



# **Status of UF Quest**

Presentation to the UF Faculty Senate

May 9, 2019

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# *Agenda*



- What Is UF Quest?
- A Brief History
- Current UF Quest Development
- What Is a “Quest” Course?
- Next Paths

**UF QUEST**

**UF**

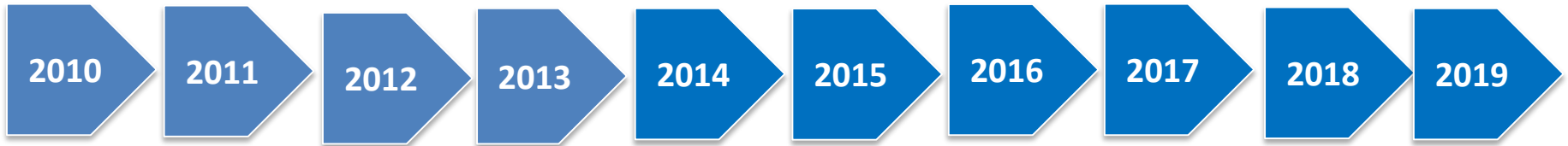


UF QUEST

# *What Is UF Quest?*

- A **shared academic experience** for all students entering as freshmen
- A **general education program** with strong partnerships between academic and student affairs serving as a **holistic student-success effort**
- A program whose experiences **expose students to critical analysis, complex thinking, self-reflection, communication, decision-making, and other foundational content in general education**
- A **sequentially linked program** of courses and experiential learning that reinforces content knowledge and cognitive skills
- A program whose **courses assist in transitioning students to the rigor of the university**
- A program that **holds engagement with faculty, graduate students, and peer mentors at a premium**

UF



## ***History of UF Quest***

*“This assessment will ensure that we **continue to move forward in the process of actualizing the vision of undergraduate education at the University of Florida.** Namely that, ‘University of Florida graduates will have a well-developed capacity for intellectual inquiry, demonstrated competency in a chosen discipline, and a strong sense of personal, social, and global responsibility.’”*

*-2010 UF Undergraduate Task Force Report*

2019

**Graphic Design** students create UF Quest logo. **Two additional calls for proposals for Quest 1 courses** are released. **First 12 Quest 1 courses** are piloted, counting towards the IDS 1161 requirement. **First Quest 2 call for proposals** released, and first courses are selected.

2018

**Wording in Pre-eminence Legislation** is struck. **IUF1000 becomes IDS 1161**. **UF resolves** to make UF Quest a university requirement. **Quest Curriculum Committee** is convened and chaired by Dr. Trysh Travis (UF Quest Faculty Liaison) and Dr. Angela Lindner. **Unique Quest objectives and vision** are developed. **Call for proposals for Quest 1 courses** is developed and released.

2017

**Four UF Quest task forces** are formed in 2016 and convene in 2017. **CLAS working groups** convene. **UF Quest task forces and CLAS working groups combine** and release recommendation reports in Spring 2017.

2016

**Total allowable credits** of unique courses reduced in Pre-eminence Legislation to 6 credits. **New core program model** is proposed by Associate Provost of Undergraduate Affairs, following a sequential framework and including an expanded selection of social and natural science courses, experiential learning, and an optional capstone course.

2015

**“Climate Change” and “People and Data”** are piloted in 2015. **Piloting of these two courses** continues in 2019.

2014

**Two courses were selected** as the natural science and social science Grand Challenges core courses: “The Challenge of Climate Change” and “An Informed Life: People and Data.” **The current model for the UF core program** requires all FTIC students to take HUM 2305 and these two courses.

2013

**Florida Statute 1001.7065** adds to Pre-eminence Legislation allowance for pre-eminent universities to offer up to 12 credits of unique courses for FTIC students. **The UF Grand Challenges Core call for proposals** for natural science and social science courses is released.

2012

**HUM 2305 becomes required** for all FTIC students. **Dr. Andy Wolpert** is hired as Director of HUM 2305.

2011

**UF General Education Task Force** recommends HUM 2305 as required UF course in Fall 2011.

2010

**UF Task Force on Undergraduate Education** calls for creation of signature experience for FTIC students, e-portfolios, leadership opportunities for 3<sup>rd</sup>- and 4<sup>th</sup>-year students, experiential learning (research, service-learning, civic engagement, etc.). **HUM 2305**, “What Is the Good Life” piloted Fall 2010.



2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

**QUEST 1****Engagement with Essential Questions from the Humanities**

(Choose one course)

THE EXAMINED LIFE

IDENTITIES

JUSTICE &amp; POWER

NATURE &amp; CULTURE

WAR &amp; PEACE

UF QUEST 1 WILDCARD

**QUEST 2****Engagement with Pressing Questions in the Natural and Social Sciences**

(Choose one course)

**BIOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES**

CLIMATE CHANGE      TBA      TBA

TBA      TBA      TBA

...      ...      ...

**SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES**

PEOPLE &amp; DATA      TBA      TBA

TBA      TBA      TBA

...      ...      ...

**QUEST 3****Engagement in the World**

(Choose one experience)

INTERNSHIP OR CO-OP

PUBLIC SERVICE

STUDY ABROAD

COMMUNITY SERVICE

DESIGN AND COMPETITION

RESEARCH

**QUEST 4****Synthesis of UF Quest Experience within Discipline**

SENIOR CAPSTONE COURSE

**OPTIONAL HORIZONS ACADEMIC EXPERIENCES**

**FIRST-YEAR FLORIDA, WARRINGTON WELCOME, etc.**  
(Optional, 1CH and Not-for-credit)

**HORIZONS COURSE 2 and Other Options**  
(Optional, 1CH and Not-for-credit)

**HORIZONS COURSE 3 and Other Options**  
(Optional, 1CH and Not-for-credit)

**FINAL-YEAR FLORIDA, and Other Options**  
(Optional, 1CH and Not-for-credit)



- To introduce students to the expectations of college and techniques of self-reflection through engagement with essential questions from the humanities

- **Examples of Quest 1 Courses for Trials 1-3:**



### QUEST 1

**Engagement with Essential  
Questions from the  
Humanities**

*(Choose one course)*

THE EXAMINED LIFE

IDENTITIES

JUSTICE & POWER

NATURE & CULTURE

WAR & PEACE

UF QUEST 1 WILDCARD

- *Race and Law in the American City (Joel Black, DCP)*
- *Lying and Deception (Youssef Haddad, CLAS)*
- *Medicine, Science, and the Dawn of Reason (Konstantinos Kapparis, CLAS)*
- *Get Your Act Together: How and Why We Perform (Ralf Remshardt, CoTA)*
- *Revolution and Reconciliation in American and South Africa (Elizabeth Ross, CoTA)*
- *Language and Emotion (Ann Wehmeyer, CLAS)*



# Build Up of UF Quest Enrollment



## QUEST 1

### Engagement with Essential Questions from the Humanities

(Choose one course)

