Course Description

This course is designed to help new students transition successfully to academic and student life. Students will connect with the UNCG community, campus resources and opportunities, while developing skills essential for academic success, and beginning their journey to discovering their own purpose and potential.

Learning Objectives

1. **Connect with the UNC Greensboro Community**
   As a result of this course, students will...
   a) Form strong social connections by developing positive relationships with peers, staff, and faculty to develop a sense of belonging
   b) Understand the vast array of support services and resources available and experience meaningful exposure and use of these resources
   c) Build an affinity for UNC Greensboro through engagement and understanding of the university’s mission and vision, history, traditions, and values

2. **Foster Academic Success**
   As a result of this course, students will...
   a) Learn academic skills and techniques that lead to developing successful college students and maximizing academic success
   b) Engage with campus resources and opportunities that contribute to their learning and success both within and beyond the classroom
   c) Use critical thinking and critical reflection skills to improve academic performance

3. **Engage in Personal Development**
   As a result of this course, students will...
   a) Explore their sense of purpose, meaning, and direction as they begin their college experience
   b) Practice self-reflection and self-exploration
   c) Connect personal interests, values, and strengths with potential academic majors, goals, and career paths
Keker Common Experience (KCE)
Keker Success Guide: Guide to Graduation
Author: Jullien Gordon & UNCG community
Learn more about the Keker Common Experience here: https://newstudents.uncg.edu/fye/keker/

Additional readings may be assigned throughout the semester. You are expected to bring this syllabus, your Keker Success Guide, and assigned readings to class every day. Please complete readings before class begins on the dates indicated on the course calendar to ensure that you can fully participate in that day’s activities.

Technology and Communication
Canvas: This course will utilize Canvas for detailed assignment information, general notifications, email communication, and a calendar of events. Canvas will also include a PAL page, which has timely updates pertinent to the course and the UNCG community. Thus, you should regularly check the site for updates. Canvas also has free apps for phones and tablets. You can receive push notifications for things like new assignments and class announcements by adding your phone number under Settings > Other Contacts.

Starfish: UNCG utilizes an online scheduling tool and student success software called Starfish. Your FYE Instructor will also be using Starfish as a way to provide you with periodic progress reports in the form of flags, kudos, and referrals. If you receive a flag from your FYE Instructor or another instructor in one of your other courses, you are strongly encouraged to follow up to develop a plan for success. Please visit and bookmark the Starfish website for assistance. Starfish can be accessed by logging into starfish.uncg.edu.

E-mail: You are expected to check and utilize your UNCG email regularly. This will be the primary method of communication from your FYE Instructor and PAL, as well as official communication from UNCG.

Electronic Devices: Devices draw attention away from class and detract from the quality of learning for all. Cell phones are to be placed face up on the table/desk. If you need to use your phone (for emergency purposes), please be respectful to the rest of the class and take it outside. Use of laptops or tablets is strictly limited to note-taking or in-class activities, and not for email, chat, gaming, or casual internet browsing. Failure to adhere to the electronic devices policy can result in attendance and participation points being taken away. This decision is up to your FYE Instructor, and will be based on the severity of the situation.

Accommodations
We seek to fully comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you plan on requesting disability accommodations, you must be registered with the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services in 215 Elliott University Center (EUC), (336) 334-5440, oars.uncg.edu. Your FYE Instructor can make necessary and appropriate arrangements to accommodate you, and all information will be kept confidential.

Health and Well-being
Health and well-being impact learning and academic success. Throughout your time in the university, you may experience a range of concerns that can cause barriers to your academic success. These might include illnesses, strained relationships, anxiety, high levels of stress, alcohol or drug problems, feeling down, or loss of motivation. Student Health Services and The Counseling Center can help with these or other issues you may experience. You can learn about the free, confidential mental health services available by calling 336-334-5874, going to https://shs.uncg.edu/, or visiting the Anna M. Gove Student Health Center at 107 Gray Drive. The Spartan Recovery Program (SRP) also offers recovery support services. Learn more about recovery and recovery support services at https://shs.uncg.edu/srp or by contacting recovery@uncg.edu.
COVID-19

