



ISC 2054: STEM Seminar I

Course Syllabus: Sections 301 and 302

Fall 2016

Co-Instructors:	Andrea Rediske Andrew Mason Jason Strickland	Andrea.Rediske@ucf.edu Andrew.Mason@ucf.edu Jason.Strickland@ucf.edu
Office:	MSB 231B	
Office Hours:	Tuesday: 10:30 am – 1:30 pm Thursday: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	
Class Meeting Days:	Tuesday and Thursday	
Class Meeting Hours:	4:30 – 5:45 pm	
Class Locations:	Section 301: HEC 125 Section 302: MSB 260	
Course Credits:	1 credit hour	

I. Welcome EXCEL/COMPASS Students!

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

II. Course Description:

Lectures and activities supporting the EXCEL/COMPASS 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 a EXCEL/COMPASS learning community

IV. Course Prerequisites:

First year students in the UCF EXCEL/COMPASS 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. Seven written assignments will be given throughout the semester on various topics, students will

take a syllabus quiz, and students will participate in several surveys regarding class activities. There is no final exam for STEM Seminar I.

Assessment	Percent of Final Grade
Written Assignments (7) Syllabus Quiz, and Class Surveys	50%
Participation	50%
Total	100%

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

Grading Scale %	Grade
70 – 100	S
< 70	U

Participation:

Participation is a very important part of STEM Seminar. Course meetings, guest speakers, math reviews, study sessions, and academic advising and guidance will be important opportunities for study and making connections with students and professors. Participation will be assessed using iClickers, which can be purchased at the UCF bookstore. Students will be expected to have their iClickers for **every course meeting starting Tuesday, 8/30/2015 by class time**. During the scale-up period between 8/22/2016 and 8/26/2016, you will be expected to purchase your iClicker, register it, and try it out in class. If you attend STEM Seminar I after 8/30/2016 and do not bring your iClicker, you will not be given credit for participation for that class session. **If you feel that there is an error in your participation grade, you have two weeks from the absence or error to dispute your participation grade.**

- **Math Reviews:** Math reviews are required as part of your participation grade in STEM Seminar. Attendance will be taken through iClicker responses in math reviews.
- **Study Sessions:** Study sessions in STEM seminar are intended to assist you in logging your required study hours in the EXCEL/COMPASS lab and to reduce traffic in the lab. These sessions are mandatory prior to the first math test and will depend on your math grade after the first math test. Although study sessions will be held in STEM Seminar, they do not count toward participation points in STEM Seminar.

Written Assignments:

Students will be required to write **seven one-page reflections papers** about their experiences with course activities. These papers are important opportunities to reflect on what has been learned from these experiences. Details about paper length and formatting will be posted on WebCourses. All assignments must be submitted as Word documents (.doc or .docx) files and each assignment will be checked for plagiarism using Turnitin.com via WebCourses.

Course Surveys:

Because the EXCEL/COMPASS program is a grant-funded program at UCF and research is conducted on your experiences and participation in the program, you will be given a number of surveys throughout the course to assess your experience and solicit feedback. Your

candid, appropriate responses to these surveys help us not only to determine the efficacy of the EXCEL/COMPASS program, but to make changes based on your feedback.

VII. **Grade Dissemination:**

Students can access their scores 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 and stay updated on their progress in the course. Participation grades, such as iClicker responses, will be posted weekly. **Students have two weeks from the date of the posting to dispute these grades.**

VIII. **Course Policies: Late Work and Attendance**

Late Work Policy: Written assignments turned in late will be assessed a penalty: 10-point deduction if it is one day late and 20-point deduction if it is two days late. **Assignments will not be accepted if overdue by more than two days and will receive a zero grade. No make-up work will be accepted.**

Attendance Policy: There are no make-ups for missed classes and no excused absences in this course. Students are expected to have their iClickers with them for every class meeting. Four iClicker questions will be given throughout the duration of the course meeting, and students must click in for three out of the four clicker questions to receive credit for the day. If you click in for less than three questions, you will not be given credit for the day. **If you are in attendance but do not have your iClicker, you will not be given credit for participation.** If you feel there was an error with your attendance recording through iClicker you must contact the professor within **two weeks of the missed class or iClicker error** in order for adjustments to be made.

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 PowerPoint presentations, assignments, grading rubrics, etc. will be posted on WebCourses as well. **Students are expected to log in at least once a week to check for class announcements, emails, and to receive updates on their grade.**

iClickers: You will need to purchase the iClicker system 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, because often batteries die during class sessions and students are unable to click in for course participation points. The purchase of the iClicker system is NOT optional; it will be used as an integral part of this course. It is imperative that every student registers their unit no later than **8/30/2015 by class time**. Please note that your iClicker system data will be saved regardless of any changes or technology upgrades to iClicker system or WebCourses during the semester.

