

UTSA University College First-Year Experience Academic Inquiry and Scholarship (AIS 1203) Course



An Academic Inquiry and Scholarship (AIS 1203) course is required of all UTSA first-time-in-college students. AIS 1203 is a 3-hour core curriculum institutional requirement and is included within all degree programs at UTSA. The AIS course is taught by faculty from across all academic colleges. Approximately 100 sections are offered each academic year, providing instruction to 5,000 students.

Through rigorous intellectual content, students have an opportunity to learn about epistemologies (i.e. ways of knowing) in the Humanities/Fine Arts, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences through an approach that is multidisciplinary and experiential. As a pinnacle experience, students work in teams to develop a semester-long research project that explores an academic question through the lens of various academic cultures and/or disciplines. The skills developed within this course are crucial to one's success at the university and beyond.

The Academic Inquiry and Scholarship course requires the following:

- Multidisciplinary & Contemporary Content
- Critical Thinking
- Written, Oral, & Visual Communication
- Information Literacy
- Basic Research/Inquiry Skills
- Personal and Social Responsibility
- Major/Career Exploration
- University Lecture Series Events

During the 2016-17 academic year, some sections of AIS 1203 will place a greater prominence and expose students to more in-depth research/inquiry practices common to one area of inquiry (referred to as emphasis sections). Additionally, several sections of AIS 1203 will be theme-based, meaning the skills developed will be couched around a particular issue or topic. See attached for a listing of the Fall 2016 AIS emphasis and thematic sections.

Students report that AIS has helped them develop skills to be successful.

*The research projects were helpful in getting me to think critically about everything around me.
– Spring 2016 AIS Student*

*This class will give you the necessary skills to excel in college, whether it is through research skills or finding your true major.
– Spring 2016 AIS Student*

*AIS will teach you how to approach research. It can seem overwhelming but this class breaks it down to make it doable.
– Spring 2016 AIS Student*

*Going in, I thought this class was going to be a blow-off, but I learned valuable skills about research, problem-solving and studying.
– Spring 2016 AIS Student*