

ISC 2055: STEM Seminar II
Course Syllabus
Spring 2023

I. Basic Course Information

Instructor: Hanna Reed **Office Hours:** T/R 12:30PM – 2:00PM

Email: hanna.reed@ucf.edu

TA: Isabel Carvalho **Office Hours:** T: 11:30 – 2:00PM

W: 10:00 – 1:00PM

R: 11:30 – 2:00PM

TA: Al-Muthanna Al-Ani **Office Hours:** M: 1:00 – 5:30PM

W: 10:30 – 2:30PM

Course Credits: 1 credit hour

Meeting Time: T/R: 3–4:20PM

Meeting Location(s): BA1 0119 or HS1 0112

II. 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.

III. 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

IV. Course Prerequisites:

First-year students in the UCF EXCEL/COMPASS programs.

V. Required Texts and Materials:

No text required. Class materials will be provided through UCF WebCourses. You will need to purchase the iClicker system from the bookstore. 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. This system does not allow TA's to run multiple sessions from different classrooms simultaneously. The iClicker registration deadline is January 14, 2023 at 11:59pm.

VI. Grading:

Participation will be assessed using iClickers and in-class activities. Several 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. The syllabus Quiz and Welcome

Back discussion are due by January 13, 2023 at 11:59pm. There is no final exam for STEM Seminar I.

Assessment Group Type	% Of Final Grade
Assignments	50%
Participation	50%
Total	100%

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

Grading Scale	
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 iClickers during live sessions, and quizzes/surveys for pre-recorded ones. Students can purchase iClickers at the UCF bookstore. Students will be expected to have their iClickers for every course meeting starting Tuesday, 1/17/2023 by class time at 3:00pm. You will be expected to purchase your iClicker, register it, and try it out in class. If you attend STEM Seminar II on or after 1/17/2022 and do not bring your iClicker, you will not be given credit for participation for that class session. 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 grades. Students who do not have their iClicker will not receive participation credit.

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. If you are not in a math course, you must log one hour in the EXCEL Center during the week of the Calculus III math review to receive the participation credit.

Faculty Speakers: 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 11 – 14. 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 and discussion given the first week of the semester, a STEM experience activity to be completed by the end of the semester, and several short-response reflection assignments related to speaker presentations. Details about each assignment will be posted on WebCourses. All assignments must be submitted via webcourses 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 3 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:

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.

VIII. Course Policies: Grades

Late Work Policy: There are no make-ups for in-class activities. Written assignments turned in 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 iClicker questions throughout class. If you answer less than 75% of questions, you will not be given credit for the day. This means, if there are 3 or less polls given in a class period, you must answer all of the polls to receive credit. If you feel there was an error with your attendance you must contact the professor within two weeks of the missed class or error 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 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.

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.

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.

XI. 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.

XII. Important Dates

Syllabus Quiz - First Week Assignment: January 14, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Spring Break: Sunday, March 6, 2022 – Sunday, March 13, 2022

Withdrawal Deadline: Friday, March 25, 2022

XIII. Statement Regarding Covid-19:

Per UCF Emergency COVID-19 policy, follow CDC guidelines regarding facial coverings. Consistent with these guidelines, we expect individuals to wear face coverings while indoors. 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 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 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 to discuss specific accommodations for this or other courses.