# University Studies Program
GENERAL EDUCATION FOR THE 21st CENTURY

## EXPLORE Courses Sample Syllabus Language (with notes)

As you draft and refine your EXPLORE syllabi, you may wish to use or revise some of the following language in your syllabus to connect to other USP courses that students will be experiencing.

**EXPLORE COURSES and a LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION**
This course is an EXPLORE course for the University Studies Program. The EXPLORE classes are designed to provide a solid foundation for the rest of your education here, no matter which major you choose. For further information about the unique general education at UW Oshkosh and the other USP courses that are available, visit the University Studies Program website.
At UW Oshkosh, the foundation to your learning is a liberal arts education.

A) Liberal Education is an approach to learning that empowers individuals and prepares them to deal with complexity, diversity, and change. It provides students with broad knowledge of the wider world (e.g. science, culture, and society) as well as in-depth study in a specific area of interest. A liberal education helps students develop a sense of social responsibility, as well as strong and transferable intellectual and practical skills such as communication, analytical and problem solving skills, and a demonstrated ability to apply knowledge and skills in real world settings. (AAC&U; http://www.aacu.org/leap/What_is_liberal_education.cfm)

OR

B) Sample from a syllabus submitted by COB's Bill Wresch:

Defining a Liberal Arts Education:

Liberal Education is a philosophy of education that empowers individuals with broad knowledge and transferable skills, and a strong sense of values, ethics, and civic engagement. These broad goals have endured even as the courses and requirements that comprise a Liberal Education have changed over the years. Characterized by challenging encounters with important and relevant issues today and throughout history, a Liberal Education prepares graduates both for socially valued work and for civic leadership in their society. It usually includes a general education curriculum that provides broad exposure to multiple disciplines and ways of knowing, along with more in-depth study in at least one field or area of concentration. Original source: Advocacy "What is a liberal education?" www.aacu.org/leap.

How does that definition connect to our course? The place of business in a

community has been an important – and changing – issue throughout history. This course will provide you with background on this issue, background you will need as you become a community leader. It will help you determine for yourself what values, ethics, and sense of community you wish to bring to your work.

**USP EXPLORE COURSES AND THE SIGNATURE QUESTIONS** (as applicable; some USP EXPLORE courses include Signature Question content, and some do not)

The University Studies Program (USP) is your gateway to a 21st century college education at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. In this EXPLORE course, you will have the opportunity to further investigate one of the Signature Questions that are the focus of your QUEST courses. These three "Signature Questions" are central to a UW Oshkosh education:

- How do people understand and engage in community life?
- How do people understand and create a more sustainable world?
- How do people understand and bridge cultural differences?

In this class, we are focused upon the following Signature Question:

[insert SQ; consider briefly highlighting student learning outcomes or assignments that relate to the Signature Question in your course]

**EARLY ALERT**

A) After the third week of class, you will receive a grade for your overall progress in this course and each of the courses you are taking in the University Studies Program. This process is called "Early Alert." You will receive this information in an email during the 5th week of classes. Early Alert is designed to help you evaluate your study skills and your class attendance so that you know if you are on the right track. If you need to make some changes, there are resources available to support your academic success. These Early Alert grades are not permanent and will not appear on your transcript.

OR

B) Early Alert is a program that provides you with an Early Grade Report from faculty. Early Grade Reports will indicate if you have academic performance or attendance issues and specific steps you can take and resources available to help you improve. It is common for students to be unaware of or over-estimate their academic performance in classes so this will help you be aware early on of your progress and provide strategies for success in the classroom. You will receive an email during the 5th week of classes. It is important to read the entire email carefully.

**MAP-WORKS (for first-year students enrolled in this EXPLORE course)**

MAP-Works (Making Achievement Possible Works) is a survey that is all about you! To help you have a wonderful first-year of college, we need you to take this survey. You will receive an email from map-works@uwosh.edu inviting you to take the survey. Advisors,

hall directors, Quest course instructors and many other people on campus will use this information to help you be successful and to provide you with what you need. You will receive a report with suggestions on how achieve your goals; please review it.