Purchasing a used iClicker is **not** recommended because it has been registered previously to another student. If you purchase a used iClicker, you must register it on both WebCourses and the iClicker website and pay the registration fee to transfer the registration to your name. Instructions for the registration process can be found on WebCourses and will be demonstrated on the first day of class. It is advised that students retain ownership of their iClicker system for both semesters as these devices will be used again in the Spring

semester. **Note: This course requires an iClicker+ but an iClicker2 will also work. So, if you have a class that requires an iClicker2, it can be used for both classes.**

Technology and Media Devices: Personal technology such as mobile phones, tablets, and laptops should ***not*** be used during class. These devices not only detract from the seminar presentations, but use of devices during presentations is disrespectful to the presenter, whether it is the instructor, faculty guest lecturers, or industry speakers. Students will be warned to put these devices away, but **repeat offenders can be asked to leave and will forfeit the participation points for that class.**

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. Students attending class without their iClicker will not receive participation credit for that class period. iClickers must be purchased and registered by **8/29/2015**, and students must have their iClickers with them for every class meeting. There are no excused absences in this course.

Professionalism Policy: Please arrive on time for all class meetings. Students who habitually disturb the class by talking, arriving late, etc., and have been warned may suffer a reduction in their final class grade. Your instructor is happy to respond to student emails and questions, but I have a “three before me” policy regarding student questions that can be easily answered by reading the syllabus or visiting WebCourses. Before you communicate with me via email you must check three sources that can include, but are not limited to: a) the syllabus, b) WebCourses announcements, c) weekly emails, and d) GTAs in the lab. Other students are not necessarily the best sources of information, so be sure to check reliable source for information.

Academic Honesty: iClickers

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>.

Academic Honesty: Reflections Papers

All reflections papers should be original and unique work produced by each individual student. Plagiarism and self-plagiarism are not tolerated. Turnitin.com is enabled for every writing assignment via WebCourses, and students are not required to register for this service. Students must turn in work that is at least **85% original or greater** or they will receive a zero for the first offense. If a second breach of ethics is noted, the student will be referred to the Office for Student Conduct and will risk receiving a “U” grade for the course.

XI. Important Dates:

iClicker Deadline:	Tuesday, August 30, 2016 no later than 4:30 pm
Withdrawal Deadline:	Monday, October 31, 2016 11:59 pm
Thanksgiving Break:	Thursday, November 24 – Saturday November 26, 2016

Fall 2016 STEM Seminar I Class Schedule

Section 301, 4:30 – 5:45 pm Primary Classroom: HEC 125

Week	Dates	Topic	Information
1	8/23	Welcome to EXCEL/COMPASS	
	8/25	Study Session	Syllabus Quiz Deadline 8/26, 11:59 pm
2	8/30	Math Pre-Test	
	9/1	Study Session iClicker Registration Deadline: 4:30 pm	
3	9/6	Speakers: Volunteering Assignment and CTI Assessment	
	9/8	Study Session	Assignment #1 due 9/8, 11:59 pm
4	9/13	Speakers: EXCEL/COMPASS Student Panel for Calculus I and II Students MSB 260 Math Review College Algebra HEC 101 Math Review Pre-Calculus HEC 125	
	9/15	Speakers: EXCEL/COMPASS Student Panel for College Algebra, Pre-Calculus and Calculus III Students MSB 260 Math Review Calculus II HEC 125	Assignment #2 due 9/15, 11:59 pm
5	9/20	Speaker: Dr. Parkinson, Undergraduate Research in STEM, MSB 260 (College Algebra, Pre-Calculus, and Calculus III Students) Math Review Calculus I: HEC 125 Math Review Calculus III: Room TBA	
	9/22	Speaker: Time Management and Study Skills MSB 260 (Calculus I and Calculus II Students)	
6	9/27	Speaker: Time Management and Study Skills HEC 125 (College Algebra, Pre-Calculus, and Calculus III students)	
	9/29	Speaker: Dr. Parkinson, Undergraduate Research in STEM, MSB 260 (Calculus I and Calculus III students)	
7	10/4	Math Review Pre-Calculus: MSB 260	
	10/6	Speaker: Entrepreneurship/Blackstone, MSB 260 (Pre-Calculus and College Algebra Students)	Assignment #4 due 10/6, 11:59 pm
8	10/11	Speaker: Entrepreneurship/Blackstone, MSB 260 (Calculus I, II, and III Students) Math Review College Algebra: HEC 125	
	10/13	Speaker: NASA Astronaut Program for all students Room: Student Union Pegasus Ballroom	Assignment #5 due 10/13, 11:59 pm

