



# ISC 2055: STEM Seminar II

Course Syllabus  
Spring 2020

**Instructor:** Arielle Gaudiello

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**Office Hours:** TR 1-2:30pm

**Office:** MSB231B

**Meeting Location:** CB2 207 or NSC 101\*\*

**Course Credits:** 1 credit hour

\*\*Check class schedule and WebCourses each week

**Meeting Time:** Tuesday and Thursday 3:00-4:15 PM

**GTAs:** David Fairchild – Chemistry

**Email:** [David.fairchild@ucf.edu](mailto:David.fairchild@ucf.edu)

Michael Johnstone – Biomed

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Theodoros Panagiotakopoulos – Physics

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## 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 on 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.

## V. Grading:

Participation will be assessed through the use of the iClicker system in-class activities and sign-up sheets for lab visits. Seven assignments will be given throughout the semester that will include a syllabus quiz, one-page reflections papers and a STEM service activity. Grades will be assessed as follows:

Assessment	Percent of Final Grade
Written Assignments (6), Volunteer service activity, Syllabus Quiz, and course 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 (50%):

Participation is a very important part of STEM Seminar. Course meetings, faculty presentations, lab visits, math reviews and academic advising/guidance will be important opportunities for study, learning and making connections with fellow students and professors. Participation comprises 50% of your grade, so attendance at all class meetings is imperative. Participation will be assessed using the iClicker system and sign-up sheets for lab visits. During the scale-up period between **1/6/2020 and 1/10/2020**, you will be expected to purchase an iClicker if you do not already have one, register it on the iClicker website and WebCourses, and try it out in class. The scale-up period for STEM Seminar II is shorter than STEM Seminar I, because it is expected that you have retained your iClicker from Fall Semester and have registered it during the first week of class. **If you attend STEM Seminar II after 1/10/2020 and do not bring your iClicker, you will not be given credit for participation in that class session.** Details on how to register your iClicker can be found on WebCourses. 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. *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. Please do not purchase REEF for iClickers.*

### Faculty Speakers:

Students will be required to attend a total of four scheduled faculty speaker presentations during weeks 2 – 6. In order to receive credit for participation, students must attend one faculty speaker presentation per week, and attendance at only one class is required during that week unless you have a scheduled math review, in which case you must attend both a math review and a faculty speaker. Because of the math reviews, the two speakers in week 4 and 5 will count as a week. Faculty bios will be posted on WebCourses to assist students in choosing which faculty speaker presentation to attend.

### Lab Visits:

Students will be required to attend two scheduled lab visits with STEM faculty members during weeks 9 – 13. Students will sign up for lab visits starting on 2/21, and lab visits will constitute class participation during this time. Lab Visit Registration closes on 3/1 at 11:59 p.m. Guidelines and further instructions for lab visit sign-ups and directions to labs will be posted on WebCourses and discussed in class.

### Assignments (50%):

STEM Seminar II assignments include a syllabus quiz given the first week of the semester, a STEM volunteer service activity to be completed by the end of the semester, four short-response reflection quizzes and surveys related to faculty speaker presentations, and two long-response reflection papers related to the lab visits that you will be touring. Details about paper length and formatting will be posted on WebCourses. All assignments must be submitted as Microsoft Word documents (.doc or .docx) or PDF (.pdf) files only. Each assignment will be checked for plagiarism using Turnitin.com via WebCourses. Details about all assignments and the requirements for the STEM service activity can be found on 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.

## VI. **Grade Dissemination:**

Graded materials in this course will be returned individually only by request. You can access your scores any time using the Gradebook 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 responses, 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 one day after the deadline will be deducted 2 points, and 4 points will be deducted for assignments submitted two days late. **Assignments will not be accepted if overdue by more than two days and will receive a zero grade.** If you encounter a technical issue while submitting your assignment(s) on WebCourses, then you must email the instructor a screenshot of the error message and time stamp. Late work will only be excused by doing so.

**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. At least four iClicker questions will be given throughout the duration of the course meeting, and students must click in for a majority (i.e. 3 of 4, 4 of 6, etc.) of clicker questions to receive credit for the day. If you click in for less than the majority of 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 instructor within two weeks of the missed class or iClicker error in order for adjustments to be made.

