

Into the Unknown



Your experience at this university is not measured strictly in terms of academic performance. Certainly, a primary goal at our university is to guide and equip you for academic success. But as a Christian university, we value the whole-life perspective that Christian faith integration can bring to how you approach your academics, your career - and indeed all aspects of your faith, life, and learning. Because we believe in the integration of faith and learning, in this class we will weave together the practical advice in *Success as an Online Student: Strategies for Effective Learning* with the spiritual realities being explored in *Uncommon Gratitude: Singing Alleluia for All That Is*. This approach requires an intentional engagement of both the head and the heart - which admittedly can be a challenge at times. However, know that your grade will never be dependent upon your particular level of faith or non-faith. Rather, the task ahead is to engage in the readings, discussions, and assignments with personal integrity. Learning is an exploration of new ideas, which can lead us into new or unknown places. In this class, we ask that you remain open to the adventure of discovering new ideas.



This week in *Success as an Online Student*, we will read about what to expect in an online classroom and how it differs from a face-to-face classroom experience. Our topics in *Uncommon Gratitude* include the dichotomous relationships between faith and doubt, wealth and poverty, and differences and divisions. The “Learning with Uncommon Gratitude” presentation will provide a framework for the integration of faith and learning. Then, the discussion forum and reflective journal will provide avenues for trying out new ideas and contributing personal thoughts and experiences. As we venture into the unknown, this course is a safe place to explore new ideas and to discover the habits of mind and heart that will set you up for a successful college experience.