

# URI 101 TRADITIONS AND TRANSFORMATIONS

## SECTION 53 – FALL 2006

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**Class Meets: M 3:30-4:45 Bliss 305**

**Textbook and Course Curriculum:** URI 101e ([www.uri101.com](http://www.uri101.com)) is the online, interactive textbook you will use in this course. You will need your nine-digit URI ID number to access the course materials. At the end of each chapter you will find homework questions that may be submitted to your URI 101 instructor. There is much to learn from this text book so spend time exploring the various links embedded in each chapter to find valuable information designed for you.

The purpose of this course is to help you explore issues relevant to new students at URI. When you complete this course you should have a better understanding of the University of Rhode Island, its resources, the various opportunities available to you, issues important to the URI community, and your own academic goals. Most importantly, you will have experienced working collaboratively in a group, and will have developed some important skills for your academic success.

Many of the topics covered in this class will be in response to what you determine your needs and interests to be. However, they will typically fall within three main categories that provide a basic structure for the course:

- 1) **Planning your academic goals.** Includes topics that will help you think about and plan your courses, your internships, and your extra-curricular activities for the next few years. You will discuss major and career choices, and set personal and academic goals for success. A presentation on University College and academic advising is a part of this category.
- 2) **Enhancing your academic skills.** Focuses on learning more about yourself as a learner. This includes assessing your learning style, improving time management, and working on critical thinking and analysis skills. There is a presentation on experiential learning in this category.
- 3) **Adjusting to college life.** Includes many topics you deal with in your transition from high school to college. It includes guidance on how to use the many resources available to you at the University of Rhode Island, information on getting involved and coping with residential life and using the library. It also covers issues of diversity, alcohol and drug usage, and concerns for personal safety. A presentation on health and safety is included in this category.

This is a one-credit class and we will assign work accordingly. You will get credit for the work you do in class, as well as the preparation and meeting times out of class. You are expected to do all assignments on time.

As you make your transition to URI, you will have many new and exciting experiences and, inevitably, some challenges. To help you meet these changes successfully, URI 101 provides important information as well as support through your URI 101 instructor and mentor. University College also provides “Rhode Assistance” specifically to help students with issues or problems that arise as they adjust to URI, for example how to get help with academics, what to do if you are having problems adjusting, who to ask if you need more personal information. If you feel you need assistance on any issue please feel free to contact Jessica Boisclair, Coordinator of Rhode Assistance, in University College, Roosevelt Hall, 874-4076 or via email at [jess@uri.edu](mailto:jess@uri.edu). Your conversations are confidential. We hope this is just one more way to help you be successful, academically and personally, at URI.

### Our main goals:

- Provide a safe and fun place to ask questions
- Gain valuable information
- Practice collaborative learning skills
- Explore academic, co-curricular, and career options
- Learn about yourself as a learner and enhance your academic skills
- Encourage leadership via service learning through the Feinstein Enriching America Service Project

### GRADING

Attendance and Participation	20 Points	Interview with me	10 Points
Attend Diversity Week	10 Points	Online Assessments	10 Points
Community Service	15 Points	Homework Assignments	20 Points
Join an Organization and paper	15 Points		
Total:			100 Points

Important – Please Note: The course catalogue (8.33.13) states “Students not attending courses in which they enrolled have the obligation to drop those courses before the drop deadline. (This applies to all your courses.) **Names of students who are absent from the first and second class meetings of a course and who do not notify the course instructor of their intention to attend future class meetings may be submitted by the course instructor for deletion from the class.**” In other words, go to class or you may be dropped so that other students may enroll during the add period.

## REQUIREMENTS

### ***ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION (20 Points)***

Our class meetings will be primarily presentations from University service providers and offices, discussions, and activities. You have to be in class and be prepared to earn full credit for attendance and participation. Class will be more fun and productive if everyone completes readings and assignments, on time and thoughtfully. Please come to class on time, prepared to contribute to the classroom experience.

We expect you to call us if you have an emergency and cannot attend class. We hope to teach you the rules of college learning, therefore you should know now that an emergency means you are sick and you have a doctor's note, not that you want to visit a friend who has a cold (see the difference?!). You will lose points for unexcused absences. ***Class attendance and participation*** is worth **20%** of your grade.

### ***ATTEND DIVERSITY WEEK (10 Points)***

Diversity Week, September 25 – September 29, celebrates the importance of diversity and identity in higher education, in the workplace, in the community, and in the global arena. Students are to attend at least one workshop or activity and **write a one-two page reaction paper**. More details will be given in class. A detailed schedule of Diversity Week activities can be found at: <http://www.uri.edu/mcc/>

### ***FEINSTEIN ENRICHING AMERICA COMMUNITY SERVICE (15 Points)***

In the fall of 1995, Rhode Island philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein generously endowed the service-learning component of URI 101, creating a program formally designated as the Feinstein Enriching America Program. This endowment insured that each University of Rhode Island student would have the opportunity to be

involved in a meaningful community service activity, to reflect upon that experience and have the forum to share their thoughts and feelings with other students. Service Learning provides an opportunity to work collaboratively with others, while understanding the needs of the broader community in which you live. As Mr. Feinstein has said, your "commitment to the values of caring brotherhood and community service gives you the opportunity to make a profound difference in the future."

