May 2015

Dear Class of 2019:

As the Director of Ohio Wesleyan’s first-year course, UC 160: “The OWU Experience,” it is my pleasure to welcome you to OWU and to share some information with you about UC 160 as you plan your Fall schedule.

University Course 160 is an interdisciplinary first-year class designed to introduce incoming students to Ohio Wesleyan, the goals of a liberal arts education, as well as your exciting new intellectual community. It is a .25 credit course and meets once a week. The course is taught by members of the faculty and staff from across the four academic divisions (Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences) as well as from student support offices such as Academic Advising and the Writing Resource Center.

As its name suggests, UC 160 plugs first-year students into all aspects of “The OWU Experience.” Broadly speaking, it addresses three kinds of questions: philosophical (e.g., What exactly does it mean to be a liberally educated person? What is the relationship between a major and a career?); practical (e.g., How do I navigate the Course Catalog? Where can I get support if I need assistance with my schoolwork?); and exploratory (e.g., How can I get into a Travel-Learning course or study abroad? How do I apply for a Theory to Practice Grant?). Our hope is that, by the end of the Fall semester, students enrolled in UC 160 will not only have a firm understanding of Ohio Wesleyan as an intellectual community, but working knowledge of the campus programs and resources that will help them to chart a path to a rewarding undergraduate experience.

Enclosed with this letter is a UC 160 flyer that contains important information about the course. You’ll notice that each instructor has a selected a book or theme to stimulate creative thinking about the role of the liberal arts in creating a rich and meaningful life. Please use this information to identify UC 160 sections and instructors that are of particular interest to you as you complete your registration process in the coming weeks.

To learn more about UC 160, I encourage you to visit our website (http://owuconnection.owu.edu/), where you can find more information about the course, as well as short biographical sketches of the instructors themselves, including details about their teaching and personal interests. You should also feel free to email me (zclong@owu.edu) if you have questions about the course.

We are very excited about the slate of discussions and activities planned for the Fall semester. I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to get your undergraduate education off to a fantastic start.

Sincerely,

Zackariah C. Long
Director of UC 160