



## ISC 2054: STEM Seminar I

Course Syllabus: Sections 301 and 302

Fall 2020

**Instructor:** Arielle Gaudiello

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**Office Hours:** TR 3:00-4:30pm (virtual)

**Office:** MSB 231B

**Course Credits:** 1 credit hour

**Meeting Time:** Tuesday and Thursday 4:30-5:50 PM

**GTAs:** David Fairchild – Chemistry

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

Michael Johnstone – Biomedical Science

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### 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 the EXCEL office immediately at (407) 823-6230 or email [EXCEL@ucf.edu](mailto:EXCEL@ucf.edu).

### 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. You will need access to Zoom for the majority of the class sessions.

## VI. Grading:

Participation will be assessed through the use of polls and in-class activities. A team project and seven written assignments will be given throughout the semester on various topics. Students will take a syllabus quiz during week one and will participate in several surveys regarding class activities. **Syllabus Quiz is due by August 28, 2020 at 11:59pm.** There is no final exam for STEM Seminar I.

Assessment	Percent of Final Grade
Written Assignments (6) Syllabus Quiz, and Class Surveys	34%
Participation	33%
Team Project	33%
Total	100%

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

Grading Scale %	Grade
70 – 100	S
< 70	U

### Participation (33%):

Participation is a very important part of STEM Seminar. Course meetings, guest speakers, math reviews, study sessions, and academic advising will be important opportunities for study and making connections with students and professors. Participation will be assessed using polls during live zoom lectures, and quizzes/surveys for pre-recorded ones. **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 by the TA in math reviews.

### Written Assignments (34%):

Students will be required to write **multiple 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 as well as hone your written communication skills. 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.

### Team Project (33%):

Students will work in teams to develop or choose a topic in STEM to research. They will be asked to create a presentation to illustrate what they learned about their topic. Students will then convert the presentation into a downloadable video file, upload and submit their project by **Thursday 11/12, 11:59pm**. Following submission, teams are required to conduct three peer-reviews of other team's projects by watching their video, discussing the content, and giving feedback. Peer reviews

will be due on **Thursday, 11/19, 11:59pm**. More information including project rubric will be given in class.

**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 survey/poll 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 answer the poll questions throughout class. At least four 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 poll questions to receive credit for the day. If you answer less than the majority of questions, you will not be given credit for the day. If you feel there was an error with your attendance you must contact the professor within **two weeks of the missed class or error** in order for adjustments to be made.

**IX. Course Policies: Technology and Media**

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

**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 third of the total course grade, therefore, it is imperative that students attend 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. 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: 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:**

Withdrawal Deadline: Friday, October 30, 2020 at 11:59 pm  
Thanksgiving Break: Wednesday, November 25 – Saturday, November 28, 2020

**XII. Statement Regarding Covid-19:**

To protect members of our community, everyone is required to wear a facial covering inside all common spaces including classrooms ([see here](#)). Students who choose not to wear facial coverings will be asked to leave the classroom by the instructor. If they refuse to leave the classroom or put on a facial covering, they may be considered disruptive (please see the [Golden Rule](#) for student behavior expectations). Faculty have the right to cancel class if the safety and well-being of class members are in jeopardy. Students will be responsible for the material that would have been covered in class as provided by the instructor.

Depending on the course of the pandemic during the semester, the university may make changes to the way classes are offered. If that happens, please look for announcements or messages in [Webcourses@UCF](mailto:Webcourses@UCF) or Knights email about changes specific to this course.

**COVID-19 and Illness Notification:** Students who believe they may have a COVID-19 diagnosis should contact UCF Student Health Services (407-823-2509) so proper contact tracing procedures can take place.

Students should not come to campus if they are ill, are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, have tested positive for COVID, or if anyone living in their residence has tested positive or is sick with COVID-19 symptoms. CDC guidance for COVID-19 symptoms is located here: (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>)

Students should contact their instructor(s) as soon as possible if they miss class for any illness reason to discuss reasonable adjustments that might need to be made. When possible, students should contact their instructor(s) before missing class.

**In Case of Faculty Illness:** If the instructor falls ill during the semester, there may be changes to this course, including having a backup instructor take over the course. Please look for announcements or mail in [Webcourses@UCF](mailto:Webcourses@UCF) or Knights email for any alterations to this course.

**Course Accessibility and Disability COVID-19 Supplemental Statement:** Accommodations may need to be added or adjusted should this course shift from an on-campus to a remote format. Students with disabilities should speak with their instructor and should contact [sas@ucf.edu](mailto:sas@ucf.edu) to discuss specific accommodations for this or other courses.

## Fall 2020 STEM Seminar I Class Schedule

Class meets in Zoom virtually T/TH from 4:30-5:50 determined by the schedule below:

