

# ULI101 Course Startup

\*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\*

\*\*\*Information\*\*\*

# Welcome...

## Agenda

- Online Learning Approaches
- How I will deliver ULI101 online
  - Tools that we will use
  - Communications is key
  - Tour of Blackboard(BB) and Big Blue Button(BBB)
- Course Outline
- Marking Scheme
- Assignments
- Quizzes
- Tests
- Hardware and Internet Requirements
- VPN and Software Requirements
- Account/Course Support
- Keys to Success
- What is your situation?

# Online Learning Approaches

- Synchronous Delivery
  - “Live” classes where teachers and students communicate in real time using Chat or Video/Audio Streaming
  - Creates a sense of connection and interaction
  - Easy to have discussions and Q & A
  - Requires pre-arranged class times and attendance to be useful
  - Can be challenging if you have problems accessing reliable hi-speed Internet access
  - Can be recorded for later review
  - Could also be used as a pre-arranged drop-in type class

# Online Learning Approaches

- Asynchronous Delivery
  - Course Materials, Assignments, and Tasks are published online so that students can access at any time, at their own pace
  - Specific information and topics can be easy to find
  - Not much connection or interaction
  - Convenient for teachers and students
  - Requires asynchronous communications methods such as email (slower)

# How I will deliver ULI101 online

I will be using both Synchronous and Asynchronous delivery approaches.

## Asynchronous

All course materials will be published online so that you can access them at your convenience.

Mostly presented in short (less than 15min) video presentations that are focussed on specific topics, also slide presentations. These videos will be organized by week and will be well labelled so you can easily find what you are looking for.

Assignments also are completed on matrix at your own convenience.

Between these materials and assignments the whole course is covered and you could decide to not attend “live” classes

# How I will deliver ULI101 online

Additionally I will be available through email to answer questions and provide course material support

## Synchronous

I will hold “live” classes during our scheduled class time. This will allow us all to interact, ask questions etc. I can provide live demonstrations and clarification of course announcements, I can expand on topics if asked and go beyond the material of the course.

These live classes can be quite valuable, but all course content is available asynchronously. These classes can also be recorded for later viewing but it is often harder to find what you are looking for.

Both synchronous and asynchronous delivery have advantages and disadvantages

# Tools that we will use

The main tool used will be Seneca's Blackboard (BB)

Blackboard is an Online Education Portal that offers a wide variety of tools.

I will use it to publish course materials, make important announcements, quizzes, tests and grades etc.

For synchronous classes I will be using Big Blue Button (BBB)

It allows us to meet online, it supports headsets, screencasting, chat, a common whiteboard and session recording.

Finally email is a **very important tool** for support and communications

# Communications is key...

I will communicate with you live in BBB, but most importantly I will post announcements on BB and also through email.

It is VERY IMPORTANT that you monitor your email and BB announcements every day. Read them carefully!!!

All due dates, quizzes and tests are also available in the course calendar.

You can communicate with me live during BBB sessions but the most common way for students to communicate with me is through email or MS Teams



# E-mail

Seneca provides an email account for you at the college.

I will only email you through this account!! (This is for privacy and security reasons)

My email address is [brian.gray@senecacollege.ca](mailto:brian.gray@senecacollege.ca)

When emailing me it is important that you include your course and section in the email. I teach 4 different sections across 2 different courses. This will save a lot of time. **ULI101-NAA means, Course: ULI101, Section NAA**

Please consider that I only receive emails on my computer, I do not use my cell phone for work. I will try to respond promptly to emails but just because I may answer emails at odd times of the day or night that does not mean I am available

24/7

# Email cont.

When contacting me about technical problems, error messages, difficulties with your assignments etc it is important for you to include screenshots.

Screenshots of what you were asked to do, screenshots of what you did, and screenshots of your results or errors.

The process of giving you the help you are looking for will be much faster if you do this.

# Tour of Blackboard and Big Blue Button

These are our main tools and you need to be able to navigate them.