As UNCG returns to face-to-face course offerings in fall 2020, the campus community must recognize and address concerns about physical and emotional safety. As such, all students, faculty, and staff are required to uphold UNCG’s culture of care by actively engaging in behaviors that limit the spread of COVID-19. Such actions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Wearing a face covering that covers both nose and mouth
- Observing social distance in the class
- Engaging in proper hand washing hygiene when possible
- Self-monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19
- Staying home if you are ill
- Complying with directions from health care providers or public health officials to quarantine or isolate if ill or exposed to someone who is ill

Instructors will have seating charts for their classes. These are important for maintaining appropriate social distance during class and facilitating contact tracing should there be a confirmed case of COVID-19. Students must sit in their assigned seat at every class meeting and must not move furniture. Students should not eat or drink during class time.

A limited number of disposable masks will be available in classrooms for students who have forgotten theirs. Face coverings will also be available for purchase in the UNCG Campus Bookstore. Students who do not follow masking and social distancing requirements will be asked to put on a face covering or leave the classroom to retrieve one and only return when they follow these basic requirements to uphold standards of safety and care for the UNCG community. Once students have a face covering, they are permitted to re-enter a class already in progress. Repeated issues may result in conduct action. The course policies regarding attendance and academics remain in effect for partial or full absence from class due to lack of adherence with face covering and social distancing requirements.

For instances where the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS) has granted accommodations regarding wearing face coverings, students should contact their instructors to develop appropriate alternatives to class participation and/or activities as needed. Instructors or the student may also contact OARS (336.334.5440) who, in consultation with Student Health Services, will review requests for accommodations.

UNCG Chancellor Frank Gilliam has challenged us to create a Culture of Care at UNCG where we all wear face coverings and social distance, less to protect ourselves but rather more to protect everyone around us. It shows that you care about the well being of everyone around you. We have created this video featuring your student body presidents to better explain how and why this is so important.

Please watch this video before the first day of classes: https://youtu.be/Mb58551qxEk
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TIPS FOR SUCCESS

1) **Attend Every Class.** Your success in this course will be greatly increased by your commitment to your attendance and participation. If you must miss class due to an authorized University activity, please provide written notification to your FYE Instructor prior to class. For other absences, contact your FYE Instructor prior to class. If an emergency prevents you from connecting with your FYE Instructor prior to class, make contact as soon as possible following the emergency.

2) **Do the Work.** Your assignments should be typed, double-spaced and stapled or submitted via Canvas prior to the start of class, unless otherwise noted. You will find the due dates for each assignment listed on page 7 of this syllabus. **Late assignments will result in additional loss of credit (one point per day), and no credit after three days.** Please talk with your FYE Instructor right away if you are going to have difficulty submitting an assignment on time. As a precaution, always save your graded assignments until after you have received your final course grade at the end of the semester.

3) **Participate.** This is an interactive class, in which you and your peers will contribute to both the learning and teaching process. This exchange of ideas is what makes this course an impactful, quality learning experience. Therefore, we cannot reach our full potential as a class without your active participation.

   Keep in mind this is a seminar class, not a lecture class. As a result, you have the opportunity to offer your own insights, reflections, and questions each and every class. This is also an experiential learning course, which means most of the learning that takes place in this class will be a result of the experiences you share with your classmates. To encourage participation, there will be activities and assignments that appeal to a variety of learning preferences. If you participate in all of the class activities and assignments, and in a respectful manner, you will see the most benefit from this course. Be open to learning!

4) **Be Respectful.** You will learn about a variety of diverse topics, and encounter values and opinions that will differ from your own. Everyone in this class should feel comfortable enough to participate and express their perspective. You are an important part of creating an atmosphere that makes this possible.

   To ensure an enjoyable, inclusive, and engaging classroom learning environment, you are expected to: openly share your ideas and express your opinions; respect the opinions, values, and identities of your classmates, FYE Instructor, and guests; and honor confidentiality when appropriate.