**Our Community Service Project.** Our pre-arranged community service project is scheduled for **Saturday October 28<sup>th</sup>, 11:45AM -4:00PM**. We will work with the Girl Scouts of Rhode Island and the Book Buddies program. This is a project to help promote literacy with children. We will meet in the Memorial Union for a fun afternoon of book reading and book making. Please mark your calendars. This is a required activity so make plans now to clear the day.

### ***CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT EXPERIENCE (15 Points Total)***

Joining a campus club or organization is a great way to meet other people on campus who share similar interests, strengthen your resume, keep your life in order (believe it or not, being busier helps you plan your day, your week, and your whole semester more efficiently!), all while learning and developing valuable skills. For this assignment, we'd like you to join a campus group of interest to you. It may be a club within your major, a student leadership organization, a multicultural association, or a social/recreational club. You can find information about campus clubs and organizations at the URI homepage for students.

The objective of this assignment is to get you involved in the campus community early on in your college career and to increase your classmates' awareness of the types of activities available to them. For this reason, you are to prepare a **two-page report of your experience and present it to the class on (Monday November 13, 2006)**. You should address the following when constructing your report:

- Name of the organization
- Meeting times/location
- Describe the organization (i.e. what's its purpose, who are its members, etc.).
- What are the rules for joining?
- What are attendance requirements?
- What are meetings like?
- How do you feel about this organization?
- Would you recommend that others join? Who? Why?

Students are encouraged to attend the Involvement Fair on Wednesday, September 20, 2006, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., in front of the Memorial Union. It is a great opportunity to learn about clubs and organizations on campus.

### ***One on one interview (10 Points)***

I will meet with each of you, at least once, in my office. I will have questions for you, but you need to have questions for me too. What you ask is up to you, but you should prepare the questions ahead of time. The idea is to get a sense of what faculty/administrators do and to better understand how getting to know your professor could be advantageous for you.

***OTHER HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS (20 Points)*** Journal entries and other assignments, such as online exercises and rhode responses will be required throughout the course.

# SCHEDULE

## *Week 1 – Monday, September 11th*

## **ADJUSTING TO COLLEGE LIFE**

- Class Discussion:** Class Overview  
Introductions  
Give e-mail addresses and phone numbers to mentor  
Ask the mentor: opportunity to ask questions of the peer leader
- Topic Assignments:** Read Adjusting to College Life sections  
High school vs College  
Finding campus resources  
Getting involved  
Residential life/ commuting  
About your university  
Finances – **complete Credit 101 worksheets**

## *Week 2 – Monday, September 18th*

- Class Discussion:** Adjusting to College/ Getting involved/ Finances and Credit 101
- Topic Assignments:** Read: Sex, drugs, alcohol – **complete rhode response**  
Exploring Diversity – **complete interactive quiz and rhode response**

## *Week 3 – Monday, September 25th*

## **Attend Diversity Week Activities**

- Class Discussion:** Diversity, Alcohol, Adjusting to life at URI  
Presentation by Andrea Paiva on alcohol behavior models  
Diversity and alcohol exercises  
(we may want to go to the poetry slam as a group, after pizza)
- Topic Assignments:** Journal for Diversity Program

## *Week 4 – Monday, October 2nd*

## **\*ENHANCING YOUR ACADEMIC SKILLS**

- Presentation:** Health, Safety, Alcohol, and Other Drug Awareness  
Location: Women's Center – 22 Upper College Rd
- Topic Assignments:** Read Enhancing Academic Skills: All Rhode Responses due before October 16 for credit!! For each section, tell me one thing you learned reading this section that you did not know before, or one thing that stands out for you as important to know.  
Working with your professors  
Working with your Learning styles  
College reading  
Memory Techniques  
Critical Thinking  
Test Strategies
- Due:** Diversity paper

\*Note: these assignments are worth almost 20% of your grade.

***No Classes Monday, October 9th***

***EXPLORING YOUR MAJOR MONTH BEGINS***

***Week 5 – Monday, October 16th***

**PLANNING YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**

**Class Discussion:** David Hayes, Director Academic Enhancement Center

**Due:** answers to all rhode responses

**Topic Assignments:** Read Academic planning sections:  
Managing your time  
Planning your career  
Working with an academic advisor

***Week 6 – Monday, October 23rd***

**Presentation** **Library – meet in the library**

**Topic assignments:** Read Planning Your Academic Goals sections:  
Setting and meeting goals  
Choosing a major  
Creating a balanced schedule

***Week 7 – Monday, October 30th***

**Presentation:** Academic Advising  
Being Undecided... what it all means

**Topic Assignments:** Read Experiential Learning Section and complete rhode responses  
**Consider what type of internship you'd like to pursue in the future. How does this related to your career goals? If you could study away, where would you go and why? If you have done volunteer service before, what did you do and what do you hope to do in college?**

***Week 8 – Monday, November 6th***

**Presentation:** Experiential Learning – International Study and Internships  
Location: Galanti Lounge, Library

**Due:** answers regarding experiential learning due

***Week 9 – Monday, November 13th***

**Class Discussion:** Putting learning strategies to work for you  
Assessment of your learning styles  
AEC exercises: Rate your syllabus

**Due:** Involvement paper due

***Week 10 – Monday, November 20th***

Assessment/Wrap up