

Fall 2025 DAS 101 Special Topic Section Descriptions

DAS 101 K-State en Español.

Section: A

Instructor: Jeff Zamostny

This section of DAS 101 is perfect for any student looking to complete a one-credit orientation, but with a unique twist: it's offered in a dynamic Spanish-English bilingual setting. This course is appropriate for native and heritage speakers of Spanish and for learners of Spanish at a mid-intermediate level or above. All students should be able to place into SPAN 301 (fourth-semester Spanish) or above, though co-enrolling in a SPAN course is not a requirement. In K-State en español, we will use both Spanish and English to navigate university life. Most class discussion will take place in Spanish, some readings will be available only in English or Spanish, and you will be able to submit written work in Spanish, English, or a combination of the two. In addition to meeting the learning objectives common to all sections of DAS 101, our section will explore the rich history of Spanish speakers and the Latino/a community at K-State, examine resources for Spanish speakers at K-State and in Manhattan, highlight how multilingualism can enrich our lives before and after graduation, and build a supportive community of Spanish speakers on campus. You'll have plenty of opportunities to practice your Spanish and English in real-world, everyday situations, without the pressure of perfection in either language. Please access the Spanish language placement exam here if needed:

https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0HzqGUoy0a3dAX4

DAS 101 Meaning of College Life

Section: B

Instructor: Shay Logan

This section of DAS 101 will explore the topic the meaning of life and what contribution college---and the things we do in college---makes to a meaningful life. There are three stages to this exploration. First, we will examine the meaning of life in a broad sense. Next, we will explore why people should attend college in the first place. Finally, we will consider why we should approach college the way we do by asking three key questions: (1) why (and how) is cheating wrong? (2) why give grades? and (3) why get a *liberal* education in particular? This section is designed for students interested in maximizing the value of their education. To achieve this, students will explore what they value and reflect on what they *should* value. Students will also learn what our college offers and how those offerings align with their values. In short, students will understand why they are here, at this institution, and in the College of Arts and Sciences. Ultimately, we all want to live good lives, but we cannot achieve this unless we live meaningful lives. This course will help learners see how to use college to achieve those goals.

DAS 101 Investigating History

Section: AF

Instructor: Eric Brandom

This section of DAS 101 is for any student interested in history, culture, and the power of music. Over the course of the semester, students will explore *The Banjo: America's African Instrument* by historian Laurent Dubois. This compelling read delves into the history of the banjo and its deep connections to African American culture, slavery, and the development of American music. Through class discussion and engaging activities, students will gain an understanding of cultural roots and identity, learn the importance of cross-cultural dialogue, and explore how cultural artifacts foster unity. Additionally, students will explore the power of music as a tool for social change and how it can transcend barriers. Explore historical examples of overcoming adversity, link historical movements to today's issues, and reflect on the journeys of historical figures to inspire your own personal development while building community with classmates!

**Students will have free access to the text electronically via K-State Library*

DAS 101 Leaving Home

Section: AG

Instructor: Wendy Matlock

How will accounts of leaving home from ancient Greece and Rome and the European Middle Ages guide your personal and academic journey? This section of DAS 101 will orientate new students to their K-State family, equip them with the skills and mindset to thrive in college, and draw inspiration from timeless lessons of the premodern past (ca. 1200 BCE – 1500 CE). Our interdisciplinary approach will introduce tools for understanding some of our world's most pressing issues, including climate change, political structures, and ethnic identities. Studying the preindustrial past alongside modern success strategies, this course will help students build strong foundations for their academic journeys and beyond.

DAS 101 Earth and Environmental Science

Section: AC

Instructor: Sabreen Gad

This section of DAS 101 is for students interested in exploring foundational topics in earth and environmental science, geology, geography, and geoscience. Students will be introduced to ideas to help them develop an understanding of processes that shape our planet, climate patterns, history of geological events, natural resource management, and environmental challenges. This course emphasizes essential academic and practical skills

for success, critical thinking, scientific inquiry, and problem-solving, encouraging students to actively engage in key concepts in the study of earth systems. By the end of the course, students will have insight into career opportunities and an appreciation for the inherent interdisciplinary nature of Earth and Environmental Sciences.

DAS 101 Succeed and Make History

Section: AE

Instructor: Marjorie Galelli

Drawing lessons from the lives and practices of historical figures such as renowned inventors, thinkers, and leaders, you will develop learning habits that will help you thrive in college and beyond. Get ready to discover the many ways in which the past informs our present and how it can help us avoid pitfalls to set us out on a path to success.

DAS 101 Humanities: The Secret Superpower

Section: AB

Instructor: Melissa Glaser

Are you majoring in (or considering) English, history, philosophy, art, music, theatre, communication studies, or modern languages? Are you interested in learning how stories, imagination, and creativity provide insight into the human experience? If so, this orientation is for you! Throughout the semester, we'll read about and discuss how language, the arts, and history help us to understand ourselves and others in distinct and important ways. We'll also explore how you can strengthen critical thinking and communication skills that will help you to succeed in college and beyond, no matter what your future career may be.

DAS 101 Transfer/Adult Learners

Section: ZC

Instructor: Elli Archer

This section of DAS 101 is designed to equip transfer students and nontraditional learners with the skills and resources to thrive at K-State. Through a combination of interactive assignments, practical exercises, and self-reflection, students will focus on improving the tools and strategies necessary for academic and personal success. Further, this course will foster a supportive community where students can share experiences, build connections, and empower each other to succeed. By the end of this course, students will have an action plan for academic success, a deeper understanding of K-State resources, culture, and traditions, and the confidence to engage fully in their academic journey.

**For enrollment permission email artsci@ksu.edu*