5) **Be Honest.** You will be expected to adhere to the University Academic Integrity Policy. This policy is outlined at [osrr.uncg.edu/academic-integrity](http://osrr.uncg.edu/academic-integrity) and will also be covered in class. Academic integrity is grounded in the University value of *honesty*. In accordance with this value, there are six ways in which you can violate the Academic Integrity Policy: cheating, facilitating academic dishonesty, falsification, misuse of academic resources, plagiarism, and unauthorized behaviors. You are expected to understand each of these terms and their implications, as unawareness of these violations will not excuse a violation of the policy. You are required to uphold this policy and report apparent violations to your FYE Instructor. An infraction of the Academic Integrity Policy will result in a joint conference with your FYE Instructor to review the circumstances and consider possible sanctions for the actions taken. For more information, please refer to [osrr.uncg.edu/academic-integrity](http://osrr.uncg.edu/academic-integrity).
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COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

1) **Attendance and Engagement (150 points)**

You can earn points for your attendance and in-class participation for each class. Participation involves being fully alert in class and engaging with quality contributions to our weekly class discussions and group work. This includes an activity at the end of each class, which you must complete in order to achieve as part of your participation points. You will find consistent attendance has a positive effect on your overall learning, as well as your final course grade (150 points total) - 30% of your final grade!

Since this is a seminar course, attendance and participation are vital to your success. Thus, you are expected to attend all class meetings and required experiences. Missing classes or failing to contribute will negatively impact your grade. Participation will be evaluated based on your engagement in the class, contributions to class discussions, evidence of completing the readings, and a positive attitude.

An absence will result in a 0 for that day’s attendance and participation points. This penalty may be waived for excused absences, such as (but not necessarily limited to); participation in an authorized University activity, participation in legal proceedings, family death or illness, religious holy day, personal illness, or weather-related emergencies. Please notify your FYE Instructor before class if you will miss for an aforementioned reason, though this does not guarantee an excused absence; the decision will be made at the discretion of your FYE Instructor. Six or more unexcused absences may result in a failing grade.

Tardiness disrupts the learning environment and is disrespectful to your classmates, FYE Instructor, and guest speakers. Tardiness will result in a partial deduction to your attendance points, and excessive and/or consistent tardiness may result in further penalty to your grade.

2) **Critical Reflection Journals (105 points)**

Throughout the semester, you will be expected to write 2-page minimum journals, double-spaced, in 12 pt. Times New Roman font. While journal prompts are provided to guide your writing, your FYE Instructor should specifically learn more about you, your transition, and your life at UNCG through your writing. Though you do not have to address each question in the prompt directly, your reflection should synthesize your thoughts about the prompt in a meaningful way. Two things should be accomplished in your journal: reflection and insight. Your FYE Instructor should be able to tell that you thought about this topic before writing, and should learn more about you from reading it. Prompts and additional details can be found on Canvas.

3) **Meet with Your Triad (30 points)**

UNCG is full of helpful individuals, but these three in particular can support you during your first year: FYE Instructor, Peer Academic Leader, and Academic Advisor. This support team is your “Triad,” and you will meet with them at least once this semester to discuss your experiences and plan for the future.

a) **Meeting with your FYE Instructor (10 points)**
You will discuss your transition to college, how your classes are going this semester, your academic goals, and any questions about your experience at UNC Greensboro thus far with your FYE Instructor.

b) **Meeting with your PAL (10 points)**
You will have a meeting with your Peer Academic Leader (PAL) to discuss your transition to UNCG and classes for the semester.

c) **Meeting with your Academic Advisor (10 points)**
You must meet with your Academic Advisor to discuss your academic advising needs as you prepare to register for the spring semester.
4) FYE Group Project (60 points)
This project provides you with an opportunity to gain further insight into a topic that relates to your first-year experiences at UNC Greensboro. With your group, you will come up with a topic revolving around a challenge, issue, or obstacle many new students encounter during their transition to college. To develop your ability to gather, organize, evaluate, and integrate information from different sources (information literacy skills), and to develop interpersonal and oral communication skills, you will be assigned to work in groups on a hand-out, brochure, or how-to poster. More information will be provided at a later date.

| Part 1: Select topic and submit a proposal | 10 points |
| Part 2: Group Project | 40 points |
| Part 3: Group Evaluation | 10 points |

5) Your Spartan Experience Project (60 points)
Transitioning to college life is exciting, and experiencing UNCG first-hand will help you feel like a member of the Spartan community in no time. The purpose of this assignment is to explore a variety of campus resources and opportunities that can help you Succeed at the G. So, take this opportunity to engage in experiences that will push you outside of your comfort zone, connect you with others, and build an affinity for the G. For this assignment, you will engage in three different experiences and complete a creative reflection on each experience.

