



ISC 2054: EXCEL Seminar I

Course Syllabus

Fall 2013

Instructor:	Amber Reece	Class Meeting Days:	Wednesdays
Office:	MSB 230D	Class Meeting Hours:	4:30 – 5:50pm
E-Mail:	Amber.Reece@ucf.edu	Class Location:	CL1, room 104
Office Hours:	By appointment	Course credits:	1 credit hour

I. Welcome EXCEL students!

As a member of the EXCEL community, it is expected that you will actively participate in the EXCEL Seminar course as well as other co-curricular activities sponsored by the EXCEL program. In addition to this course, you should also be registered for your appropriate EXCEL math course. If this is not the case, contact your FYAE advisor immediately.

II. Course Description: Lectures and activities supporting the EXCEL community, including exploration of STEM fields and majors, research opportunities, application of fundamental mathematics and science concepts.

III. Course Objectives

In this course, students will:

- Discover and analyze learning styles and strategies.
- Explain fundamental mathematics concepts in relation to STEM majors.
- Compare and contrast STEM fields.
- Explore professional opportunities for STEM majors.
- Evaluate rationale for chosen major.
- Explore undergraduate research opportunities in STEM.
- Build an EXCEL learning community.

IV. Course Prerequisites: First year students in the UCF EXCEL program.

V. Required Texts and Materials: No text required. Class materials will be provided through UCF Webcourses.

VI. Grading: Participation will be assessed through the use of iClickers and in-class activities. Five written assignments will be given throughout the semester on various topics.

Assessment	Percent of Final Grade
Written Assignments (5)	50%
Participation	50%
	100%

Grades for this course are assigned as Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U).

Grading Scale (%)	
70-100	S
< 70	U

VII. Grade Dissemination: Graded materials in this course will be returned individually only by request. You can access your scores at any time using the Grade Book function of Webcourses. Please note that scores returned mid-semester are unofficial grades. Students are expected to check their grades often. Participation grades, such as iClicker questions, will be posted weekly. Students have two weeks from the date of the posting to dispute these grades.

VIII. Course Policies: Grades

Late Work Policy: There are no make-ups for in-class activities. Written assignments turned in late will be assessed a penalty: a half-letter grade if it is one day late, or a full-letter grade for two days late. Assignments will not be accepted if overdue by more than two days.

IX. Course Policies: Technology and Media

Webcourses: All course communication will be through Webcourses. Emails to the instructor or GTAs should be through Webcourses and will be responded to within 48 hours, M-F. Grades for each in-class activity and writing assignment will be released in Webcourses, along with the final grades. Class materials such as PowerPoints, assignments, grading rubrics, etc. will be posted here. Students are expected to log in at least once a week to check for class announcements and other information.

Classroom Response Clickers: We will be using iClickers in class on a regular basis. You will need to purchase an iClicker pad (commonly called a "clicker") from the bookstore or computer store and bring it with you to every class session. It would be wise to bring extra batteries as well, as we will be using the pads in activities that count for class points. The purchase of a clicker is NOT optional; it will be used as an integral part of this course. I will provide a short demonstration of how to use it in class. Note: the clicker can be used in other classes if it is the same version/generation. Check with your other instructors to be sure. After you purchase your clicker, you must register your clicker online for this class. It is imperative that every student register their unit no later than the first week of class. Instructions for the registration process can be found on the handout.

X. Course Policies: Student Expectations

Disability Access: The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Ferrell Commons Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Attendance Policy: Participation counts for one half of the total course grade, therefore, it is imperative that students attend class.

Academic Honesty: When selecting iClicker answers to in-class questions, it is expected that you are doing the work on your own. Students possessing more than iClicker in class will be given a failing grade for the course. Academic dishonesty is strictly forbidden and disciplinary action in accordance with University policy will be taken in response to such behavior. For more information, please visit <http://www.ucf.edu/goldenrule>.

XI. Important Dates

Withdrawal deadline:	October 28, 2013
Labor Day:	September 2, 2013
Veteran's Day:	November 11, 2013
Thanksgiving break:	November 28 – 30, 2013

Week	Date	Topic	Information
1	8/21/13	Welcome to EXCEL!	Assignment #1 due next class
2	8/28/13	Math Pretest	Check Webcourses for room assignments
3	9/4/13	"Tips for a Successful First Semester" EXCEL Student Panel	Assignment #2 due next class
4	9/11/13	Math Review	
5	9/18/13	Metacognition	
6	9/25/13	Time Management	Assignment #3 due next class
7	10/2/13	Math Review	
8	10/9/13	Academic Advising and Guidance	
9	10/16/13	Math Review	
10	10/23/13	"Undergraduate Research in STEM" by Dr. Parkinson	
11	10/30/13	EXCEL URE panel	Assignment #4 due next class
12	11/6/13	Applications of Math Principles	Assignment #5 due next class
13	11/13/13	Math Review	
14	11/20/13	Course Evaluations	
15	11/27/13	No Class Students working on final exam review	
16	12/4/13	Final Exam Period	