## VIII. **Course Policies: Technology and Media**

**WebCourses:** All course communication will be through WebCourses and email. Emails to the instructor or GTAs should be through knights email or webcourses and will be responded to within 72 hours, M-F. Grades for each attendance and 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 **twice a week** to check for class announcements, emails, and to receive updates on their grade.

**iClicker:** You will need to use your iClicker from the Fall semester or purchase an iClicker 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 iClicker no later than Tuesday 1/14/2020 before class meets at 3:00 pm. 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. *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.* **Please do not purchase REEF for iClickers.**

**Technology and Media Device Use in Class:** Personal technology such as mobile phones, tablets, and laptops should not be used during class for anything other than note taking during faculty presentations. Headphones should be removed during all class sessions. The use of these devices not only detracts from the seminar presentations, but use of devices during presentations is disrespectful to the presenter, whether it is the professor or faculty guest lecturers. 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.** Please be respectful to your instructor, faculty speakers, and the EXCEL/COMPASS community by being present both physically and mentally and not engaging with electronic devices during STEM Seminar II.

## **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. If an emergency arises that requires you to miss class, contact the instructor immediately regarding the absence. Students attending class without their iClicker will not receive participation credit for that class period. iClickers must be purchased and registered by **Friday 1/10/2020 at 11:59 pm**, and students must have their iClickers with them for every class meeting. As noted previously, students have two weeks from an absence or iClicker error to contact the instructor regarding any grade adjustments. After two weeks from the date of the incident, no participation grades will be adjusted.

**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. As your instructor, I am 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 with a question, you must check at least three sources that can include, but are not limited to: **a)** the syllabus, **b)** WebCourses Home Page and Announcements, **c)** class schedule, and **d)** STEM Seminar II GTAs in the EXCEL Center/Lab. Other students are not necessarily the best sources of information, so be sure to check reliable source for information. If you send me an email with a question that can be easily answered by referring to the syllabus, schedule, or WebCourses, I will refer you to one of these sources.

### **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. It is unethical to “click in” for another student if they are not in attendance. 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: Written Assignments**

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 75% 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.

**X. Important Dates**

iClicker Registration: January 10, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.

Syllabus Quiz—First Week Assignment: January 10, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

Withdrawal Deadline: March 20, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.