# Course Outline and Marking Scheme

<https://itas.senecacollege.ca/course/uli101/>

# Assignments

<https://itas.senecacollege.ca/~uli101/assignments.html>

All assignments are completed online by logging in to `matrix.senecacollege.ca`

The assignments include all of the commands etc that will appear on quizzes and tests.

Make sure you identify your correct ULI101 section.

Assignments are marked automatically and each have their own deadline. The automatic marking will deduct marks for late assignments.

Assignments save your progress as you work on the assignment allowing you to work at your own pace

# Quizzes

Quizzes are very important in my class. We will be doing a lot of quizzes over the semester. Individually they aren't very significant in terms of marks but...

Quizzes provide us an opportunity to test our progress, make mistakes, review material, and learn to not make the mistakes again. They are a very important “teaching” tool, not so much an “evaluation” tool.

Quizzes will be done online in BB. They will be available for you to complete for a 24 hour window.

# Tests

There will be a Midterm Test and a Final Test.

The midterm test will cover the first half of the course.

The final test will be summative. Which means it will cover the entire course.

Tests will be completed on BB

Unlike quizzes, tests will not be available for a 24hr window. Instead they will be scheduled for a particular date and time.

# Hardware and Internet Requirements

You have probably been notified of the hardware requirements for your program.

<https://www.senecacollege.ca/student-services-and-support/technical-requirements-for-online-learning.html>

Those requirements are fine for ULI101. Depending on your program your requirements may be higher in 2nd Semester.

I recommend: (especially for running Virtual Machines)

- 64 bit Processor and Operating System
- At least 4 processor cores
- 16G of RAM

**\*\* Most Important \*\***

Consistent access to hi-speed internet is required for this course.



# Software and VPN Requirements

Starting Fall 2020 access to certain college resources must be achieved by first connecting to a VPN service.

Links to instructions are available on Blackboard

Other software:

- An ssh client (ex. putty)
- VMWare Workstation (optional)

# Account Support

If you have any difficulties with your connection or matrix account I probably can't help you!

Account support is provided by ITS.

Email [servicedesk@senecacollege.ca](mailto:servicedesk@senecacollege.ca) for account and connection support. You may copy me on your email if you wish.

Include your name, account name, host and screenshots of errors.

I will provide support for anything that is part of the course.

# Supported Learning Groups

Supported Learning Groups provide Supplemental Instruction to ULI101 students. They are setup and delivered by the Learning Centre. Your tutorials will be run by senior students who have been successful in ULI101

Currently there are three SLG sessions to start the first week of classes. Next week the Learning Centre will be asking the students when they would prefer the SLG sessions to be held.

For now the schedule is as follows:

- Tuesdays: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- Thursday 3:20 pm - 5:05 pm
- Fridays: 11:40 am - 1:25 pm

They will add new SLG sessions based upon the student survey next week so they will be ready for the second week of classes. Supported Learning Groups has a proven success rate for students that attend on a regular basis. Every student has the course link right below their regular course link on BlackBoard.

Here is a short video explaining the many benefits stated by actual students.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5zkLkerCIM&list=PLJpfS3sJhp\\_pLRKeOa7cn-EuPtH1E5Cv4&index=5&t=0s%20](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5zkLkerCIM&list=PLJpfS3sJhp_pLRKeOa7cn-EuPtH1E5Cv4&index=5&t=0s%20)

# Keys to success...

- Keep up! This is going to be fairly fast. Don't fall behind.
- Communicate with me. If you are having problems let me know sooner than later.
- Monitor course announcements and emails, read them carefully.
- Treat quizzes as learning opportunities, don't get discouraged if you aren't successful early in the course. Sometimes it takes a while...
- Don't treat assignments as just something on your to do list. The goal is NOT to complete the assignment, the goal is to master the material.
- Details matter, case matters, spaces matter, punctuation matters, spelling matters. It all matters so pay attention.
- There is no shortcut... The only way to learn this material is to type lots of commands, make lots of mistakes, learn to identify and fix your mistakes.

# What is your situation?

Do you live in another time zone?

Do you have problems with accessing the Internet or Hardware?

Is there something I should be aware of?

Send me an email...

[brian.gray@senecacollege.ca](mailto:brian.gray@senecacollege.ca)