

University Studies Program

GENERAL EDUCATION FOR THE 21st CENTURY

SAMPLE LANGUAGE FOR QUEST III SYLLABI

As you draft and refine your Quest III syllabus, please log in to the CETL/USP resource page to consult the **Quest III Syllabus Checklist** to ensure that your syllabus contains all of the expected content. In addition, you may wish to use or revise some of the following language in your syllabus for the elements that are required of all Quest III syllabi, regardless of Signature Question content:

LIBERAL 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](http://www.aacu.org/leap/What%20is%20liberal%20education.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 AND THE SIGNATURE QUESTIONS

The University Studies Program (USP) is your gateway to a 21st century college education at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. This Quest III course is the last in a series of courses you will take

to introduce you to the campus and all it has to offer, the vibrant Oshkosh community, and the challenges and opportunities of academic life as you pursue a liberal education. In the first year of your Quest, you addressed two of the three “Signature Questions” that 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 course, you are addressing the third of the Signature Questions. Upon completion of Quest III, you will be ready to enroll in Connect, in which you will synthesize the three Signature Questions.

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 your first semester. 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. *(This is our official Early Alert language.)*

ePORTFOLIO

As you are moving through your courses at UW Oshkosh, you are archiving your learning in your ePortfolio. The ePortfolio helps 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 this Quest III course, an assignment related to your Community Experience will be featured as an ePortfolio artifact. Further information about this assignment will be provided.

ALUMNI MENTOR(S)

UW Oshkosh Alumni care about you and your future. They have volunteered to support you in your Quest. As you participate in your Quest III Community Experience, an Alumni Mentor will be involved. The names of the Alumni Mentors and their roles in your Community Experience are as follows: [insert details about the Alumni Mentor(s) associated with your course here].

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: You have been introduced to Information Literacy in your Quest Speaking and Writing courses. As a reminder, 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)*