Week	Date	Topic	Assignments	
			Assigned	Due
1	8/25	Welcome to EXCEL <b>Live via Zoom: College Algebra/Pre-Calc Students</b> <b>No CLASS: Calculus I, II, III Students</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assignment 1</li> <li>• Metacognition videos 1 &amp; 2</li> <li>• Syllabus Quiz</li> </ul>	
	8/27	Welcome to EXCEL <b>Live via Zoom: Calculus I, II, III Students</b> <b>No CLASS: College Algebra/Pre-Calc Students</b>		Syllabus Quiz Due 8/28, 11:59 pm
2	9/1	Time Management & Study Skills (Part 1) <b>Live via Zoom: College Algebra/Pre-Calc</b> Pre-recorded: Math Pre-Test for Calculus I, II, and III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assignment 2</li> <li>• Assignment 3</li> <li>• Assignment 4</li> <li>• Team Topic</li> </ul>	
	9/3	Time Management & Study skills (Part 1) <b>Live via Zoom: Calculus I, II, III</b> Pre-recorded: Math Pre-Test for College Algebra/Pre-Calc		Metacognition Quiz on 9/3 @ 11:59pm
3	9/8	Time Management & Study skills (Part 2) <b>Live via Zoom: College Algebra, Calculus I</b>		A#2 and A#3 on 9/7 @ 11:59pm
	9/10	Time Management & Study skills (Part 2) <b>Live via Zoom: Pre-Calc, Calc II, Calc III</b> Math Reviews <b>Live via Zoom: College Algebra</b> <b>Live via Zoom: Calculus I</b>		A#1 and Team Topic on 9/10 @ 11:59pm
4	9/15	EXCEL/COMPASS Student Panel <b>Live via Zoom: Calculus I, Calculus II, and III</b> Math Reviews <b>Live via Zoom: Pre-Calculus</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Team Project</li> <li>• Assignment 5 (part 1)</li> </ul>	
	9/17	EXCEL/COMPASS Student Panel <b>Live via Zoom: College Algebra/Pre-Calc</b> Math Reviews <b>Live via Zoom: Calculus II</b> <b>Live via Zoom: Calculus III</b>		A#2 Reflection and <b>Pick Team/Topic</b> on 9/17 @ 11:59pm
5	9/22	No Meeting		

Week	Date	Topic	Assignments	
			Assigned	Due
	9/24	NASA – ASF recognition <b>Live via Zoom: first 150 participants</b> <b>Recorded/Survey: Calculus 1 students and those who couldn't get in to live session</b> Math Reviews <b>Live via Zoom: Calculus I</b>		A#1 Comments and A#5 (Resume part 1) on 9/24 @ 11:59pm
6	9/29	Pre-recorded: Career Services/Experiential Learning	• Assignment 5 (part 2)	
	10/1	Pre-recorded: Career Services/Experiential Learning Math Reviews <b>Live via Zoom: College Algebra</b>		
7	10/6	Math Reviews <b>Live via Zoom: Pre-Calculus</b>		
	10/8	Advising Session (start with pre-recording to get link to Q&A session) <b>Live via Zoom: College Algebra/Pre-Calc</b> Math Reviews <b>Live via Zoom: Calculus I</b>		A#5 (Handshake Registration part 2) and A#5 Comments on Resume on 10/8 @ 11:59pm
8	10/13	Advising Session (start with pre-recording to get link to Q&A session) <b>Live via Zoom: Calculus I, Calculus II, and III</b>		
	10/15	Math Reviews <b>Live via Zoom: Pre-Calculus</b>		
9	10/20	Math Reviews <b>Live via Zoom: Calculus II</b> <b>Live via Zoom: Calculus III</b>		
	10/22	Pre-recorded: Entrepreneurship/Blackstone Math Reviews <b>Live via Zoom: College Algebra</b> <b>Live via Zoom: Calculus I</b>		
10	10/27	Pre-recorded: Entrepreneurship/Blackstone		
	10/29	<b>Industry Speaker (Engineering)</b> <b>Industry Speaker (Science)</b>	• Speaker Survey 1 Opens	<b>Withdrawal Deadline: 10/30</b>
11	11/3	<b>Industry Speaker (Engineering)</b> <b>Industry Speaker (Science)</b>		

Week	Date	Topic	Assignments	
			Assigned	Due
	11/5	Industry Speaker (Engineering) Industry Speaker (Science) Math Reviews <b>Live via Zoom: Calculus I</b>	• Speaker Survey 2 Opens	Speaker 1 Survey on 11/5 @ 11:59pm
12	11/10	Industry Speaker (Engineering) Industry Speaker (Science)	• Speaker Survey 3 Opens	
	11/12	Math Reviews <b>Live via Zoom: College Algebra</b> <b>Live Via Zoom: Pre-Calculus</b>		<b>Post Team Project</b> and Speaker 2 Survey on 11/12 @ 11:59pm
13	11/17	Math Reviews <b>Live via Zoom: Calculus II</b>		
	11/19	Pre-recorded: Dr. Bill Self, Undergraduate Research in STEM Math Reviews <b>Live via Zoom: Calculus I</b> <b>Live via Zoom: Calculus III</b>		<b>Team Project Comments</b> and Speaker Survey 3 on 11/19 @ 11:59pm
14	11/24	Pre-Recorded: Dr. Bill Self, Undergraduate Research in STEM		
	11/26	<b>Thanksgiving break begins – no class</b>		
15	12/1	<b><u>Mandatory Assignment Session:</u></b> Final Course Evaluations		
	12/3	<b><u>Mandatory Assignment Session:</u></b> Final Course Evaluations		
16	12/8	<b>Finals Week: No classes</b> <b>No final exam for STEM Seminar</b>		
	12/10	<b>Finals Week: No classes</b> <b>No final exam for STEM Seminar</b>		

*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.*

**All assignments are due at 11:59pm on the day associated on the schedule unless otherwise noted.**

**Assignment 1 (A#1) – Get to know you**

**Assignment 2 (A#2) – GAMES Survey**

**Assignment 3 (A#3) – Time Management**



**Assignment 4 (A#4) – Knight’s Life**

**Assignment 5 (A#5) – Resume (Part 1)/ Handshake registration (Part 2)**