6) How to Succeed at the G Paper and Presentation (80 points)
This two-part assignment is an opportunity for you to reflect on lessons you have learned throughout your time at UNCG. This will consist of your: personal development, such as your interests, character strengths, and values; as well as academic success, such as your motivation, goal setting, and time management. In doing so, you will share what lessons you have learned and what you have learned about yourself, and develop your personal plan for how you will Succeed at the G into a 6-8 minute presentation. In this presentation you will also articulate your personal and professional goals, and highlight at least one of the events from Your Spartan Experience Project. Even though this is considered a “presentation,” this does not need to incorporate a slideshow. Examples include a poem, poster, song lyrics, or video of your own creation. Information about this project will be provided at a later date. Following the presentation, you will complete a 3-5 page paper reflecting on what you have learned about yourself and UNCG, and how you can utilize those lessons to achieve your goals.

7) Pre-Test, Post-Test, and Course Evaluation (15 points)
These three assignments will mark the very beginning and end of your FYE 101: Succeed at the G experience. The pre- and post-test will help provide insight on what you learned this semester, and the course evaluation will give you the opportunity to provide valuable feedback about your class, FYE Instructor, and PAL.
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<th>Week</th>
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<th>Topics</th>
<th>Reading and Assignments Due</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
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<td>Welcome, Introductions, &amp; Community Building</td>
<td>Complete Pre-Test (in class)</td>
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<td>Course Overview &amp; Community Expectations</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
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<td>Becoming a Spartan &amp; How to Get Involved</td>
<td>Critical Reflection Journal #1</td>
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<td>UNCG Campus Resources</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
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<td>#HowtoCollege: Differences Between High School &amp; College</td>
<td>Critical Reflection Journal #2</td>
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<td>Goal Setting</td>
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<td>Skills for Academic Success Part One: Time Management</td>
<td>Your Spartan Experience Part One</td>
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<td>Skills for Academic Success Part Two: Note and/or Test Taking</td>
<td>Deadline to meet with your FYE Instructor &amp; Complete VIA Character Strengths</td>
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<td>VIA Character Strengths</td>
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<td>Values &amp; Knowing Your Why</td>
<td>Critical Reflection Journal #3</td>
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<td>Identifying Your Purpose &amp; Meaningful Work</td>
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<td>Major &amp; Career Exploration</td>
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<td>Academic Advising at UNCG</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
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<td>Understanding Culture</td>
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<td>FYE Group Project &amp; TBD</td>
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<td>Financial Literacy</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
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<td>Holistic Well-Being</td>
<td>Critical Reflection Journal #6</td>
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<td>The Power of Perseverance</td>
<td>Deadline to attend meeting with your PAL</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
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<td>Skills for Academic Success Part Three: Choice</td>
<td>Your Spartan Experience Part Three</td>
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<td>TBD - FYE Instructor, PAL, &amp; Class Choice</td>
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<td>How to Succeed at the G Presentations</td>
<td>Letter to Self Critical Reflection Journal #7</td>
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<td>Deadline to meet with your Academic Advisor</td>
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<td>How to Succeed at the G Presentations</td>
<td>How to Succeed at the G Final Reflection</td>
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<td>Week 14</td>
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<td>Take Giant Steps: Planning for the Rest of Your First Year</td>
<td>Complete Post-Test &amp; Course Evaluation (in class)</td>
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<td>Last Day of FYE 101: Succeed at the G</td>
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***This syllabus may be revised and adapted throughout the semester to better serve the needs of the class. Additionally, your decision to remain in this class upon receipt of this syllabus serves as your acceptance of this syllabus as a binding contract, meaning you agree with the terms set forth and the expectations of you as a member of the class.***