**HNRS1010: Gateway to University Honors**

# Instructor Information

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# *“We don’t learn from experience. We learn from reflecting on experience.” – John Dewey*

# Course Introduction

**UHP Vision**

Developing students into global citizen scholars who lead innovative efforts toward solving the

world’s complex problems.

**UHP Mission**

The University Honors Program is committed to offering students an individualized, student-centered approach to a meaningful undergraduate experience. To that end, we are dedicated to:

 Promoting activities that lead students to discover their passions and enhance their gifts and talents

 Coaching students to purposefully engage in experiential learning opportunities and reflection to maximize and integrate their learning

 Fostering a community that prioritizes transformational personal development, civic participation, and global responsibility

Gateway to University Honors will provide students with the opportunity to understand what it means to be a member of the University Honors Program and the requirements and benefits of their participation. Additionally, students will learn how to deepen their learning through reflection. Each student will complete the program in a slightly different way.

This course is interactive and relies heavily on student participation. Class sessions involve discussion, peer groups, activities, speakers, and other methods of learning. Students will have many opportunities to share their ideas and gain feedback from peers, upper-class honors students, and their instructor.

# Course Learning Outcomes

Through a series of activities, assignments, and discussions, students who actively participate in this course will:

* Develop ability to tell their story and make meaning from their UC experience.
* Identify personal strengths and areas of growth.
* Identify and explore interests, leading to development of passion(s).
* Try new things and take risks that help explore interests/passions or discover new ones.
* Develop a sense of belonging to the UHP community.
* Learn the why and how of the UHP – why pursue the UHP and how to navigate it and get the most from their experience.

# Texts/Materials

There is no textbook for this course. Instructors will provide handouts in class and upload course materials to Blackboard.

## Attendance & Participation

Attendance and active participation is a crucial part of success in any college class; thus, students will receive points for their attendance and participation in this course. Simply showing up to class will not be enough to constitute full credit for attendance. **Students are expected to arrive on-time and participate actively in all class sessions in order to earn the full points for each class.** Additionally, your instructor may assign homework to be completed between class sessions. In these instances, your attendance points will be influenced by your ability to complete preparatory work for class.

In the case of an absence, students are expected to contact the instructor before the class period (or soon thereafter in case of emergencies). Excused absences will be granted for the following reasons: documented military service, documented hospital stay, immediate death in the family (grandparent, parent, sibling, spouse or child). The instructor will review other unique circumstances on an individual basis. Excused absences will be granted only in extreme circumstances with documentation and the burden of making up all missed information will lie solely with the student.

**Cell phones, tablets, and/or laptops are not to be used during class unless otherwise noted by the instructor**. Most class discussions and activities do not require the use of electronic devices. Any student using one of these devices during class will forfeit his/her participation points for that day.

## Late Work

Assignments are considered late if they are not turned in by the beginning of the class period the assignment is due. Late work can be turned in for partial credit. Students will lose 10% of the possible points for each day that the assignment is late. **All assignments must be completed to remain a member of the University Honors Program.**

## Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct, including plagiarism, will be dealt with according to University rules and the Student Code of Conduct. See the Student Code of Conduct at <http://www.uc.edu/conduct/Code_of_Conduct.html>.

## Special Needs Policy

If you have a disability (visual impairment, hearing impairment, physical impairment, communication disorder, and/or specific learning disability) which may influence your performance in this course, you need to work with the Disability Services Office to arrange for reasonable accommodations to ensure an equal opportunity to meet all of the requirements of this course. You will need to complete an Accommodation Form and present this form to the instructor as soon as possible to ensure that your accommodation needs are addressed.

**UC Non-Discrimination Policy**

The University of Cincinnati does not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, age, sexual orientation, veteran status or gender identity and expression in its programs and activities. See full UC Notice of Non-Discrimination at <http://www.uc.edu/honors/abouthonors/non-discrimination.html>

**Bearcat Bond**

‘As a member of the University of Cincinnati, I will uphold the principles for a Just Community and the values of respect, responsibility, and inclusiveness. I will promote the highest levels of personal and academic honesty and aspire continuously to better myself, the Bearcat community, and the world.’ See UC Just Community Principles at <http://www.uc.edu/diversity/priorities/just-community-principles.html>

# Assignments

The following descriptions provide an overview of the assignments you will complete throughout this course. Your instructor will provide more details prior to the assignment due date. Please consult with your instructor if you have any questions about the requirements. All assignments are due at the beginning of the class period.

