

Kent State University, Stark Campus

**US 10097 – DESTINATION KENT STATE: FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE  
(DKE-FYE)**

Fall 2011 Semester

<u>Call #</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Room</u>
28181	604	MW	12:00-12:50pm	304 Main Hall
28290	613	MW	1:00 – 1:50pm Ends Oct. 19 <sup>th</sup>	304 Main Hall

**Instructor:** Dr. Victor L. Berardi  
 Phone: 330-595-5095 student help line (forwards to me via Skype)  
 330-244-5175 office (try this second)  
 330-244-0078 home (btw 9:00am & 9:00pm only please)  
 Skype: dr.berardi  
 Email: [vberardi@kent.edu](mailto:vberardi@kent.edu)  
 Web: [www.personal.kent.edu/~vberardi](http://www.personal.kent.edu/~vberardi)

**Office:** 150M Fine Arts Bldg.  
 Hours: MW 1030am – 1200 noon  
 TR 0915am – 1015am  
 W 0615pm – 0700pm (all welcome but priority to night students)  
 Also, by appointment, please contact to arrange.

### Approach & Materials

There is not a text for this course. However, you will be asked to interact with several sources of information throughout the course such as handouts, internet, and library sources. Attendance and participation is required for this course—see Course Requirements section for details.

### Course Catalog Description

Assist students in making the transition to the university, improving and refining academic skills, participating in the advising system and selecting or confirming a major. Required of all entering freshmen. Prerequisite: none.

### Flash Topics

Flash Topics are specialized themes around which some sections of DKE-FYE are organized. This section has a Flash Topic:

#### College to Career: Plan Now to Succeed Later

In addition to important DKE-FYE topics, this section will focus on helping students to identify and use tools and resources to make choices throughout their college careers that will help them succeed when they graduate and begin their professional careers. It may seem counterintuitive to do this at the very beginning of college, but that is absolutely the best time to do so. This process includes identifying the questions students should ask about careers and degree programs, how to seek answers to those questions, and then how to take action to make it happen. Through activities and resources, students will look into issues such as: Does my desired profession have a good future and pay well? What courses and majors should I be taking? What can I expect from employers during interviews as I seek a job after graduation? What activities and experiences should I get during school to make myself attractive to future employers?

### Course Principles:

- Develop skills for learning and academic success.
- Manifest responsibility of the student for his or her own successful learning.
- Explore students' experiences, interests, abilities, and attitudes in order to identify realistic and achievable educational and career-minded goals that recognize the need for lifelong learning and discovery.
- Develop interaction between the student and faculty/advisers.
- Identify difficulties and propose solutions as they relate to academics or personal experiences.
- Explore opportunities of personal and intellectual growth by experiencing campus activities or academic discovery.
- Become aware of the campus facilities and services of Kent State University at Stark and the larger Kent State University system.
- Reinforce student confidence in his or her abilities and critical thinking skills.
- Develop an awareness of diversity to accept and actuate growth and interaction with human differences.

### Course Requirements:

To receive a passing score for this course, students must fulfill all the following requirements in a satisfactory manner:

1. **Regular and prompt attendance.** Attendance will be taken before each class. No more than one unexcused absence, and two absences maximum, are permitted during the semester. If there is an emergency need, it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor as to the nature of the absence so no grade deduction will be made. University policy on excused absences is followed.
2. **Satisfactory completion of all assignments as given:**
  - a. Computer assignment (see schedule, completed in class)
  - b. Three activities and CTA write-ups (see below, these are completed outside of class)
  - c. Career exploration computer activity (see schedule, completed in class)
  - d. Major/Minor and career paper and presentation (see schedule, partially completed in-class and partially outside of class)
  - e. GPS Plan (see schedule, completed in class)
3. **Attend with documentation three university activities.** Each student will turn in a Critical Thinking Assessment (CTA) form and appropriate documentation for each event. University activities, generally, only include those on the Kent State University at Stark campus and must have prior approval of the instructor. Check with the instructor concerning activities at the Kent Campus, prior to attending. There can be only one similar activity during the semester. If in doubt, check with me before. CTA's are due as per the schedule.  
All three CTA forms must be turned in directly to the instructor prior to completion of the course which is the week of October 19<sup>th</sup>. Forms delivered through campus mail will not be accepted. See the schedule for timing during the semester. Do not wait until the last minute to complete these, plan ahead and find activities you are interested in and would enjoy. **Use the form on the last page of this syllabus for your CTA write-ups.** Make copies as needed.

Letter grades are given for this course. Consider completing all the minimum requirements in a minimum fashion will yield a course grade of "C". Demonstrations above average per instructor evaluation will earn higher marks. Issues such as being late with assignments, absences, etc. may preclude earning a grade of "A" per instructor evaluation. Scores will be entered into Blackboard for each assignment using a 100, 90, 80, 70, etc. scale. Each component grade is averaged for a course grade (90+ = A, 80+ = B, etc.) but attendance issues, missing assignments, etc. may lead to course-level deductions as noted. If in doubt, ask about it.

### Registration and Withdrawals

Students have responsibility to ensure they are properly enrolled in classes. Should you find an error in your class schedule, you have until **Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>** to correct it with your advising office. If registration errors are not corrected by this date and you continue to attend and participate in classes for which you are not

officially enrolled, you are advised now that you will not receive a grade at the conclusion of the semester for any class in which you are not properly registered.

**The course withdrawal deadline is Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>.** Withdrawal before the deadline results in a "W" on the official transcript; after the deadline a grade must be calculated and reported.

