



# ISC 2055: STEM Seminar II

Course Syllabus

Spring 2021

**Instructor:** Arielle Gaudiello

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

**Office Hours:** TR 3:00-4:00PM

**Course Credits:** 1 credit hour

**Meeting Time:** Tuesday and Thursday 4:30-5:45 PM (Virtual)

**GTAs:** Michael Johnstone – Biomed

**Email:** [michael.johnstone@ucf.edu](mailto:michael.johnstone@ucf.edu)

Jamal Khayat – CS and Physics

**Email:** [jamal.khayat@ucf.edu](mailto:jamal.khayat@ucf.edu)

**\*\*Check class schedule and WebCourses each week\*\***

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

## V. Grading:

Participation will be assessed through the use of the Zoom polling system in-class activities. Seven assignments will be given throughout the semester that will include a syllabus quiz, surveys, and a STEM activity. Grades will be assessed as follows:

Assessment	Percent of Final Grade
Written Assignments, 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, 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.

**Faculty Speakers:**

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.** Students will be required to attend a total of **four** scheduled faculty speaker presentations during weeks 10 – 13. Faculty bios will be posted on WebCourses to assist students in choosing which faculty speaker presentation to attend.

**Assignments (50%):**

STEM Seminar II assignments include a syllabus quiz given the first week of the semester, a STEM experience activity to be completed by the end of the semester, and seven short-response reflection quizzes/surveys related to speaker presentations. Details about paper each assignment 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 polling 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 10%, and 20% 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 answer the poll questions throughout class. At least four questions will be given throughout the duration of the course meeting, and students must answer 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.

## 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.

**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.

**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: 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**

Syllabus Quiz - First Week Assignment: January 15, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Withdrawal Deadline: Friday, March 26, 2021

Spring break: April 11 – April 18, 2021

## **XI. 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.

## STEM Seminar II Schedule Spring 2021

Week	Date	Topic	Information
1	1/12	Introduction, Getting Ready, and Lessons Learned <b>Live via Zoom: Math for Calculus &amp; Calculus I</b>	<b>Syllabus Quiz Due</b> 1/15 at 5:00 pm
	1/14	Introduction, Getting Ready, and Lessons Learned <b>Live via Zoom: Calc II, Calc III &amp; Non-Math</b>	
2	1/19	Leadership Speakers: Lead & ELI <sup>2</sup> <b>Live via Zoom: Math for Calculus &amp; Calculus I</b>	
	1/21	Leadership Speakers: Lead & ELI <sup>2</sup> <b>Live via Zoom: Calc II, Calc III &amp; Non-Math</b>	
3	1/26	Communication in STEM <b>Live via Zoom: Math for Calculus &amp; Calculus I</b>	<b>Assignment #2 due</b> 1/28 at 11:59 pm
	1/28	Communication in STEM <b>Live via Zoom: Calc II, Calc III &amp; Non-Math</b> <b>Math Review: Calculus I</b>	
4	2/2	<b>Prerecorded: Microwork Experiences &amp; Blackstone</b> <b>Math Review: Math for Calculus</b>	<b>Assignment #3 due</b> 2/4 at 11:59pm
	2/4	<b>Prerecorded: Microwork Experiences &amp; Blackstone</b> <b>Math Review: Calculus II</b>	
5	2/9	<b>Prerecorded: Microwork Experiences &amp; Blackstone</b> <b>Math Review: Calculus III</b>	
	2/11	<b>Prerecorded: Microwork Experiences &amp; Blackstone</b> <b>Math Review: Calculus I</b>	
6	2/16	Internship/Study Abroad Panel <b>Live via Zoom: Math for Calculus &amp; Calculus I</b>	<b>Assignment #4 due</b> 2/18 at 11:59pm
	2/18	Internship/Study Abroad Panel <b>Live via Zoom: Calc II, Calc III &amp; Non-Math</b>	
7	2/23	Advising Session (start with pre-recording to get link to Q&A session) <b>Live via Zoom: Colleges of Engineering &amp; Computer Science and Optics &amp; Photonics</b>	<b>Assignment #5 due</b> 2/25 at 11:59pm
	2/25	<b>Math Review: Math for Calculus</b> <b>Math Review: Calculus I</b>	
8	3/2	Advising (start with pre-recording to get link to Q&A session) <b>Live via Zoom: Colleges of Science and Medicine</b>	

Week	Date	Topic	Information
	3/4	<b>Math Review:</b> Calculus II <b>Math Review:</b> Calculus III	
9	3/9	Prerecorded: Research Seminar	
	3/11	Prerecorded: Research Seminar <b>Math Review:</b> Math for Calculus <b>Math Review:</b> Calculus I	
10	3/16	<b>Science Speaker:</b> TBA <b>Engineering Speaker:</b> TBA	
	3/18	<b>Science Speaker:</b> TBA <b>Engineering Speaker:</b> TBA	
11	3/23	<b>Science Speaker:</b> TBA <b>Engineering Speaker:</b> TBA	<b>Assignment #6 due 3/23 at 11:59 pm</b>
	3/25	<b>Science Speaker:</b> TBA <b>Engineering Speaker:</b> TBA <b>Math Review:</b> Calculus I	
12	3/30	<b>Science Speaker:</b> TBA <b>Engineering Speaker:</b> TBA	<b>Assignment #7 due 4/1 at 11:59 pm</b>
	4/1	<b>Science Speaker:</b> TBA <b>Engineering Speaker:</b> TBA <b>Math Review:</b> Math for Calculus <b>Math Review:</b> Calculus II	
13	4/6	<b>Science Speaker:</b> TBA <b>Engineering Speaker:</b> TBA	<b>Assignment #8 due 4/8 at 11:59 pm</b>
	4/8	<b>Science Speaker:</b> TBA <b>Engineering Speaker:</b> TBA <b>Math Review:</b> Calculus I	
14	4/13	<b>Spring Break - No Classes</b>	
	4/15	<b>Spring Break - No Classes</b>	
15	4/20	Mandatory Course Wrap-up <b>Math Review:</b> Calculus III	<b>Assignment #1, #9, and #10 due 4/22 at 11:59pm</b>
	4/22	Mandatory Course Wrap-up	
16	4/27	<b>No Class – Study Day</b>	
	4/29	<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.*

**Assignment 1: STEM Knight's Life**

**Assignment 2: Leadership Reflection Quiz**

**Assignment 3: Communication Reflection Quiz**

**Assignment 4: Micro Work Experience**

**Assignment 5: Internship & Study Abroad Reflection Quiz**

**Assignment 6: Week 9 Speaker Feedback Survey**

**Assignment 7: Week 10 Speaker Feedback Survey**

**Assignment 8: Week 11 Speaker Feedback Survey**

**Assignment 9: Week 12 Speaker Feedback Survey**

**Assignment 10: Sense of Community Survey**