First-Year Transition Seminars at UTM

First-Year Transition Seminars are small sized for-credit courses designed to help your transition from high-school to university. At UTM, our utmONE Scholars seminars* focus on building foundational research skills as well as other academic skills like collaboration, expressing your ideas, engaging with multiple perspectives, and becoming an active participant in the academic community.

*Application required:
High-achieving students who will be starting their studies at UTM in September 2020 will be invited by email to apply to participate in one of our utmONE seminars.
Key Benefits of utmONE Scholars

Plus! Earn 0.5 credits toward your distribution requirement!

Supportive classroom environment.
Each seminar is capped at 25 students. You’ll have one-on-one access to your instructor, and you will build strong interpersonal connections with other highly motivated and academically talented peers.

Strong academic foundations.
You will gain valuable academic skills including enhanced communication and writing skills, critical thinking, and university-level research skills.

Focus on collaboration.
Experiential learning is embedded within the class meetings. You’ll collaborate on an enriching class project designed to examine multiple perspectives on the course theme.

A Scholars Community!
Exclusive Scholar’s Collective events are facilitated so that you can connect with your community and further develop your personal and academic goals outside of the classroom.
94% of 2018-19 utmONE Scholars would recommend utmONE Scholars to an incoming first-year student.

Students reported that utmONE Scholars:

- Had an overall impact on my classroom success; 87% "Strongly Agree” or “Agree"
- Increased my confidence as a student; 84% "Strongly Agree” or “Agree"
- Increased my motivation to be engaged in my courses; 87% "Strongly Agree” or “Agree"
- Inspired me to get more involved on campus; 90% "Strongly Agree” or “Agree"
- Helped me feel supported with my personal growth; 84% "Strongly Agree” or “Agree"
- Resulted in a friendship with another student; 87% "Strongly Agree” or “Agree"
This course included my first opportunity to work on a large group research task. The project helped me to become more comfortable working in groups, voicing my opinion and doing research. It was a very rewarding experience, both academically and personally, and I can apply these skills to my courses throughout the coming years.

utmONE Scholars seminar has much smaller classes, and I personally found the level of interaction and participation in the class fantastic. I learned so much from my peers and I also enjoyed working in groups for some projects, as other people bring excellent traits to the group. This class helped me explore research in-depth and I was also able to set my own personal learning objectives at the beginning of the term for a self-guided learning experience, which I found amazing.
utmONE Scholars offers a wonderful opportunity to build connections with professors and like-minded peers. The friendships that I made helped me to grow as a student and as a person. I also felt very engaged with the material, because the small class size allowed us to have regular class discussions and connect to current world events.

My utmONE Scholars class was unlike any other course that I took in first year. The small class size allowed me to connect with my peers and professor, and facilitated more in-depth class discussions. I felt like an active contributor to the learning experience instead of just a passive observer. The course content was incredibly meaningful and relevant to current world events.

I tend to be very shy and not speak up. utmONE Scholars allowed me to build confidence in a smaller environment so that I could have the courage to speak up in larger ones. This made it easier for me to participate in tutorials, and talk to my instructors with confidence.
How to Participate for utmONE Scholars:

- Admission into utmONE Scholars is by application.
- Incoming students with an average of 90% and over will be sent an email invitation from the Student Success Coordinator, Rebecca Shaw.
- The application link will be included in your invitation email.
- The extended deadline to apply is June 14, 2020 (by 11:59 pm EST)
- You will be asked to indicate your first and second choice of seminar in the application form.
- Instructors will review applications by June 27, 2020 and you will be notified of your application status within a few days.
- You will be automatically enrolled in the seminar you’ve been accepted into prior to first-year enrollment opening for other courses.

NOTE: Admission to utmONE Scholars is competitive with limited space available. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept every student who applies.
Who are Indigenous Peoples?
What is an Indigenous nation?
How do Indigenous nations relate to nations like Canada?

In this course, we explore Indigenous history, culture, and politics from a global perspective, uncovering how Indigenous nations have resisted and redirected settler projects of assimilation in Canada, the United States, and in locations around the world.

Choose this topic if you are interested in:
History, Women and Gender Studies, Anthropology, Sociology, Literature, Political Science, Social Justice

UTM193: Nations Colliding
Indigenous Peoples, Rights, and Sovereignty
Professor Jedediah Kuhn
History and Women and Gender Studies
In this course, we explore how humans have utilized the natural world and the impacts it has had on both the global environment and human societies.

Choose this topic if you are interested in exploring, querying and critiquing the complex ways in which we relate to nature in the Anthropocene -- how we think about concepts such as wilderness and conservation, novel ecosystems, urbanization and reconciliation ecology, climate change and climate justice, Indigenous and settler perspectives on land and nature, etc.
For more information, please do not hesitate to contact the utmONE Scholars coordinator:

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