Western Connecticut State University
Guidelines for Course Level Definitions

The Course Level Guidelines presented below, are meant to clarify general definitions for the level (100, 200, etc.) of courses offered at Western Connecticut State University. The guidelines provide a general description for course levels, but are not meant to be prescriptive. We are not advocating that Schools, Departments or Programs retroactively adapt their courses to these descriptions. We recognize the right of each School, Department or Program to self-identify the level of each course they offer. The descriptions below may help to inform articulation and transfer agreements, provide guidance during new course and degree program development, promote the assessment of currently offered curriculum within each School, Department or Program and/or communicate to new faculty the expectations of courses which can in turn clarify expectations to students.

100-level Course Designation
Course with no prerequisites, survey courses, course defining basic concepts, or a course presenting the terminology of a discipline. These courses may require skills measured by university entry requirements for writing, math and/or the discipline.

200-level Course Designation
Course of intermediate college-level difficulty, course with 100-level course(s) as prerequisite(s) or survey courses devoted to particular areas or fields within a discipline. These courses may require skills obtained by first-year experience and writing intensive competencies.

300-level Course Designation
Course of advanced college-level difficulty taken by majors and/or upper division students. These are often considered to be courses in the major, or offered to students with sufficient skill and expertise to find success through completion of a major creative, experimental or research project.

400-level Course Designation
Advanced upper-division courses, seminars or tutorials designed as culminating experiences where students have the capacity to work independently, while under the guidance of an instructor.