

The 8 Core Content Areas for UHD Seminars

Please use the following information to select your relevant core area for a seminar and then use the generic description and outcomes to support your planning and final proposal content. The outcomes apply to both the First-Year and University Seminars but we've included here only the generic descriptions for the FYS. Check the catalog for the 23XX options (which will be very similar!)

Core Area 1: Communication

Generic UHD 1301 Course Description: Within the context of the discipline and the special topic, students learn to develop ideas and express them clearly, considering the effect of the message, fostering understanding, and building the skills needed to communicate persuasively. Courses in this area help students acquire the command of oral, aural, written, and visual literacy skills that enable people to exchange messages appropriate to the subject, occasion, and audience. **Strategies for academic success are practiced within the context of the special topic.**

Learning Outcomes Students will be able to:
Use readings appropriate for the discipline as a tool of inquiry, for information, and as a means to develop and support written, oral, and visual messages
Use research and analysis to develop written, oral and, where appropriate, visual messages which are appropriate for the discipline, intended audience, and mode of communication
Listen actively, evaluate, and critically analyze spoken discourse
Observe rules of plagiarism to use and cite resources appropriately
Work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal <i>Note: Activities and evaluation strategies for this outcome should focus on the processes of working in teams rather than the products produced by the team.</i>

Core Area 2: Mathematics

Generic UHD 1302 Course Description: Within the context of the discipline and the special topic, these courses introduce students to key mathematical concepts and the application of appropriate quantitative tools to everyday experience. These special topics courses focus on quantitative literacy in logic, patterns, and relationships. **Strategies for academic success are practiced within the context of the special topic.**

Learning Outcomes Students will be able to:
Describe and communicate mathematical information verbally, numerically, graphically, and symbolically;
Use appropriate mathematical techniques to model situations from a variety of settings, including real-world applications in generalized mathematical forms;
Interpret mathematical models, such as formulas, graphs, tables, and schematics, and draw inferences from them;
Discern relationships and patterns in quantitative data to arrive at informed conclusions
Utilize appropriate technology to enhance mathematical thinking and understanding, to solve mathematical problems, and to judge the reasonableness of the results;

Core Area 3: Life and Physical Sciences

Generic UHD 1303 Course Description: Within the context of the discipline and the special topic, these courses introduce students to interactions among natural phenomena and the implications of scientific principles for the physical world and human experiences. These special topics courses focus on describing, explaining, and predicting natural phenomena using the scientific method. **Strategies for academic success are practiced within the context of the special topic.**

Learning Outcomes Students will be able to:
Utilize scientific processes to identify questions pertaining to natural phenomena
Utilize scientific processes to develop hypotheses, collect and analyze data using quantitative and qualitative measures
Utilize scientific processes to effectively communicate the analysis and results of analysis using written, oral, and visual communication
Collaborate in the evaluation of the quality of scientific evidence from multiple perspectives toward the goal of reaching a shared objective

Core Area 4: Language, Philosophy, and Culture

Generic UHD 1304 Course Description: Within the context of the discipline and the special topic, these courses introduce students to how ideas, values, beliefs, and other aspects of culture express and affect human experience. These special topics courses focus on the exploration of ideas that foster aesthetic and intellectual creation in order to understand the human condition across cultures. **Strategies for academic success are practiced within the context of the special topic.**

Learning Outcomes Students will be able to:
Describe how ideas, values, beliefs, and other aspects of culture express and affect human experience
Analyze fundamental ideas that foster intellectual and aesthetic creation across human cultures
Evaluate assumptions, concepts, and language to develop defensible conclusions based on analysis and interpretation of information relevant to course content
Synthesize and deliver well-constructed analyses and arguments about course content using multiple modalities (including written, oral, and visual formats)
Investigate ethical dimensions of behavior and language use in different cultural contexts
Connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making through the analysis of ethical dilemmas explored through literature, philosophical, or intercultural texts

Core Area 5: Creative Arts

Generic UHD 1305 Course Description: Within the context of the discipline and the special topic, these courses introduce students to the synthesis and interpretation of artistic expression and enable critical, creative, and innovative communication about works of art. These special topics courses focus on the appreciation and analysis of creative artifacts and works of the human imagination. **Strategies for academic success are practiced within the context of the special topic.**

Learning Outcomes Students will be able to:
Identify the fundamental significance of the creative arts to regional, national, and global communities and discuss the necessity for advancing the role the arts play in these communities
Efficiently communicate critical inquiry about the creative arts through analytical writing, oral presentation, and visual communication
Collaborate in team-based classroom practices to support the production of knowledge and multiple perspectives in one or more of the arts disciplines
Analyze and evaluate works of art with reference to aesthetic contexts and historical frameworks

Core Area 6: American History

Generic UHD 1306 Course Description: Within the context of the discipline and the special topic, these courses explore the interaction among individuals, communities, states, the nation, and the world, considering how these interactions have contributed to the development of the United States and its global role. These special topics courses focus on the consideration of past events and ideas relative to the United States, with the option of including Texas history. **Strategies for academic success are practiced within the context of the special topic.**

Learning Outcomes Student will be able to:
Evaluate and analyze historical perspectives, using primary and secondary sources, in light of their historical context; Explain how events in the past influence current events
Analyze historical perspectives on ethical issues
Effectively communicate in writing, orally, and visually, the analysis of historical questions and their results
Analyze cause-and-effect relationships and discuss the effects of multiple causations upon historical events
Compare and contrast how different cultures or subgroups interpret, perceive, or experience historical events
Relate events and ideas to change over time and across a broad survey of U. S. or Texas history

Core Area 7: Government/Political Science

Generic UHD 1307 Course Description: Within the context of the discipline and the special topic, these courses introduce students to the analysis of governmental institutions, political behavior, civic engagement, and their political and philosophical foundations. These courses focus on the Constitution of the United States and the constitutions of the states with special emphasis on that of Texas.

Strategies for academic success are practiced within the context of the special topic.

Learning Outcomes Students will be able to:
Describe the origin, content, and development of the U.S. Constitution and compare to the Texas state constitution
Describe: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The roles and responsibilities of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government• The separation of powers between the three branches• The privileges and responsibilities citizens have within civil society
Analyze the American political processes (including such things as the role of public opinion, interest groups, political parties, and the electoral process and/or the impact of political policy), both past and present, on subgroups of the U.S. population, and compare to Texas state political processes
Evaluate the impact and outcomes of past and present federal policy on U.S. citizens, subgroups of the U.S. population, and/or citizens of other countries
Use argument and evidence to communicate an analysis of political phenomena and/or policy, orally and in writing

CORE Area 8: Social and Behavioral Science

Generic UHD 1308 Course Description: Within the context of the discipline and the special topic, these courses introduce students to higher-level critical thinking through instruction in the application of empirical and scientific methods that contribute to the understanding of what makes us human. Courses in this area focus on the exploration of behavior and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, and events, examining their impact on the individual, society, and culture. Written and oral communication within the context of the topic's related discipline are emphasized. **Strategies for academic success are practiced within the context of the special topic and discipline.**

Learning Outcomes
Identify the interplay among individuals, groups, institutions, and events within the context of society and culture
Analyze or interpret empirically derived information and infer logical conclusions;
Evaluate assumptions and develop defensible conclusions based on interpretation and analysis of information relevant to course content
Synthesize and deliver organized and well-constructed arguments about course content using multiple modalities (including written, oral, and visual formats) to include the use of technology
Apply theory or findings from empirical research to a contemporary social problem