*Note—Registration, attendance, and withdrawal issues may impact Title IV student financial aid eligibility and awards, please manage this issue proactively and with the utmost care. Students are strongly encouraged to consult an academic advisor in Student Services before dropping courses.*

### **Academic Honesty**

Use of the intellectual property of others without attributing it to them is considered a serious academic offense. Cheating or plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the work or for the entire course. Repeat offenses result in dismissal from the University. University guidelines require that all infractions be reported to the Student Conduct Officer on our campus.

### **Students Accessibility Services**

Kent State University recognizes its responsibility for creating an institutional atmosphere in which students with disabilities can succeed. In accordance with University Policy Subpart E...104.44, if you have a documented disability, you may request accommodations to obtain equal access in this class. Please contact the disability coordinator on campus, Amanda Weyant in Student Accessibility Services, located in the Student Success Center, lower level of the Campus Center, phone (330) 244-5047, or [aweyant1@kent.edu](mailto:aweyant1@kent.edu). After your eligibility for accommodations is determined, you will be given a letter which, when presented to instructors, will help us know best how to assist you.

### **Classes Cancelled, Campus Closings**

Announcements of class cancellations and/or campus closings will be made on the campus home page. In the case of an emergency, weather-related or otherwise, please check the web page at [stark.kent.edu](http://stark.kent.edu) for information on the buildings and times of the closing. While information may be broadcast by radio and television, this should be confirmed by the web page, which is the official announcement of the campus and which will be the information used to determine issues related to student attendance, rescheduling of tests, and other concerns.

### **Tentative Schedule**

See next page.

**Tentative Schedule***Changes made as directed and communicated by instructor.*

Week	Day	Date	Activities
1	Mon	8/29	Student Welcome, Course Introduction, Syllabus Review, etc.
	Wed	8/31	Campus Tour—Meet in classroom. Tour will start promptly and if we leave without you, an absence will be noted
2	Mon	9/5	<b>LABOR DAY—NO CLASS</b>
	Wed	9/7	<b>Meet in the 208 Main Hall computer lab.</b> <i>Bring your laptop, if you plan to use it on campus, and we will get it setup to work with the network.</i> <b>Assignment—</b> 1) <b>Login to network, use Flashline, the course Blackboard site, and email.</b> More details on activities in class. 2) <b>Send Dr. Berardi an email from your KSU student account.</b> In the subject line put...US 10097: Email from LastName, FirstInitial (example...US 10097: Email from Berardi, V) 3) <b>GPS (Graduate Planning System)</b> view tutorials and other materials 3) <b>Use Flashline to find courses offered.</b> Can you find what class I have on Tue./Thu. @ 8 am? Can you find your classes?
3	Mon	9/12	Writing Center representatives to visit class Note—this topic may be held on 9/14 depending upon writing schedule <b>Computer assignment must be completed by today.</b> Being late may lead to final grade being lowered.
	Wed	9/14	Student evaluation of instruction (SEIs) overview, interviewing, resumes Note—this topic may be held on 9/12 depending on writing center schedule
4	Mon	9/19	<b>Library Resources—</b> Go to library (1 <sup>st</sup> floor, all the way to the left) <b>First CTA due—</b> CTAs may be turned in early but being late could result in final grade being lowered by one letter grade.
	Wed	9/21	Honor code and plagiarism Interviewing and building your resume
5	Mon	9/26	<b>Noon Section—</b> Go to Main Hall Auditorium (Student Services/Financial Aid) <b>1pm Section—</b> Go to Library Conference Room (Student Services/Financial Aid)
	Wed	9/28	<b>Noon Section—</b> Go to Library Conference Room (Academic Success Center) <b>1pm Section—</b> Go to Library Conference Room (Academic Success Center)
6	Mon	10/3	<b>Meet in the 208 Main Hall computer lab.</b> Review GPS Tutorial videos on Flashline Career exploration, Occupational Outlook Handbook. <b>Must complete</b> even if absent or final grade may be lowered one letter grade. Note—Mat'l is used for the paper and presentations the week of Oct. 10.
	Wed	10/5	<b>Noon Section—</b> Go to East Wing Computer Lab (Graduate Planning System) <b>1pm Section—</b> Go to East Wing Computer Lab (Graduate Planning System) <b>Second CTA due—</b> CTAs may be turned in early but being late could result in final grade being lowered by one letter grade
7	Mon	10/10	Student presentations of careers/majors of interest. <b>Assignment—</b> Each student will turn in a (minimum) 2-3 page paper and give a 2-3 minute talk on what they have learned about career and major/minor options of interest to them. <b>Must complete</b> to pass course. <b>GPS Plan Due—</b> GPS plan from GPS presentation, submit printout to me
	Wed	10/12	Student presentations of careers/majors of interest. <b>Assignment—</b> Each student will turn in a (minimum) 2-3 page paper and give a 2-3 minute talk on what they have learned about career and major/minor options of interest to them. <b>Must complete</b> to pass course.
8	Mon	10/17	Diversity, interviewing, resumes
	Wed	10/19	Course wrap-up/catch-up, interviewing and resumes <b>Final CTA due—</b> CTAs may be turned in early but being late could result in final grade being lowered by one letter grade. All CTAs are required to earn a passing grade in the course.

## Campus Activities—Critical Thinking Assessment Form

*(print and use this form as needed for your campus activities)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity Description: \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 1: Prior to attending the event or reading the assignment, answer the following:**

What do you currently know about the event or the subject matter?

What are you expecting to experience?

**Part 2: Following your experience either at the event or reading of the intended material, answer the following:**

What did you experience and learn? What was involved? What was the message and issues?

What did the message mean to you?

**Part 3: Opinions/ Reactions—What did you think about the event or read material and would you consider something similar again? Were the expectations that you listed above, met?**