

# UNIVERSITY COLLEGE (UNIV)

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## **UNIV 101. Introduction to the University. 1 Hour.**

Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Designed to orient new students to the traditions, purposes and expectations of a university education. Students will assess their expectations and evaluate their academic strengths and goals. Through lectures, guest speakers and individual projects, students will learn of VCU resources designed to help them solve problems and to achieve a rewarding and successful academic program.

## **UNIV 102. Investigations in Learning. 1 Hour.**

Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Enrollment restricted to first-year students who want to improve college success skills. The student will create an individualized action plan to improve academic performance.

## **UNIV 103. Education and Career Planning. 1-3 Hours.**

Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a total of 3 credits. An education- and career-planning course focusing on the process of researching and selecting a major. Through course work, research, guest speakers and informational interviewing, students will discover various educational and career options. Topics will include interest, abilities and work-values assessments, decision-making models and career development theories. One- and two-credit versions of the course are offered with correspondingly reduced meeting schedules.

## **UNIV 111. Focused Inquiry I. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Utilizes contemporary themes to give students opportunities and practice in writing, critical thinking, oral presentation, collaborative learning, information retrieval and evaluation, and social and civic responsibilities. Incorporates common reading materials and course activities across all sections.

## **UNIV 112. Focused Inquiry II. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: UNIV 111 or equivalent. Builds on skills introduced in UNIV 111 by providing practice in expository essays, argument and contextual analysis. Focuses on practice in writing in a variety of genres, framing writing according to both purpose and audience and identifying academically valid sources. Students must earn a minimum grade of C to receive credit for this course.

## **UNIV 151. Focused Learning Workshop in BIOL 151. 1-2 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 workshop hours. 1-2 credits. Corequisite: BIOL 151. Designed to assist students in improving their understanding of complex biology material. Will supplement the BIOL 151 class lecture. Course assists students with integrating how-to-learn with what-to-learn for BIOL 151. Includes both discussion and study-skills strategies. Students required to complete homework assignments and to demonstrate mastery of specific study techniques. In addition to the semester-long 2-credit offering, a 1-credit course is opened to students after the first BIOL 151 exam.

## **UNIV 152. Focused Learning Workshop in BIOL 152. 1-2 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 workshop hours. 1-2 credits. Corequisite: BIOL 152. Designed to assist students in improving their understanding of complex biology material. Will supplement the BIOL 152 class lecture. Course assists students with integrating how-to-learn with what-to-learn for BIOL 152. Includes both discussion and study-skills strategies. Students required to complete homework assignments and to demonstrate mastery of specific study techniques. In addition to the semester-long 2-credit offering, a 1-credit course is opened to students after the first BIOL 152 exam.

## **UNIV 191. Student Success Special Topics. 1-3 Hours.**

Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated with different content for a maximum of three credits. Transitioning from high school to VCU as a first-year student brings both excitement and nervousness. VCU offers a menu of first-year courses that address either motivators or barriers to student success. These courses are taught by academic advisers, financial aid counselors, campus leaders and student affairs professionals interested in connecting to first-year students based on their interests, fears, aspirations and career goals. Students who complete these courses historically earn higher GPAs and graduate faster with less debt.

## **UNIV 200. Inquiry and the Craft of Argument. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: UNIV 112 or HONR 250 with a minimum grade of C. A research and writing process course that emphasizes critical analysis, elements of argument, inquiry-based research skills, writing conventions of academic argument and the presentation of argument and research into new mediums. Students must earn a minimum grade of C to receive credit for this course.

## **UNIV 211. Food for Thought. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An interdisciplinary exploration of food using analytical lenses from sociology, anthropology, philosophy, art, literature, history, political science, psychology, economics and religious studies.

## **UNIV 213. The Truth About Lying. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Students will engage in collaborative inquiry to critically consider their own beliefs, common notions of ethical behaviors and practical standards through exploring the nature and function of lying. Students will work together to build a foundation of knowledge on the subject of lying and investigate a broad range of disciplines through the lie to question, abandon and embrace value judgments imperative to their daily lives.

## **UNIV 217. Finding Your Voice in Contemporary Society. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: UNIV 111 and 112 or HONR 200 or HONR 250. Focuses on strategies for expression in contemporary society. This course examines the messages that are conveyed in our society and how people decode and understand those messages. Course will focus on popular culture themes and practical problem-solving.

## **UNIV 222. Pseudoscience. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Course critically evaluates controversial fringes of scientific inquiry, such as those related to paranormal investigations and quack medicine. By engaging with topics chosen from astronomy, anthropology, biology, mathematics, medicine, philosophy and psychology, students will apply critical thinking skills to a variety of strange and provocative ideas.

## **UNIV 250. Undergraduate Teaching Assistant Program. 1 Hour.**

Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. May be repeated for up to two credits. Prerequisite: UNIV 112 with a minimum grade of B. Utilizes classroom practice to further the core skills developed in UNIV 111 and 112 (writing, critical thinking, oral presentation, collaborative learning, information retrieval and evaluation, and social and civic responsibilities) as well as exposing students to the practice, possibilities, rewards and responsibilities of the act of teaching. Enrollment will be arranged through faculty mentors.

