

## US 101US First-Year Seminar Fall 2013 Syllabus and Course Packet

**Instructor's Name:**

**Phone:**

**Availability:**

**Email:**

Please record your instructor's contact information and out-of-class availability above.

**It is the student's responsibility to read and adhere to all policies described in the syllabus and course packet. Within the packet you will see information and guidelines for class participation, leading discussion, academic writing, and submitting assignments. This class has a heavy emphasis on reading and writing, please consider this before agreeing to take this course. Please review this packet carefully and ask your instructor for clarification as needed.**

### **Required Texts**

Course Packet, Fall 2013 Edition

Martel, *Life of Pi*

O'Brien, *The Things They Carried*

Plato, *The Last Days of Socrates*

Selected texts available on E-Reserve

### **Students with Disabilities**

If you have a documented disability for which you are or may be requesting accommodation(s), please contact your instructor and the Office of **Disability, Re-Entry and Veteran Services, which is located in room 180 of the Strand Union.** Tel: (406) 994-2824, TTY: (406) 994-6701, Fax: (406) 994-3943. Mailing address: P.O. Box 173960, Bozeman, MT 59717-3960.

### **Earning Core Credit**

Students must complete Core courses with a minimum grade of 'C-' to earn Core credit. Some degree programs require grades higher than a 'C-'. If you withdraw from this course, or if you do not earn a sufficient grade for your major, you will need to take another University Seminar to fulfill the Core requirement. **This course cannot be repeated.**

### **WHAT WE DO IN US 101US**

University Studies First-Year Seminar (US 101US) is a small discussion-based course that creates a supportive environment to help students take an active role in their education. Our inquiry-based course will engage you in the practices of critical thinking, written communication, oral communication, and academic research. Over the course of the semester, you'll lead discussion, write informal and formal essays, create and deliver oral presentations, and complete academic research focusing on the following questions:

- How should you live your life?
- What role will education play in your life?

- What are your responsibilities to others as an informed and engaged citizen?
- What are the elements of a just society?

### **US 101US and the University Seminar Core Requirement**

US 101US fulfills the University Seminar Core requirement and is accountable to the University Seminar core mission and learning outcomes. These outcomes guide our course goals of fostering connections while engaging students in inquiry and the practices of critical thinking, reading, writing, and academic discourse.

### **University Seminar Core Mission and Learning Outcomes**

Courses with University Seminar (US) core designation are primarily intended for first-year students throughout all curricula to provide a platform for collegiate level discourse. Activities that hone written and oral communication skills are universally incorporated, but themes represented in individual US core courses vary considerably to reflect the department or program from which the course originates. All US core courses are small in size and rely heavily on seminar-style teaching where course content is delivered by discussion and interaction rather than by lecture. This learning environment promotes vibrant interactions between first-year students, a faculty member, and in many courses, a more experienced student fellow or peer leader. US core courses provide a venue where students can enjoy rigorous academic discussions that promote critical thinking, learning, and understanding in a supportive and truly collegiate manner.

### **Through completion of the US Core students will**

- Demonstrate critical thinking abilities
- Prepare and deliver an effective oral presentation
- Demonstrate analytical, critical, and creative thinking in written communication

### **ATTENDANCE AND ENGAGED PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS**

See complete requirements on pages 8 & 9 of the course packet for detailed attendance and participation requirements and guidelines.

#### **Attendance**

**Attendance is required and is a minimum expectation in US 101US.** In discussion-based seminars much of the learning takes place during daily discussions and cannot be made-up. If you are not in class, you are denying yourself and your classmates of collaborative learning opportunities. Instructors may excuse student absences for extraordinary reasons: significant illness, injury, family or personal emergency. Students must provide instructors with written documentation when requesting to have absences excused. However, providing documentation does not guarantee that your absence will be excused. Consistent or gross tardiness for any reason will be considered an unexcused absence.

## **Engaged Participation**

Students earn participation grades commensurate with the preparation, engagement, and meaningful participation demonstrated in the classroom. In US 101US, engaged participation is demonstrated when students actively listen to each other, ask meaningful questions that engage their classmates, and show a willingness to push themselves and their own thinking. Simply attending the course does not earn a high participation grade, nor does simply talking every day earn a high participation grade. Students who choose not to participate, sleep in class, use cell phones or text, arrive late, show poor preparation, sidetrack conversations, or are otherwise disruptive will earn a failing participation grade and may be asked to leave the classroom.

