Academic Advice for Selecting Courses at UCT

Students are asked to pre-select courses as part of the UCT online study abroad application, which must be submitted to UAlbany by the same deadline as the regular UAlbany on-line study abroad application. Keep in mind that UCT course offerings may change from time to time and a course you may have chosen may not be offered on your arrival in Cape Town.

Courses at UCT are coded to reflect the year of study as well as the semester they are offered. For example, the UCT course code ELL2007F means:

ELL = department code = English department
2** = 200-level course = second year level - usually requires some experience
F = first semester = February – June

Note the semester that a particular course is offered and select courses that will be offered during your planned period at UCT:

F = first semester (February-June)
S = second semester (July-November)
W = whole year (February-November)
H = whole year (February-November)
Z = consult UCT for details

UCT uses the National Qualification Framework (NQF) system, which is based on student workload including lectures, tutorials, assignments, reading, etc. UCT faculty handbooks (where the course descriptions are located) show the NQF credit value for each course. Pay attention to the UCT credit conversion policy, and be sure you are registered for the equivalent of at least 12 SUNY credits up to a maximum of 19 SUNY credits:

NQF credit values = SUNY credits
   12 - 15 NQFs = **3** SUNY
   16 - 20 NQFs = **4** SUNY
   21 - 25 NQFs = **5** SUNY
   26 - 31 NQFs = **6** SUNY
   32 - 34 NQFs = **7** SUNY
   35 - 38 NQFs = **8** SUNY

Usually students need to have passed courses in the same or a similar discipline in order to be admitted to senior courses (200 and 300-level) courses. Certain courses relating specifically to African and South African topics (the kind you can't find at home!) are likely to be packed with international students; while more standard courses may give greater opportunity to interact with South African students.

Grading at UCT
UCT does not use a U.S. grade point average system. Grades are awarded for individual courses and are usually based on final examinations as well as continuous assessment throughout the semester. Grading is based on the British system and differs from that used in many other parts of the world. It is extremely unusual for a mark of 80% or above to be awarded.

UCT Grades – U.S. grade equivalent
80 - 100% First Class = A
75 - 79% First Class = A
70 - 74% Second Class, division one = A-
67 - 69% Second Class, division two = B+
63 - 66% Second Class, division two = B
60 - 62% Second Class, division two = B-
57 - 59% Third Class = C+
54 - 56% Third Class = C
51 - 53% Third Class = C-
50% = D
0 - 49% FAIL = E

AB Absent from examination = effective failure of the course
DPR Refused permission to write examination (coursework or attendance incomplete) = effective failure of the course.

To get started with selecting courses at UCT, please visit the following links:

- [General Course information for UCT](#)
- [Faculty handbooks for course descriptions](#)

NOTE: Beginning Spring 2011 (1st semester 2011), UCT has introduced limitations on the number of students that can be accepted into the 'Humanities' faculty due to overwhelming demand. There is currently no limit on the number of students that UCT can accept into the Faculties of Science and Commerce.