

Gateway Pilot *Syllabus*

Course Description

The development and ownership of personal learning in the context of Union's Christian liberal arts approach through critically reflective reading, writing, and interaction. (2 semester hours)

Course Texts

- Crouch, Andy. *Culture Making*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2008. [required]
- Plantinga, Cornelius. *Engaging God's World: A Christian Vision of Faith, Learning, and Living*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2002. [required]
- Supplemental readings to be assigned and provided by the Gateway lecturers/preceptors

Essential Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

1. Students will explore the nature of liberal arts and their value as a foundation for learning.
2. Students will examine and articulate their own worldviews through exploring sources of knowledge, Christian intellectual traditions, and cultures.
3. Students will consider what faith affirmations Christians share, regardless of denominational affiliation, and will begin to identify conflicts and agreements between the Christian faith and contemporary secular worldviews.

Desirable Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

1. Students will cultivate virtues and relationships central to a Christian academic community with implications for their behavior in their local, regional, national, and global communities.
2. Students will have opportunities to reflect critically on their own goals as university students

Method of Instruction

The course will employ a combination of four large group lectures/presentations along with smaller sections for additional lecture and discussion. Active student participation in both settings is essential for a successful learning experience.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Attendance and Participation: Both regular attendance and active participation are required for success in this course. Active participation has several dimensions. An active participant is someone who comes to class having read the assigned material or completed the required activity/assignment. An active participant listens attentively during large group presentations taking thorough notes. An active participant raises insightful questions and makes thoughtful contributions during discussion sections. An active participant also engages with course material beyond the class meeting through informal discussion and email dialogue.

Shorts Assignments: Each student will be required to complete **3** short assignments within his or her section of Gateway. One assignment will be assigned by each of the three Gateway Lecturers. Thus, students will have one assignment roughly every three weeks. The nature of each short assignment will vary according to the objectives of each Gateway Lecturer. Further details will be provided by your Gateway Lecturer in a timely fashion.

Two Cultural Events: During the fall semester, each student will be required to attend/participate in **2** campus or local cultural events. Examples of cultural events include (but are not limited to) an orchestral or choral performance, a play, a culturally significant film, a special speaker, etc. After attending each cultural event, students will be required to complete and submit a brief report using the “Cultural Events Form” provided by their Gateway Preceptor. Students **may not** receive cultural events credit for chapel attendance or a sporting event. Students may only use **one** culturally significant film toward fulfilling the two required cultural events. Your Gateway Preceptor will provide you with a pre-approved list of cultural events. For any events not on this list, students **must** receive verbal or email approval from his or her Gateway Preceptor prior to attending his or her cultural event.

Book Review/Response: Each student will be required to complete **1** short book review/response to one of the main texts for the Gateway course. These reviews must be typed, double-spaced and approx. 500 words. Further specific details on the book review/response will be provided by your Gateway Preceptor in a timely fashion.

Reflection Essay: Each student will be required to complete **1** final reflection essay. These reflection essays must be typed, double-spaced and approx. 1000 words. Further specific details on the book review/response will be provided by your Gateway Preceptor in a timely fashion.

Final course grades will be calculated on the basis the course requirements as follows:

Attendance	20%
Participation	10% (Preceptor’s discretion)
Short Assignments	30% (3 @ 10% each)
Cultural Events	20% (2 @ 10% each)
Book Review	10%
Reflection Essay	10%

Course Schedule
Example Based on Monday/Wednesday Section

Session Date	Session Topic	Session Facilitator
August 25	Large Group Session I	TBA
September 1	Large Group Session II	TBA
September 8	Large Group Session III	TBA
September 15	Large Group Session IV	TBA
September 21	Christian Worldview I	Gateway Lecturer A
September 23	Discussion Section	Gateway Preceptor
September 28	Christian Worldview II	Gateway Lecturer A
September 30	Discussion Section	Gateway Preceptor
October 5	Christian Worldview III	Gateway Lecturer A
October 7	Discussion Section	Gateway Preceptor
October 12	Liberal Arts I	Gateway Lecturer B
October 14	Discussion Section	Gateway Preceptor
October 19	Liberal Arts II	Gateway Lecturer B
October 21	Discussion Section	Gateway Preceptor
October 26	Liberal Arts III	Gateway Lecturer B
October 28	Discussion Section	Gateway Preceptor
November 2	Christian Faith I	Gateway Lecturer C
November 4	Discussion Section	Gateway Preceptor
November 9	Christian Faith II	Gateway Lecturer C
November 11	Discussion Section	Gateway Preceptor
November 23	Christian Faith III	Gateway Lecturer C
November 30	Discussion Section	Gateway Preceptor
December 2	EXTRA CLASS	IF NEEDED