## **ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES and OVERVIEW**

- There is no extra credit available in this course.
- All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date specified by your instructor.
- Instructors have the right to refuse late assignments. If your instructor is willing to accept a late assignment, the assignment will only be accepted for one week after the original deadline and will merit (at most) half of the original points possible. In exceptional circumstances (e.g., serious illness or family emergency—with written documentation), instructors may allow students to turn in an assignment after the due date for full credit. Students should verify their instructor's late assignment policy and should not assume that late work will be accepted.
- Students who are late or absent on days that oral presentations and discussion leading are scheduled may not be able to make up the assignment. Late oral assignments, if accepted, will earn a maximum of half credit.
- Assignments are described fully in the course packet. Over the duration of the semester, students are expected to:
  - Read 30-300 pages per text.
  - Produce 15-30 pages of writing over the course of the term.
  - Arrive to each class on time, ready to actively listen and participate with all reading and writing assignments completed.
  - Conduct academic research.
  - Lead at least one class discussion.
  - Create and deliver original oral presentations.
- Montana State University has a license agreement with Turnitin, a web-based service that verifies the originality of student work by comparing a submitted paper to information available on the internet, databases of journal articles, and millions of student papers previously submitted to Turnitin. In seminar you will be asked to submit some or all of your work to Turnitin. All materials submitted to Turnitin will be retained by Turnitin in its

database to be used solely for the purpose of verifying the originality of papers subsequently submitted to Turnitin. (Information About Plagiarism and TurnItIn).

- If you do not wish a paper submitted to Turnitin to be identifiable as yours, please work with your instructor to ensure that all personal information (e.g. name, GID, SSN) is removed from the paper before it is submitted to Turnitin (Information About Plagiarism and TurnItIn).

## **COURSE CONDUCT POLICIES**

### **Academic Honesty**

Students should refer to the MSU Student Conduct Code, as they are accountable to all policies described therein. As a student and member of the MSU academic community, it is your responsibility to be aware of and adhere to the Student Conduct Code. Our examples provided here are not exhaustive. Students can access the complete Conduct Code via the Dean of Students website: <http://www.montana.edu/wwwds/>

### **Academic Misconduct**

Possible sanctions for academic misconduct range from an oral reprimand to expulsion from the university. Section 410.00 of the Student Conduct Code describes academic misconduct as including but not limited to “cheating, plagiarism, forgery, falsification, facilitation or aiding academic dishonesty; multiple submission, theft of instructional materials or tests; unauthorized access to, manipulation of or tampering with laboratory equipment, experiments, computer programs, or animals without proper authorization; alteration of grades or files; misuse of research data in reporting results; use of personal relationships to gain grades or favors, or otherwise attempting to obtain grades or credit through fraudulent means” (Student Conduct Code 2012-2014).

### **Plagiarism**

If you have questions or are unsure how to use and cite sources, please ask for assistance.

Paraphrasing or quoting another’s work without citing the source, whether in an oral presentation or a written assignment, is a form of academic misconduct. Inadvertent or unintentional misuse or appropriation of another's work (relying heavily on sources without citing them) is considered plagiarism and will be treated as such.

### **Collaboration**

Each student is expected to create his or her own original work. This includes research, presentations, essays, etc. While we encourage you to discuss your ideas and questions with classmates and friends, the work you submit should reflect your original ideas and work. University policy states that, unless otherwise specified, students may not collaborate on graded material. Exceptions to this policy will be stated explicitly for individual assignments. If you have any questions about the limits of collaboration, you are expected to ask for clarification.

**Consequences of Misconduct**

Students found guilty of any form of academic misconduct, even if the misconduct is unintentional, will—at a minimum—fail the corresponding assignment(s). Some cases of academic misconduct might receive more severe sanctions depending upon the instance(s) of misconduct. All instances of academic misconduct will be referred to the Provost's Office for further review and sanctioning.

**Student Conduct**

Student conduct that disrupts, invades, or violates the personal and property rights of others (especially within MSU classrooms) is prohibited and subject to disciplinary action. Please refer to the MSU Student Conduct Code, which delineates the standards of the MSU community. We will not tolerate disruptive behavior in US 101US. Students who are disruptive will be asked to leave the class and may be referred to the Dean of Students office.

***All student conduct and academic misconduct policies referenced here have been informed by the MSU Conduct Code.***

## Fall 2013 US 101US Grade Sheet

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Points Possible</u>	<u>Points Earned</u>
Attendance	25	_____
Engaged Class Participation	50	_____
Short Writes Portfolio	50	_____
Leading Seminar Discussion	50	_____
<i>Life of Pi</i> Essay	30	_____
<i>The Things They Carried</i> Presentation (35 Points) Outline (15 Points)	50	_____
Mid-semester Conference	20	_____
Personal Philosophy Essay	50	_____
Research Project Total Points	125	_____
Phase 1 – Topic Exploration		
Phase 2 – Annotated Bibliography	(40)	
Phase 3 – Oral Presentation	(50)	
Phase 4 – Outline	(15)	
Phase 5 – Post Research Reflection	(20)	
Instructor Specific Assignments	50	_____
Total Earned Points	500	_____
<b>Letter Grade Earned</b>		_____
A     465-500     B+     435-449     C+     385-399     D+     335-349		
A-     450-464     B     415-434     C     365-384     D     315-334		
	B-     400-414     C-     350-364     D-     300-314	
		F     0-299

**Grades below a “C-” do not satisfy the Core 2.0 Seminar requirement. Some programs require students to earn a grade higher than a “C-.” There is no extra credit available in this course. This course cannot be repeated.**