Lab visit sign-up deadline: March 1, 2020 at 11:59 pm

Spring break: March 9 – March 14, 2020

## STEM Seminar II Schedule Spring 2020

Week	Date	Topic	Information
1	1/7	Introduction, Getting Ready, and Lessons Learned <b>CB2 207: Pre-Calculus &amp; Calculus I</b>	<b>Syllabus Quiz Due 1/10 at 5:00 pm</b>
	1/9	Introduction, Getting Ready, and Lessons Learned <b>CB2 207: Calculus II, Calculus III, &amp; Non-Math</b>	<b>iClicker Registration deadline 1/10 at 11:59pm</b>
2	1/14	<b>Science Speaker:</b> Kate Mansfield, NSC 101 <b>Engineering Speaker:</b> Ricardo Zaurin, CB2 207	
	1/16	<b>Science Speaker:</b> Justine Tigno-Aranjuez, NSC 101 <b>Engineering Speaker:</b> Yongho Sohn, CB2 207	
3	1/21	<b>Science Speaker:</b> Andres Campiglia, NSC 101 <b>Engineering Speaker:</b> Kelly Kibler, CB2 207	<b>Assignment #2 due 1/23 at 11:59 pm</b>
	1/23	<b>Science Speaker:</b> Melanie Beazley, NSC 101 <b>Engineering Speaker:</b> Joseph LaViola, CB2 207	<b>Week 2 Speaker Feedback Survey Due 1/23 at 11:59 pm</b>
4	1/28	<b>Math Review: Pre-Calculus,</b> NSC 101 <b>Engineering Speaker:</b> Pam Wisniewski, CB2 207	<b>Assignment #3 due 1/30 at 11:59 pm</b>
	1/30	<b>Science Speaker:</b> Patrick Bohlen, NSC 101 <b>Engineering Speaker:</b> Qipeng Zheng, CB2 207	<b>Week 3 Speaker Feedback Survey Due 1/30 at 11:59 pm</b>
5	2/4	<b>Math Review: Calculus I,</b> CB2 207 <b>Math Review: Calculus II,</b> NSC 101 <b>Math Review: Calculus III,</b> Room TBA	
	2/6	<b>Science Speaker:</b> Josh Colwell, NSC 101	
6	2/11	<b>Science Speaker:</b> Candice Bridge, NSC 101 <b>Engineering Speaker:</b> TBA, CB2 207	<b>Assignment #4 due 1/30 at 11:59 pm</b>
	2/13	<b>Science Speaker:</b> William Self, NSC 101 <b>Engineering Speaker:</b> TBA, CB2 207	<b>Week 4-5 Speaker Feedback Survey Due 2/13 at 11:59 pm</b>
7	2/18	<b>Lab Visit Orientation</b> Calculus I & III, CB2 207  <b>Math Review: Pre-Calculus,</b> NSC 101	<b>Assignment #5 due 2/20 at 11:59 pm</b> <b>Week 6 Speaker Feedback Survey Due 2/20 at 11:59 pm</b>
	2/20	<b>Advising Session</b> College of Sciences & College of Medicine, CB2 207	<b>Lab Visit Registration Opens 2/20 at 12:00 am</b>
8	2/25	<b>Advising</b> College of Engineering & Computer Science, CB2 207	<b>Lab Visit Registration Closes 2/29 at 11:59pm</b>

Week	Date	Topic	Information
	2/27	Lab Visit Orientation Pre-Calculus, Calculus II, & Non-Math Students, CB2 207  Math Review: Calculus I, NSC 101 Math Review: Calculus III, Location TBA	
9	3/3	Lab Visits Begin Math Review: Pre-Calculus, NSC 101 Math Review: Calculus II, CB2 207	Assignment #6 due 3/6 at 11:59pm
	3/5	Lab Visits	
10	3/10	Spring Break – No Classes	
	3/12	Spring Break – No Classes	
11	3/17	Lab Visits	
	3/19	Lab Visits	
12	3/24	Lab Visits	
	3/26	Lab Visits	
13	3/31	Lab Visits Math Review: Pre-Calculus, NSC 101	Assignment #7 due 4/2 at 11:59 pm
	4/2	Research Seminar Calculus III, & Non-Math Students, CB2 207 Math Review: Calculus II, NSC 101 Lab Visits	
14	4/7	Math Review: Calculus I, NSC 101 Math Review: Calculus III, CB2 207	Assignment #8 due 4/9 at 11:59 pm
	4/9	Research Seminar Pre-Calc, Calculus I, & Calculus II Students, CB2 207	Assignment #1 due 4/14 at 11:59pm
15	4/14	Course Wrap-Up Pre-Calc & Calc I Students, CB2 207	Assignment #9 due 4/16 at 11:59 pm  Assignment #10 due 4/16 at 11:59pm
	4/16	Course Wrap-Up Calculus II, III, & Non-Math Students, CB2 207	Lab Visits Feedback Survey due 4/16 at 11:59 pm
16	4/21	Finals Week: No classes No final exam for STEM Seminar	
	4/23	Finals Week: No classes No final exam for STEM Seminar	

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

**Assignment 1: STEM Volunteer Service Activity**

**Assignment 2: Reflection Quiz & Week 2 Speaker Feedback Survey**

**Assignment 3: Reflection Quiz & Week 3 Speaker Feedback Survey**

**Assignment 4: Reflection Quiz & Week 4 Speaker Feedback Survey**

- Assignment 5: Reflection Quiz & Week 5 Speaker Feedback Survey**
- Assignment 6: Micro Work Experiences Survey (Part A)**
- Assignment 7: Lab Tour 1 Reflection**
- Assignment 8: Lab Tour 2 Reflection**
- Assignment 9: Sense of Community Survey**
- Assignment 10: Micro Work Experiences Survey (Part B)**