

Course Change Request

New Course Proposal

Date Submitted: 04/25/23 11:07 am

Viewing: **COS 108 : College of Science Transitions**

Last edit: 04/25/23 11:07 am

Changes proposed by: jbazaz

In Workflow

1. SC Curriculum Committee

2. SC Associate Dean

3. Assoc Provost- Undergraduate

4. Registrar-Courses

5. Banner

Are you completing this form on someone else's behalf?

Yes

Requestor:

Name	Extension	Email
Rebecca Jones	1084	rjones22@gmu.edu

Effective Term: Summer 2023

Subject Code: COS - College of Science

Course Number: 108

Bundled Courses:

Is this course replacing another course? No

Equivalent Courses:

Catalog Title: College of Science Transitions

Banner Title: College of Science Transitions

Will section titles vary by semester? No

Credits: 1

Schedule Type: Lecture

Hours of Lecture or Seminar per week: 1

Repeatable: May be only taken once for credit, limited to 3 attempts (N3) **Max Allowable Credits:** 3

Default Grade Mode: Undergraduate Regular

Recommended Prerequisite(s):

Recommended Corequisite(s):

Required Prerequisite(s) / Corequisite(s) (Updates only):

Registrar's Office Use Only - Required Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s):

And/Or	(Course/Test Code	Min Grade/Score	Academic Level)	Concurrency?

Registration Restrictions (Updates only):

Registrar's Office Use Only - Registration Restrictions:

Field(s) of Study:

Class(es):

Level(s):

Degree(s):

School(s):

Catalog**Description:**

This first-year seminar for College of Science majors provides guidance and support for students transitioning from high school to college and connects students to supportive Mason resources. The class will make connections between academic, personal, and career interests, empower students, and reveal the hidden curriculum essential for success in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Through a variety of activities and assignments, students will develop peer and faculty relationships and extend the learning begun during STEM Bridge Camp.

Justification:

What: Creating a new course.

Why: The course has previously been offered as UNIV 108. As it has been successfully ran, we'd like to move it into a permanent course number.

Does this course cover material which crosses into another department? No

Learning Outcomes:

Attach Syllabus [COS 108 Draft Syllabus Fall 2023.pdf](#)

Additional Attachments

Staffing: Rebecca Jones, Tina Bell

Relationship to Existing Programs: None.

Relationship to Existing Courses: Replacing related UNIV 108 sections.

Additional Comments:**Reviewer Comments**

George Mason University
COS 108: COLLEGE OF SCIENCE TRANSITIONS
Course Syllabus – Fall 2023

Section: COLLEGE OF SCIENCE Transitions. COS 108-001

Class Days/Time: W 3:00 – 4:15

Class Location: EXPL 1309

Instructors:

Dr. Tina Bell

Email: tbell22@gmu.edu

Office Location: EXPL 1405

Office Hours: TBD

Dr. Rebecca Jones

Email: rjones22@gmu.edu

Phone: 703-993-1084

Office: Planetary 319

Office Hours: 1-3pm, Wednesdays

Peer Advisors:

Nick Fones

Email: nfones@gmu.edu

Elizabeth Johnson

Email: ejohns9@gmu.edu

Course Goals

The goals of first-year seminar are to:

- Provide guidance and support for freshman students transitioning from high school to the College of Science.
- Connect students to Mason resources to support their success.
- Foster student engagement with the Mason community and the College of Science.
- Make connections between academic, personal, and career interests.
- Empower students and reveal the hidden curriculum essential for success in STEM.
- Develop the peer and faculty relationships and extend the learning begun during STEM Bridge Camp.

Student Responsibilities

You should consider this syllabus as your contract for the course. You must follow the directions for each assignment and ensure that you submit your work on time. This class can be successfully completed if you manage your time effectively, come to class prepared, and turn in work in a timely and high quality fashion. These are behaviors that will enable you to be academically successful in your other classes as well. In this course, you will have a number of regular responsibilities. The level of your performance of these responsibilities will determine your grade for the course. Students must use their university email account to receive important University information, including messages related to this project. See <http://masonlive.gmu.edu> for more information. Your responsibilities include:

Participation

Because this class is designed as a seminar, you are expected to attend and participate in all class activities and discussions including the outdoor teambuilding event; therefore, **absences and late arrivals will reduce your participation grade**. It is expected that you notify the instructor if you will be absent or late, prior to the start of class. If an unforeseen circumstance prevents you from attending class, follow-up communication with the instructor in a timely manner will be taken into account in calculating the participation grade.

