

**GST**  
**General Studies 1111**

*The Freshman Success Experience*

**The WHAT, WHY, WHO, WHEN and WHERE**  
**of GST**

**The WHAT**

GST 1111: The Freshman Success Experience is a first semester freshman class that meets twice a week for 50 minute sessions for one hour of credit. It's purpose is to help students adjust to the differences that have been observed between the high school and college culture.

The class is informal in structure, and discussions and presentations involve topics such as time management, setting goals and priorities, communicating with professors and other students, study skills and how each student's own personality profile can affect their academic and social skills.

In GST, students will also utilize their Wesleyan Student Handbook and 2007-09 College Catalogue and the textbook, *On Course* by Skip Downing, 5th Edition.

**The WHY**

Recent studies indicate that in Texas, anywhere from 20% to 70% of high school graduates will need additional skills and instruction to make them ready for the expectations of college. In Tarrant County, this percentage is about 60% !

GST helps the freshman student by making them more aware of their own strengths and weaknesses and helping to adapt to the college climate. GST gives them information and resources to advance and succeed and know where and how to get help and answers for questions, concerns and problems that can arise from their first year adjustment time to a University setting. Studies have also shown that first year students who participate in a class such as GST are more likely to stay in college.

**The WHO**

All full- time incoming freshmen are expected and required to take GST 1111: The Freshman Success Experience. Classes are intentionally small, with about 15 students from various majors and interests in each section. The classes are taught by Wesleyan professors that have been invited to participate as class facilitators because of their known ability to relate and communicate well with freshmen and their very unique needs

at this time of their life as they move from high school into Texas Wesleyan's academic culture and expectations.

Faculty facilitators come from all academic areas of the campus: Business, Psychology, English, Education, Sociology, Biology, History, and Fine Arts.

The GST professors are also there to help academically advise a freshman, in addition to the terrific staff that is in the Freshman Advising Center, located on the first floor of the library.

## **The WHEN & WHERE**

GST 1111 sections are offered at many times that are convenient for a student's schedule. As mentioned earlier, classes are 50 minutes in length and meet twice a week either on Monday /Wednesday or Tuesday / Thursday, unless the professor indicates otherwise in their syllabus. The syllabus for GST is based on 14 weeks and the class ends the week of the Thanksgiving break, just after the freshmen have been pre-registered for the spring academic semester and about two weeks before the end of the academic semester. GST classrooms are located in various parts of the campus and are usually located near the particular office of the professor teaching the class.

The central GST classroom is located in the basement of the Administration Building, Room 104 and is where several of the 14 sections for GST are taught.

If you have any questions or concerns, your GST Professors are here to help you.....freshmen are encouraged to get to know their particular professor and utilize their experience and knowledge.

The Faculty Director of GST 1111: the Freshmen Success Experience is Joe Brown, Professor of Theatre Arts.

He works and advises with all the GST faculty and creates the master syllabus as well as teaches several sections of GST.

He can be located by email: **[jbrown@txwes.edu](mailto:jbrown@txwes.edu)** or **[joeabrown@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joeabrown@sbcglobal.net)**

Cellphone: 817. 313.0993 and he welcomes and encourages your questions, calls and e-mails in order help all Freshmen reach their full potential at Texas Wesleyan.