Week	Dates	Topic	Information
9	10/18	Math Review Calculus I: MSB 260 Math Review Calculus II: TBD Math Review Calculus III: HEC 125	
	10/20	Advising Session: College of Engineering and Computer Science: MSB 260 College of Medicine: HEC 125	
10	10/25	Speakers: Career Services/Experiential Learning, MSB 260 (College Algebra, Calculus I, II, and III) Math Review Pre-Calculus: HEC 125	
	10/27	Speakers: Career Services/Experiential Learning, MSB 260 (Pre-Calculus Students)	10/31/2016: Withdrawal Deadline
11	11/1	Industry Speakers (2)	
	11/3	Industry Speakers (2)	Assignment #6 due 11/3, 11:59 pm
12	11/8	Industry Speakers (1): HEC 125 Math Review College Algebra: MSB 260	
	11/10	Industry Speakers (2)	
13	11/15	Industry Speakers (1): HEC 125 Math Review Calculus I: MSB 260	
	11/17	Math Review Pre-Calculus: MSB 260 Math Review Calculus III: HEC 125	
14	11/22	Industry Speakers (1): Math Review Calculus II: HEC 125	
	11/24	Thanksgiving break begins – no class	Industry Speaker Feedback Survey Opens 11/24
15	11/29	Mandatory Session: Final Course Evaluations and CTI Re-Assessment, HEC 125	
	12/1	No class	Assignment #7 due 12/1, 11:59 pm Industry Speaker Feedback Survey Deadline 11:59 pm
16	12/6	Finals Week: No classes No final exam for STEM Seminar	Assignment #3: Volunteer Activity due 12/8, 11:59 pm
	12/8		

This schedule is subject to revision by the instructor. Students are expected to check WebCourses at least once a week for course information and updates.

Fall 2016 STEM Seminar I Class Schedule

Section 302, 4:30 – 5:45, Primary Classroom: MSB 260

Week	Dates	Topic	Information
1	8/23	No class today!	
	8/25	Welcome to EXCEL/COMPASS	Syllabus Quiz Deadline 8/26, 11:59 pm
2	8/30	Study Session	
	9/1	Math Pre-Test iClicker Registration Deadline: 4:30 pm	
3	9/6	Study Session	
	9/8	Speakers: Volunteering Assignment and CTI Assessment	Assignment #1 due 9/8, 11:59 pm
4	9/13	Speakers: EXCEL/COMPASS Student Panel for Calculus I and II Students MSB 260 Math Review College Algebra HEC 101 Math Review Pre-Calculus HEC 125	
	9/15	Speakers: EXCEL/COMPASS Student Panel for College Algebra, Pre-Calculus and Calculus III Students MSB 260 Math Review Calculus II HEC 125	Assignment #2 due 9/15, 11:59 pm
5	9/20	Speaker: Dr. Parkinson, Undergraduate Research in STEM, MSB 260 (College Algebra, Pre-Calculus, and Calculus III Students) Math Review Calculus I: HEC 125 Math Review Calculus III: Room TBA	
	9/22	Speaker: Time Management and Study Skills MSB 260 (Calculus I and Calculus II Students)	
6	9/27	Speaker: Time Management and Study Skills HEC 125 (College Algebra, Pre-Calculus, and Calculus III students)	
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7	10/4	Math Review Pre-Calculus: MSB 260	
	10/6	Speaker: Entrepreneurship/Blackstone, MSB 260 (Pre-Calculus and College Algebra Students)	Assignment #4 due 10/6, 11:59 pm
8	10/11	Speaker: Entrepreneurship/Blackstone, MSB 260 (Calculus I, II, and III Students) Math Review College Algebra: HEC 125	
	10/13	Speaker: NASA Astronaut Program for all students Room: Student Union Pegasus Ballroom	Assignment #5 due 10/13, 11:59 pm

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9	10/18	Math Review Calculus I: MSB 260 Math Review Calculus II: TBD Math Review Calculus III: HEC 125	
	10/20	Advising Session: College of Engineering and Computer Science: MSB 260 College of Medicine: HEC 125	
10	10/25	Speakers: Career Services/Experiential Learning, MSB 260 (College Algebra, Calculus I, II, and III) Math Review Pre-Calculus: HEC 126	
	10/27	Speakers: Career Services/Experiential Learning, MSB 260 (Pre-Calculus Students)	10/31/2016: Withdrawal Deadline
11	11/1	Industry Speakers (2)	
	11/3	Industry Speakers (2)	Assignment #6 due 11/3, 11:59 pm
12	11/8	Industry Speakers (1): HEC 125 Math Review College Algebra: MSB 260	
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