## Strengths Inventory and Reflection Assignment (Due: June 10th)

Strengths Finder is a 30-minute self-assessment designed to help people discover their natural talents developed by Gallup. After you take the assessment, you will receive a customized report that lists your top five talent themes, along with action items for development and suggestions about how you can use your talents to achieve academic, career, and personal success. Then you will write a brief reflection about your personal response to the results.

## Mini-Experience Reflection Assignment (Due: June 24th)

The purpose of this assignment is for you to become familiar with the process of completing a self-designed experience in a smaller format. Consider the [UHP thematic areas](http://www.uc.edu/honors/abouthonors/thematicareas.html) and identify a **“mini”** experience around your interests.

Select an event, program, workshop, or other short-term opportunity to learn about a topic of your choosing. You may utilize options outlined in your interest web or consider the options from the included list. But you are welcomed and encouraged to find other options on or off campus that you find valuable. Once you have completed the experience write a min-experience reflection.

## Develop Learning Portfolio and Final Reflection Assignment (Due: June 24th)

As a final assignment, you will create your learning portfolio and write a statement to introduce readers to who you are and where you want to go in the future. This will be your first opportunity to write your UC story. A learning portfolio is purposeful collection of student work that exhibits your effort, progress, achievements and insights gained throughout college. The learning portfolio you create in Gateway will be something you maintain until you graduate, and thus, it is a work in progress.

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|  |  |  | A | 376-400 points |
| Strengths Inventory and Reflection | 70 points |  | A- | 360-375 points |
| Mini Self-Designed Experience Reflection | 70 points |  | B+ | 348- 359 points |
| Develop Learning Portfolio and Gateway Final Reflection | 100 points |  | B | 336-347 points |
| Attendance and Participation | 160 points |  | B- | 320-335 points |
|  |  |  | C+ | 308-319 points |
| Points Possible | 400 points |  | C | 296-307 points |
|  |  |  | C- | 280-295 points |

**Students must earn a C- or better to remain a member of the University Honors Program. Students who receive below a C- will be removed from the program**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Lesson** | **Date** | **Theme(s)** | **Assignment Due** |
| 1 | Complete by Friday, June 10th | Lesson 1 – Course expectations, telling your story   * Welcome * Syllabus Review * Introduce Storytelling & Learning Portfolio * Introduce Reflection * Strengths Finder Inventory | * Reading Due: “Strengths Finder 2.0” Part 1 – *Finding Your Strengths* *an Introduction* by Tom Rath (available on BB) * Assignment Due: Strengths Inventory & Reflection |
| 2 | Complete by Friday, June 17th | Lesson 2 – UHP overview   * UHP Mission and Vision * Global Citizen Scholar * Benefits and Requirements: Review College/Honors Document * Introduce Interest and Passion | * Watch Video: *How to Find Work You Love* – Scott Dinsmore |
| 3 | Complete by Friday, June 24th | Lesson 3 – UHP thematic areas and exploring your interests   * Introduce UHP Thematic Areas * Introduce Interest Web * Learning Portfolio Workshop | * Reading Due: Review UHP Thematic Area Overview and Learning Outcomes * Homework Activity Due: Learning Portfolio Discovery * Assignment Due: Mini Self-Designed Experience Reflection |
| 4 | Complete by Friday, July 1st | Lesson 4 – Experiential learning and the value of the honors program   * Types of honors experiences * Seminars * Pre-Approved * Self-Designed * Learning Portfolio and Reflection * Learning Portfolio Review * Showcasing Honors Experiences * Models of Reflection * What? So What? Now What? * Year-In-Review | * Homework Activity Due: Review Self-Designed Experience Proposal * Assignment Due: Develop Learning Portfolio and Gateway Final Reflection |
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*Schedule subject to change at the discretion of the instructors.*