activities in which you are expected to participate (please refer to your participation agreement). *Please note, however, we may need to adjust the schedule as necessary at any point in the semester. We will be sure to communicate in advance any changes*

GRADING

In general, a large part of your grade in this course will come from your level of engagement. In order to do well on the weekly quizzes, you'll need to adequately prepare before class. To get the most out of each meeting, you'll need to engage in the discussions. To improve your academic skill set, you'll need to complete the assigned tasks each week. We hope you will take full advantage of the opportunities given to you this semester. With this in mind, the grading structure will be as follows:

Quizzes (10)	50
Assignments (5)	25
Resource Assignments (5)	25
Final Project	100

A	180 - 200
B	160 - 179
C	140 - 159
D	120 - 139
F	Less than 120

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

All UNT students should be aware of the following university policies:

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STANDARDS AND SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATIONS

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

ADA STATEMENT

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Responsibility for class attendance rests with the student, **though some portion of your grade will be assigned for items that can only be completed in class.** We reserve the right to request that a student be dropped from the course with a grade of "WF" upon the accumulation of a stated number of unexcused absences. An absence may be excused for the following reasons: a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose; active military service, including travel for that purpose; participation in an official university function; illness or other extenuating circumstances; pregnancy and parenting under Title IX;

and when the University is officially closed by the President. The student is responsible for requesting an excused absence in writing as early in the semester as possible, and personally delivering to us satisfactory evidence to substantiate the excused absence.

EMERGENC Y NOTIFICATION & PROCEDURES

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Blackboard online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about students' records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy.

STUDENT PERCEPTIONS OF TEACHING EFFECTIVENESS (SPOT)

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13 and 14 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the spot website at www.spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

UCRS 1100.002 - ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The following calendar is provided for your general planning purposes. Please note the following:

- *We may need to adjust this schedule as necessary at any point in the semester, but we will work to communicate in advance any changes.*
- *There are a variety of smaller tasks/assignments built into this course. Only some of the major items due are listed here. For a complete list of assignments, please refer to the Blackboard course content folders.*
- *The LLC Music "Field Trips" (highlighted items below) have been included in this calendar.*

DATE	TOPIC/ACTIVITY
8/30	Review Syllabus & College Etiquette Introduce Major Project – Music Playlist Begin African Origins & the Role of Music
9/6	Quiz #1 Time Management The Roles of Music in African Societies
9/13	Quiz #2 Reading textbooks The Transatlantic Slave Trade and the Middle Passage
SATURDAY 9/16	Denton Blues Festival, 6:00 – 9:00pm, Quakertown Park Transportation and Dinner provided, *Wear MARTIAL Eagles Polo*
9/20	Quiz #3 Notetaking Transition into Plantation Slavery: Gender Roles and Cultural Formation
9/27	Quiz #4 Strategies for Taking Tests Slave Resistance and African American Music in the Antebellum Period
10/4	Quiz #5 SMART Goals African American Music and Emancipation
10/11	Quiz #6 Making the most of your Advising Appointment Minstrelsy, Work (Prison) Songs, Spirituals and "Reconstruction" *Sign up for mid-semester check-ins* *Schedule advising appointments*
10/18	Quiz #7 Human Brain/Body Ragtime and the Evolving Culture of African American Males **Grade Check Due @ mid-semester check-in**
10/25	Quiz #8 Managing Stress The Blues and Images of the Black Male **Advising Worksheet Due**

10/25	African Drum Ensemble, 6:30 pm, Murchison Performing Arts Center *Wear MARTIAL Eagles polo/slacks*
11/1	Quiz #9 Pulse Check Jazz
11/8	Quiz #10 Choosing/Changing a Major Gospel, Rhythm & Blues and "Protest Music"
11/15	Opportunities Showcase Rap Music (Part 1)
SATURDAY 11/18	Afro-Cuban Ensemble, 6:30pm, Murchison Performing Arts Center *Wear MARTIAL Eagles polo/slacks*
11/22	Thanksgiving Week – NO CLASS
11/29	Rap Music (Part 2)
12/6	Pre-finals week Rap Music (Part 3)
12/13	Finals Week **Final Project Due**