

ULI101 Course Startup

IMPORTANT

Information

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Tools that we will use

The main tools used will be the ULI101 Course Website with supplemental material from my own website and Seneca's Blackboard (BB)

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

I will use it to publish important announcements, the course calendar with all your due dates, and grades etc.

The course website contains most of the course material and lab exercises.

We will also make extensive use of the Linux host matrix.senecacollege.ca, where we will be completing our practical labs.

Finally email is a very important tool for support and communications

Communications is key...

I will communicate with you in our in person classes but I will also 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 in BB.

You can communicate with me live during in person classes but the most common way for students to communicate with me is through email.

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

When emailing me it is important that you include your course and section in the email. I teach 4 different sections across 3 different courses. This will save a lot of time. **ULI101-NBB means, Course: ULI101, Section NBB**

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 Website

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

Course Outline and Marking Scheme

Tutorials

All tutorials are available on the course website and are completed online by logging in to matrix.senecacollege.ca

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

Tutorials are marked by running a checking script on matrix and each tutorial must be completed by its own deadline.

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 completed in class ONLY! They will not be available online!

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.

These evaluations will be scheduled for in person classes and will NOT be available online.

Hardware and Internet Requirements

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

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

If you are purchasing a personal computer, I recommend: (especially for running Virtual Machines)

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

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

Software and VPN Requirements

Access to certain college resources must be achieved by first connecting to a VPN service. (When not on campus)

Links to instructions are available on Blackboard

Other software:

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

You will be advised on the schedule for SLG sessions based when available. They should 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

Keys to success...

- SHOW UP!! & 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 tutorials as just something on your to do list. The goal is NOT to complete the tutorial, 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?

Is there something I should be aware of?

Send me an email...

brian.gray@senecacollege.ca