**ePORTFOLIO**

As you move through your courses at UW Oshkosh, you will archive your learning in an ePortfolio. The ePortfolio can be found in D2L. The ePortfolio will help you keep track of papers, speeches, reports, projects, and other assignments in your Quest and Explore courses, so that you can see your progress and connect ideas across different classes. In the CONNECT course, you can use your collection to create a digital story of your learning journey at UW Oshkosh. You can continue to use this portfolio in your major classes, so that you are ready for your Capstone course or experience as you near graduation. You can even use the ePortfolio after you graduate to show evidence of your learning to employers or graduate schools. In this EXPLORE course (and in all your USP courses), a specific assignment has been designated to be uploaded to your ePortfolio. That assignment is [insert]. More details will follow in class. If you are in a Quest I course, your peer mentor can assist you with getting your UW Oshkosh ePortfolio started.

**ePortfolio Note for EXPLORE instructors:** When your course was approved as an EXPLORE course for the USP, an assignment was listed as the ePortfolio assignment you would ask students to upload. As you revise your course, you may wish modify or expand that assignment and/or your use of the ePortfolio as a learning tool. Before you begin to think about the ePortfolio and its use in your class, you may wish to 1) check the approved form that describes the ePortfolio assignment for your course (see instructions below to access the form for your course) and 2) attend a short ePortfolio/Learning Reflection workshop (see list of days and times on the CETL website or on the CETL Menu).

**CAMPUS RESOURCES**

In the University Studies Program, we want you to be successful. Please visit this resource page (or the D2L course page) to read about all the campus services available to support your success. http://www.uwosh.edu/home/resources)

Suggestions for instructors: A) You may wish to include a brief description of resources that
are of particular relevance to your course. Below, please find some sample language from the
resource websites for a few such resources; or B) You may wish to simply list resources (title
and corresponding links) on your course D2L site, mentioning all or some of the following:

**Center for Academic Resources**: The Center for Academic Resources (CAR) provides free, confidential tutoring for students in most undergraduate classes on campus. CAR is located in the Student Success Center, Suite 102. Check the Tutor List page on CAR's website (www.uwosh.edu/car) for a list of tutors. If your course is not listed, click on a link to request one, stop by SSC 102 or call 424-2290. To schedule a tutoring session,

simply email the tutor, let him/her know what class you are seeking assistance in, and schedule a time to meet.

**Writing Center:** The Writing Center helps students of all ability levels improve their writing. Trained peer consultants help writers understand an assignment, envision possibilities for a draft, and improve their writing process. They even help writers learn to identify their own proofreading errors. Students can make a free appointment or stop by to see whether a consultant is available. For more information, view their website (http://www.uwosh.edu/wcenter), call 920-424-1152, email wcenter@uwosh.edu, or visit them in Suite 102 of the Student Success Center. (Description written by Crystal Mueller)

**Reading Study Center**: The Reading Study Center is an all-university service whose mission is to facilitate the development of efficient college-level learning strategies in students of all abilities. The center offers strategies for improved textbook study, time management, note-taking, test preparation, and test-taking. For more information, email readingstudy@uwosh.edu, view the website(http://www.uwosh.edu/readingstudycenter), visit them in Nursing Ed Room 201, or call 424-1031.

**Polk Library/Information Literacy***: Polk Library offers many professional librarians who can help you find library resources for your research. Specifically, Ted Mulvey, the Information Literacy Librarian, is available to assist you as you access, evaluate, and use information in University Studies Program classes. Phone: 920-424-7329;
email: mulveyt@uwosh.edu. You may also set up a research advisory session with a librarian at: rap@uwosh.edu. (Description written by Ted Mulvey).

*Note for EXPLORE Instructors: Comm 111 (Quest Speaking) and WBIS (Quest Writing) classes will include Information Literacy in the student learning outcomes and content of their syllabi. See this information literacy rubric for further information if interested; you can reinforce expectations for full source citations, selection of academic sources, differentiation between primary and secondary sources, etc.

You may expect that your EXPLORE students who have completed Quest I or II have made progress toward information literacy in their paired Quest Speaking and/or Writing courses. EXPLORE students in their first semester are addressing Information Literacy.

You may also wish to reinforce writing and speaking expectations in paper and speech assignments by referencing the rubrics and processes students are encountering in their Quest Writing and Speaking courses.