Academic Integrity and Professional Courtesy

Students are expected to conduct themselves appropriately at all times. Disruptive students who refuse to cooperate will be asked to leave the class session and may be removed from the course. Disruptive behavior may be defined, but is not limited to, any activities that disturb the learning environment including disrespectful outbursts, offensive language, and the use of any electronic or other device that interrupts the concentration of others. Cell phones, pagers, etc. must be turned off or silenced for the duration of class.

Mason has an Honor Code with clear guidelines regarding academic integrity. Three fundamental and rather simple principles to follow at all times are that: (1) all work submitted be your own; (2) when using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations; and (3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular assignment, ask for clarification. No grade is important enough to justify academic misconduct.

Academic and classroom misconduct will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty may be defined as any act of dishonesty in academic work. This includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, the changing or falsifying of any academic documents or materials, cheating, and giving or receiving of unauthorized aid in tests, examinations, or other assigned work. Students guilty of academic misconduct, either directly or indirectly through participation or assistance, are immediately responsible to the instructor of the class. The penalty for cheating will be a grade of "F" on the work in question; at the instructor's discretion, the incident may be referred to academic affairs for disciplinary action.

Description of Assignments

General Writing Expectations

All assignments should be double-spaced typed in a standard size 12 font with 1 in margins. Assignments should be proofread for grammar and errors. Page length will vary based on specific assignment. All assignments should be submitted electronically via Blackboard prior to the class meeting on the due date.

Journal Responses

Several times throughout the semester, you will be assigned a topic to write about in the form of a journal. Each journal should be a clear and concise reflection of your personal involvement in that week's topic of discussion. Each journal will be evaluated on completeness and effort. You should submit your journals via Blackboard prior to the deadline. Late work may receive a penalty or not be accepted. Responses should be approximately one double-spaced page in length, with attention to grammar and proofread for errors.

Outside Event Reflection Papers

To broaden your knowledge of campus resources and activities, you are required to attend four Mason community events outside of the classroom during the semester. These can be academically-based, cultural or performance-based, or related to a student organization on campus. Students can attend events based on the Patriot Experience Program. Students can attend programs based on four different paths: Career Readiness, Global and Multicultural Competency, Well-Being, and Civic Learning and Community Engagement. Please visit patriotexperience.gmu.edu to learn which programs will count towards your outside events. ***If you are not sure if an outside event is appropriate, contact the faculty***

or peer advisor to seek approval in advance. Due dates for these reflections will be on Blackboard. Your grade for each outside event will be based on a reflection paper summarizing of the event and a reflection of what meaning it held for you.

Resume

Creating a resume your first year of college will help you see what skills and experience you already have and what areas you need to grow in. Resumes should be 1 page.

Final Assignment

You will work individually or in pairs to prepare a 5-minute creative and personalized presentation on the theme, **“Beyond the First Semester – Making the Most of My College Experience.”** The presentation should include important plans and goals for your college experience going forward, based on the topics studied in class. You will also individually prepare a 2-page paper in which you summarize your specific plans and goals for next semester and beyond.

Grading

Your grade for the course will be based on the assignments and points listed below.

<i>Method</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Total</i>
Participation	13	10	130
Journals	5	12	60
Outside Event Reflections	4	15	60
Resume	1	10	10
Final Assignment	1	40	40
Total Points Possible			300

<i>Total Points Earned</i>	<i>Letter Grade</i> (+/- ranges to be determined)
270-300	A- / A / A+
240-269	B- / B / B+
210-239	C / C+
180-209	D / D+
1-179	F

Mid-Semester Progress Evaluation Report

Before October 19, you will receive a mid-semester evaluation. This evaluation will indicate your grade in the course thus far and specifically note any issues that are adversely affecting your grade. At any time during the semester, please feel free to see the instructor and/or peer advisor to discuss any challenges that you may be experiencing.

