



ISC 2054: STEM Seminar I

Course Syllabus: Section 301

Fall 2014

Instructor:	Andrea Rediske	Class Meeting Days:	Tues/Thurs
Office:	MSB 231B	Class Meeting Hours:	3:00 – 4:15 pm
E-Mail:	andrea.rediske@ucf.edu	Class Location:	CB2 207
Office Hours:	By appointment or drop by	Course credits:	1 credit hour

I. Welcome COMPASS/EXCEL students!

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

II. Course Description: Lectures and activities supporting the COMPASS/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 a COMPASS/EXCEL learning community.

IV. Course Prerequisites: First year students in the UCF COMPASS/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 (7)	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. *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 and laptops should not be used during class. 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 with an excused absence should contact the instructor within one week of the missed class.

Verification of Academic Activity for Federal Financial Aid: As of Fall 2014, all faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the following academic activity by the end of the first week of classes, or as soon as possible after adding the course, **but no later than August 27. Academic activity:** Go to "Discussions" in Webcourses and follow the instructions for participating in the "**Get to Know Your Classmates**" discussion board. Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

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.

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 one 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 27, 2014
Labor Day:	September 1, 2014
Veteran's Day:	November 11, 2014
Thanksgiving break:	November 27 - 29, 2014

Week	Dates	Topic	Information
1	8/19	No Study Section this week	Assignment #1 due next class
	8/21	Welcome to COMPASS/EXCEL	
2	8/26	Study Section CB2 207	
	8/28	Math Pre-Test	
3	9/2	Study Section CB2 207	Assignment #2 due next class
	9/4	CTI Assessment	
4	9/9	Math Review Algebra: CB2 106, Pre Calc CB2 207, Calc2 (TBD)	No study session during Math Review
	9/11	Math Review Calc 1: CB2 106, Calc 3 CB2 207	
5	9/16	Study Section CB2 207	Assignment #3 due next class
	9/18	COMPASS/EXCEL Student Panel	
6	9/23	Study Section CB2 207	Assignment #4 due next class
	9/25	Time Management & Study Skills	
7	9/30	Math Review Calc 2: CB2 106, Pre Calc: CB2 207	No study session during Math Review
	10/2	Math Review Calc 1: CB2 106, Algebra: CB2 207, Calc 3: (TBD)	
8	10/7	"Undergraduate Research in STEM" by Dr. Parkinson (Location TBA)	Assignment #5 due next class
	10/9	Class Cancelled for UCF/BYU football game	
9	10/14	Academic Advising and Guidance: CECS CB2, 106	Study Section in CB2, 207 on days you do not meet with your college advisor
	10/16	Academic Advising and Guidance: COS/COM CB2, 106	
10	10/21	"Tips for Participating in URE" COMPASS/EXCEL student panel (Algebra, Calc 1)	No study session during Math Review
	10/23	Math Review Calc 2: CB2 106, Pre Calc: CB2 207, Calc 3 (TBD)	
11	10/28	"Tips for Participating in URE" COMPASS/EXCEL student panel (PreCalc, Calc 2, and Calc 3)	No study session during Math Review Assignment #6 due next class
	10/30	Math Review Calc 1: CB2 106, Algebra: CB2 207	
12	11/4	Study Section CB2 207	Assignment #7 due next class
	11/6	Career Services/Experiential Learning	
13	11/11	No Class: Veteran's Day	No study session during Math Review
	11/13	Math Review: PreCalc: CB2, 106, Algebra: CB2 207, Calc 3 (TBD)	
14	11/18	Industry Speakers	
	11/20	Industry Speakers	
15	11/25	Course Evaluations/CTI Reassessment	
	11/27	No Class: Thanksgiving	
16	12/2	Final Exam Period	
	12/4		

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.