**UNIV 251. Undergraduate Teaching Assistant Program. 1 Hour.**

Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. May be repeated for up to two credits. Prerequisite: UNIV 200 or HONR 200 with minimum grade of B. Utilizes classroom practice to further the core skills developed in UNIV 200 (including writing, critical thinking, collaborative learning, information retrieval and evaluation) as well as exposing students to the practice, possibilities, rewards and responsibilities of the act of teaching. Enrollment will be arranged through faculty mentors.

**UNIV 270. Introduction to Leadership Studies. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Open only to students participating in the Emerging Leaders Scholarship Program or enrolled in VCU LEAD. Introductory study of leadership theory, group dynamics and human relationships used in volunteer organizations and leisure delivery systems. Foundations of leadership/follower behavior, advanced facilitation techniques and techniques of decision-making, problem-solving, conflict management and program evaluation will be examined.

**UNIV 291. University Special Topics. 1-4 Hours.**

Semester course; variable hours. 1-4 credits. May be repeated with different content. Specialized topics in subject and competency areas related to the core curriculum program not provided by an existing course or program. May be multidisciplinary. Graded as pass/fail or normal letter grading at the option of the instructor.

**UNIV 299. What's the Big Idea?. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Each section in this interdisciplinary course will focus on a particular "big question" that has intrigued thinkers throughout time and across cultures. As students move from personal to global – and from theoretical to practical – investigations of the question, they will come to understand inquiry as a complex cycle of questioning, gathering, examining, interpreting, comparing, analyzing and evaluating, with important application to decision-making and problem-solving in the real world.

**UNIV 301. Interdisciplinary Theory and Practice. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment is restricted to students in the University College's Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies program. This course will familiarize students with the history, theory and practice of interdisciplinarity. It is a core component of the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies curriculum and provides an overview of the integrative intellectual pursuit that is interdisciplinary studies. This course immerses students in the breadth of interdisciplinary synthesis and integration of research methods appropriate to their area of interdisciplinary study.

**UNIV 303. Interdisciplinarity in the Professional World. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course provides an overview of strategies for academic success and career-readiness within the context of interdisciplinarity in the 21st-century university and professional world. Students will leverage the work they are doing in their focus areas as they begin to explore or refine their pre-professional interests and goals. Students will research specific interdisciplinary intellectual preparation and professional skills and expectations aligned with the goals.

**UNIV 305. Interdisciplinary Social Innovation. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course provides students with the opportunity to learn about community issues through service to and partnerships with organizations that further social causes. Students will form interdisciplinary teams to design projects for these organizations to bring sustainable change to the community. The course emphasizes design thinking and leadership development and foregrounds skills for collaborative problem-solving and project management.

**UNIV 350. Peer Leadership Program. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for up to six credits. Prerequisite: UNIV 250 and/or UNIV 251 with a minimum grade of B (must have a total of two credits in courses listed). Building on skills introduced in the prerequisite(s), this course gives students hands-on experience in the practice of creating and maintaining student engagement.

**UNIV 391. University Special Topics. 1-4 Hours.**

Semester course; variable hours. 1-4 credits. May be repeated with different content. Specialized topics in subject and competency areas related to the core curriculum program not provided by an existing course or program. May be multidisciplinary. Graded as pass/fail or normal letter grading at the option of the instructor.

**UNIV 450. Career Readiness Synthesis. 1 Hour.**

Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Enrollment is restricted to students who have completed 14 hours of course work required for the interdisciplinary career readiness skills minor, who are enrolled in the interdisciplinary studies major or by permission of the program. This course enables students to reflect upon the courses and co-curricular experiences they have completed through the ICRS minor and serves as the capstone course for the minor. Students will explore how those courses and experiences have helped them develop the skills and competencies needed for post-graduation employment, and they will synthesize evidence of those skills into an eportfolio to share with potential employers and graduate/professional programs.

**UNIV 492. Independent Study. 1-3 Hours.**

Semester course; 1-3 independent study hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for credit. This course is designed to provide upper-level B.I.S. students the opportunity to explore and investigate a complex interdisciplinary problem or area of research beyond available curricular offerings. Students must discuss their specific interest with the B.I.S. faculty adviser, secure an approved faculty mentor and complete the independent study proposal form (with their faculty mentor) prior to receiving an override for course registration.

**UNIV 493. Internship. 1-3 Hours.**

Semester course; 1-3 field experience hours. 1-3 credits (50 field site contact hours per credit). May be repeated for credit with different internships for a maximum of 9 credits. Restricted to students who have completed 24 credits in their focus areas, earned junior or senior status and obtained approval of placement site from their faculty adviser. The B.I.S. internship is designed to help students have a real-world learning experience that will help move them in the direction of their desired future career. It is intended to provide opportunities for the student to apply classroom knowledge and acquire professional skills. The internship site(s) selected must be compatible with one or more of the focus areas of the student's major and should help to build skills toward a future professional or academic path of interest to them.

**UNIV 499. BIS Senior Capstone. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Pre- or corequisite: UNIV 301. Enrollment is restricted to students in the University College's Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies program who have senior standing and have completed 18 hours in their focus area. Students will synthesize and evaluate the theoretical, methodological and substantive issues discovered during course work in the focus area, producing both an ePortfolio and a capstone project.