Technology Requirements - Hardware

You will need access to a computer with at least 2 GB of RAM and access to a fast and reliable broadband internet connection (e.g., cable, DSL). A larger screen is recommended for better visibility of course material. You will need speakers or headphones to hear recorded content and a headset with a microphone is recommended for the best experience. For the amount of Hard Disk Space required taking a distance education course, consider and allow for:

1. the storage amount needed to install any additional software and
2. space to store work that you will do for the course.

Technology Requirements - Software

Access to [MyMason](#) and GMU email are required to participate successfully in this course. Please make sure to update your computer and prepare yourself to begin using Blackboard before the first day of class. You will need a browser and operating system that are listed compatible or certified with the Blackboard version available on the [myMason Portal](#). See [supported browsers and operating systems](#). Log in to [myMason](#) to access your registered courses. Your computer should be capable of running current versions of [Acrobat Reader](#), [Flash](#), [Java](#), and [Windows Media Player](#), [QuickTime](#) and/or [Real Media Player](#). Also, make sure your computer is protected from viruses by downloading the latest version of Symantec Endpoint Protection/Anti-Virus software for free [here](#).

Student Resources

Learning Services (within Counseling and Psychological Services) offers academic skills and self-development workshops throughout the semester. For more information, call (703) 993-2999 or go to caps.gmu.edu/learningservices. Attending one of these workshops can be counted towards an Outside Event, with proper registration and verification.

Disability Accommodations: If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please let your instructor know **at the first class meeting**. All academic accommodations for students with disabilities must be arranged through the Office for Disability Services, (703) 993-2474 or ods.gmu.edu.

Honor Code - <http://oai.gmu.edu/honor-code/>

This class operates in accordance with the University Honor Code, stated as follows:

*“To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this honor code: **Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.**”*

All suspected honor code violations will be reported to the honor committee for appropriate action.

Code of Student Conduct - <http://studentconduct.gmu.edu/university-policies/code-of-student-conduct/>

Underlying the University’s mission are basic values which must be respected if these goals are to be achieved. These indispensable community values include:

- The importance of personal integrity.
- The right of every individual to be treated with respect and dignity.
- The freedom of intellectual inquiry in the pursuit of truth.
- The freedom of speech and open exchange of ideas.
- The acceptance and appreciation of diversity.
- The freedom from discrimination on the basis of gender, religion, sexual orientation, age, disability, ethnicity, and political views.
- The freedom from violence aimed at limiting freedom, interfering with, or disrupting university activities.

Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking: As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Responsible Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1412. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as the Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at 703-993-3686 or Counseling and Psychology

Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance from Mason's Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730 or emailing cde@gmu.edu

Diversity

George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services and resources, Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study and personal growth.

COS 108-001 Schedule Fall 2023

Date	Material	Homework (Due before next class)
Aug. 28th	Syllabus, Introductions, Academic Success Strategies Discussion	Journal Prompt #1: Success in your classes
Sept. 4th	Planning your Semester – Dr. Bell Time Management – Elizabeth and Nicky	Complete Strengths Finder
Sept. 11 th	Strengths Finder Discussion – Dr. Jones Learning Services	Journal Prompt #2: Strengths Finder
Sept. 18th	Intro to SSAC (https://ssac.gmu.edu) Preparing for Midterms – Elizabeth and Nicky	
Sept. 25th	The Edge – Team Building	
Oct. 2nd	Mason Libraries Field Trip with Margaret Lam (meet near Argo Tea entrance)	
Oct. 9th	Learning Styles – Kerin Hilker-Balkissoon	Journal Prompt #3: Learning Preferences
Oct. 16th	Mason Recreation – Elizabeth Nutrition – Dr. Bell	
Oct. 23rd	Game Day – Corner Pocket	
Oct. 30th	Communication – Frannie Dove Peer Activity	
Nov. 6th	Advising for the Spring Semester	Journal Prompt #4: How have your perceptions of college changed?
Nov. 13th	Study Abroad OSCAR	
Nov. 20th	How to make a resume- Dr. Jones Instructions for Final Presentations	Submit completed resume for review
Nov. 27 th	No Class – Thanksgiving Break	
Dec. 4th	Final Presentations	

This syllabus is tentative and subject to change at the instructor's discretion.