THE EXAMINED LIFE

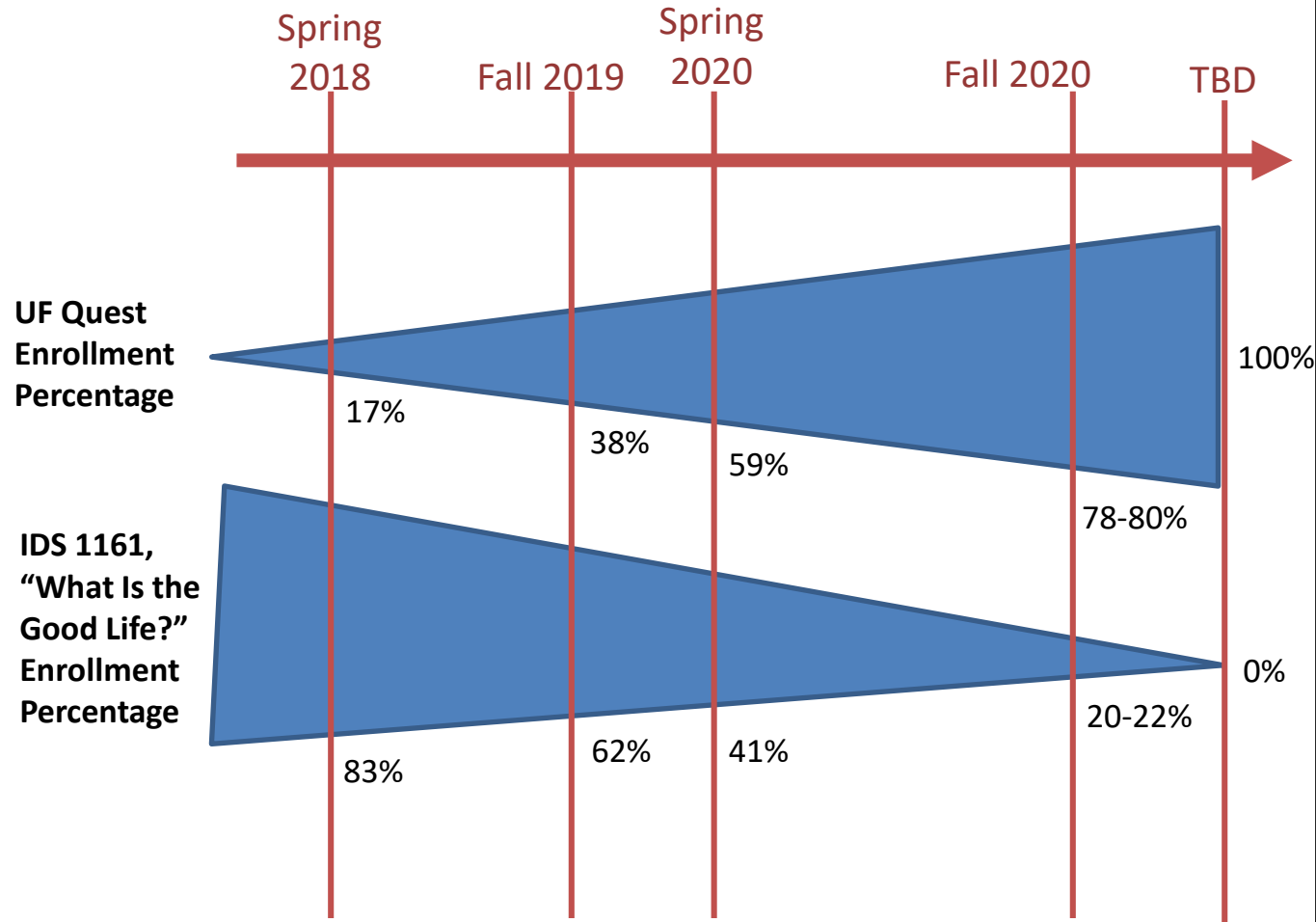
IDENTITIES

JUSTICE & POWER

NATURE & CULTURE

WAR & PEACE

UF QUEST 1 WILDCARD



\*The content of "What Is the Good Life?" will be aligned with UF Quest requirements.



## QUEST 2

### Engagement with Pressing Questions in the Natural and Social Sciences

(Choose one course)

#### BIOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES

CLIMATE CHANGE	TBA	TBA
TBA	TBA	TBA
...	...	...

#### SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

PEOPLE & DATA	TBA	TBA
TBA	TBA	TBA
...	...	...

- Intended to open the student to the greater world and their place in the world through engagement with pressing questions in the natural and social sciences
- Will be required Fall 2021
- Examples of Trial 1 Courses Selected in First Call for Proposals:
  - *Living and Eating on Earth: People, their Food, and the Environment (CALS, Dr. Estrada, B & N)*
  - *An Ounce of Prevention: Building Resilience in Communities (CALS, Dr. Doty, Lynne & O'Neil, S & D, 2000 WR)*
  - *On the Nature of Time and Being: An Astrophysics-Informed Approach to the Big Questions (CLAS, Dr. Slepian, P & N, 2000 WR)*
  - *Climate Change Science and Solutions (CLAS, Dr. Zimmerman, P & N)*

# *What Is a Quest Course?*

## *Many Roads, One Journey*

“Quest 1 courses take a specific theme as a special focus and use it as a way to see how the humanities disciplines help in addressing essential questions that arise when people pause to consider how they should see their place in the world and what they should do about it.”\*

“Quest 2 Courses should describe and explain the cross-disciplinary aspects of a pressing societal problem or challenge and demonstrate the kinds of questions that are asked and answered by natural and/or social scientists.”\*

“Every undergraduate deserves an invitation to be personally engaged by an expert teacher in a serious conversation about how to answer the question of “what does it all mean?”—however that question is posed in any given field.”\*\*

“Curricular reform should be driven by faculty expertise and student choice.” \*\*

\* Working Group Reports

\*\* Remarks at CLAS Assembly, Nov. 2016

# *Word on the Street about UF Quest*

## **From Faculty**

*A true joy and honor to teach this class*

*Nothing but praise for this new program*

*More alert about teaching practices*

*A possible model for the nation*

*UF Quest slogan should be “Try Thinking for a Change”*

## **From Students**

Unlike any other course:

*I felt like I was doing “actual” thinking  
I discussed topics with students outside  
of class*

*Did not need to motivate myself to study*

*Know my instructor well enough for a  
recommendation*

*Will now pursue a  
course/certificate/minor/major in my  
class’ field*

*Writing was more enjoyable; stopped  
counting words*

# *Next Paths for UF Quest*

- Quest 1, Trial 3 proposals are under review.
- Permanent approval of Quest 1 courses begins Fall 2019.
- Quest 2, Trial 2 call for proposals to be released May 15. Next call for proposals anticipated November 2019.
- Quest 3 is currently under development and will be required by Fall 2027.
- Many departments are proposing Quest 4 capstone courses for approval.
- Next presentation to Faculty Senate in Fall 2019 will seek Faculty Senate support.



# Questions

*Make sure to email any unanswered questions to any one of us.*



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