



## ISC 2055: STEM Seminar II

### Course Syllabus

Spring 2014

Instructor:	Amber Reece	Class Meeting Days:	Wednesdays
Office:	MSB 230D	Class Meeting Hours:	4:30 – 5:50pm
E-Mail:	<a href="mailto:Amber.Reece@ucf.edu">Amber.Reece@ucf.edu</a>	Class Location:	CB1, room 104
Office Hours:	By appointment or drop by	Course credits:	1 credit hour

#### I. Course Description

Lectures and activities supporting the EXCEL and COMPASS communities, including networking with STEM faculty and GTAS, math reviews, advising, exposure to STEM careers, and planning for STEM undergraduate research experiences.

#### II. Course Objectives

In this course, students will:

- Compare and contrast STEM fields
- Explain fundamental mathematics concepts in relation to STEM majors
- Network with STEM faculty
- Experience a STEM lab setting
- Reflect and discuss research experiences
- Explore undergraduate research opportunities in STEM
- Build a STEM learning community

III. **Course Prerequisites:** First year students in the UCF EXCEL/ COMPASS programs.

IV. **Required Texts and Materials:** No text required. Class materials will be provided through UCF Webcourses - Canvas.

V. **Grading:** Participation will be assessed through the use of iClickers and in-class activities. Seven written assignments will be given throughout the semester on the guest speakers and lab visits. Because the guest speakers and lab visits account for a large portion of the semester, **students who do not attend these cannot pass the course.**

Assessment	Percent of Final Grade
Written Assignments (7)	50%
Attendance & Participation	50%
	100%

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

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

VI. **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.

## VII. 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.

## VIII. Course Policies: Technology and Media

**Webcourses:** All course communication will be through Canvas. Emails to the instructor or GTAs should be through Canvas and will be responded to within 48 hours, M-F. Grades for each in-class activity and writing assignment will be released in Canvas, 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.

## IX. 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.

**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 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>.

**X. Important Dates**

Withdrawal deadline: March 18, 2014  
Martin Luther King Day: January 20, 2014  
Spring Break: March 3, 2014 – March 8, 2014

Week	Date	Topic	Information
1	1/8/14	Introduction, Getting Ready, and Lessons Learned	
2	1/15/14	Faculty/ Industry Guest Speakers	Reflection paper #1
3	1/22/14	Faculty/ Industry Guest Speakers	Reflection Paper #2
4	1/29/14	Math Review	
5	2/5/14	Faculty/ Industry Guest Speakers	Reflection Paper #3
6	2/12/14	Faculty/ Industry Guest Speakers	Reflection Paper #4
7	2/19/14	Math Review	
8	2/26/14	Academic Advising and Guidance	
9	3/5/14	SPRING BREAK – no classes	
10	3/12/14	Math Review	
11	3/19/14	Experiential Learning Lab Visits	Reflection Paper #5
12	3/26/14	Experiential Learning Lab Visits	Reflection Paper #6
13	4/2/14	Research Seminar	Reflection paper #7
14	4/9/14	Math Review	
15	4/16/14	Reflections, Evaluations, and Final Exam Review	
16	4/23/14	Final Exam Period	

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