RSP 104
Master Course Syllabus
Honors Introduction to the Culture of Collegiate Life

Required Texts:
1. Learning in the Academy: An Introduction to the Culture of Scholarship
2. Course Reading (to be chosen from list provided by College)
3. Handouts

Course Description: This course in Creighton’s Ratio Studiorum Program introduces first-year students to life at this Jesuit University. It facilitates a smooth transition from high school by examining key elements of collegiate life, such as the meaning and value of a liberal arts education; the Jesuit, Catholic history and values; and the vocational aspirations and challenges common to all incoming students. Students are introduced to the CCAS “ratio studiorum” or plan of study, including the College’s six learning objectives and the degree requirements (major and HRS program). They learn about the culture of scholarship and academic integrity. Each year a course reading, which addresses some aspect of self-exploration and self-discovery is assigned and will be discussed in class. Decurions or peer academic leaders are junior or senior students invited by the Freshman Preceptor (adviser) to join him/her in this venture.

Course Objectives:
- Students will explore the meaning of a liberal arts education and the University’s Jesuit, Catholic history and key Ignatian values.
- Students will appreciate the structure of the University and the College of Arts and Sciences place within it.
- Students will be able to articulate the College’s six learning objectives
- Students will begin to map their 4-year learning plan and design their learning portfolio, as well as engage in discernment activities designed to contemplate a variety of post-graduate options.
- Students will understand the CCAS Ratio Studiorum, i.e. the plan of study required of the degree programs offered in the Creighton College of Arts and Science
- Students will apply knowledge of the HRS Core through use of the Banner Student Self-Service system.
- Students will examine academic integrity and will understand the University and College policies and procedures on academic honesty and University disciplinary policies.
- Students will learn about special opportunities for learning (e.g. study abroad, faculty-lead summer programs abroad, service-learning, Ecuentro Dominicano, service break trips, transient study, etc.). Students will also learn about prestigious national and international fellowship and scholarship opportunities for undergraduate and post-graduate work.
- Students will be able to identify obstacles to learning.
- Students will engage in self-exploration and self-discovery, including awareness of and appreciation for their differences in ethnicity, gender, and socio-economic class.
Grades: This course will be graded as follows:
- A = 90-100; B+ = 87-89; B = 86-80; C+ = 77-79; C = 76-70; D = 69-60; F = below 60.
- Grade will be composed of:
  - Attendance: 20 points (2 absences permitted)
  - Participation: 20 points
  - Two mandatory individual advising meetings with adviser
  - Attendance at Major/Minor Fair
  - Fall Retreat
  - Honors Day in the spring
  - Course Reading Written Assignment: 20 points (chosen by the Freshman Prefect)
  - HRS Learning Portfolio and 4-year Plan: 20 points
  - Discernment Activity (e.g. blog, personal reflection paper, journal entries): 20 points (determined by Freshman Prefect)

Course Policies:
1. **Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory. Students are allowed 1 excused absences. Subsequent absences from class sessions drop the attendance grade by 5 attendance points. Failure to appear for individual advising meetings drop the participation grade by 5 participation points each, unless prior arrangements with Adviser have been made. Excessive absences from the course (to be determined by Freshman Preceptor) earn the grade of AF.
2. **Academic Honesty:** All violations of the University Policy on academic honesty will receive a grade of 0 for the assignment and also result in failure of the entire course. Multiple violations are reviewed by the Dean and are entered onto the student’s permanent record in the college. The University Policy and College procedures for dealing with violations is located under Course Materials in the BlackBoard site for this course.
3. **Class Cancellation:** If class needs to be cancelled, students will be notified by the faculty advisor through BlackBoard (BlackBoard Email or Announcements).
4. **Make-Up:** If extenuating circumstances prevent a student from completing an assignment or attend an event, the student may make it up according to the Faculty Preceptor’s discretion.
Course Outline
Thirteen mandatory course topics (and one elective) are listed below. They may be scheduled in any order, (except for first topic which is to be accomplished during Welcome Week). The order of topics will be determined by the Freshman Preceptor in discussion with his/her decurion.

Sometime during Weeks 2-4 the student will meet individually with his/her faculty Freshman Preceptor for a general advising session to discuss his/her progress in current courses and any learning obstacles he/she faces and begin to design and plan his/her learning portfolio. (At this time, the preceptor may want to refer a student to a number of support services including Counseling, Student Support Services, Director of Retention, etc.) Freshmen will hold their second meeting with their Freshman Preceptor to receive PIN, discuss a more complete learning plan, and review spring registration plans by Week 8. Students will register in week 9.

Students will continue to meet with his/her faculty Freshman Preceptor throughout the spring semester. Two individual meeting are required. In addition, all HRS students are required to attend the Spring HRS day. Throughout this year, and until the student declares a major, the Faculty Preceptor will keep current the Student Profile Folder, including all pertinent information about the student. The student will continue to document his or her progress toward mastery of the College’s Learning goals by completing his or her portfolio.

TOPICS

1. **Welcome Week:** Introductions and Survey; Review course schedule if needed with individual students (Preceptor and Decurion)
2. **Discussion of Course Reading 1** (Preceptor and Decurion)
3. **Academic and Student Integrity** (including Learning in the Academy and the University Policy and College Procedures on Academic Honesty and the University disciplinary policies) (Preceptor and Decurion)
4. **Obstacles to Learning** (alcohol, drugs, stds, etc.) (Decurion)
5. **Discussion of Course Reading Assignment 2 and use of Reinert Alumni Library** (Preceptor and Decurion)
6. **College Six Learning Goals** Meaning and value of liberal arts education/what it means to be educated in today’s world. (Preceptor)
7. **Understanding the CCAS Ratio Studiorum:** Bulletin, Review Core, Major, Minor, Graduation Requirements, Transient Study, etc. (Preceptor)
8. **Understanding the Honors Curriculum, Designing a Portfolio and Four-Year Plan** (Preceptor)
9. **Learning Strategies and Opportunities** (e.g. Ecuentro Dominicano, Study Abroad, Library, Tutoring, Writing Center) (Decurion)
10. **Jesuit history, values and traditions** Reading assignment on Jesuit history and Ignatian values; could include, guest lecturers, video, guest lecturers, etc. (Preceptor)
11. **Discernment/self-awareness** (Preceptor and other resources)
12. **Multicultural and Diversity Awareness** (including race, ethnicity, socio-economic class, and lifestyle differences. (Preceptor or Decurion)
13. **Career and Post-Graduate Development** (Decurion)
14. **Elective content** (Freshman Preceptor or Decurion)