



UNIVERSITY OF  
CENTRAL FLORIDA

## ISC 2054: STEM Seminar I

Course Syllabus: Sections 300 and 301

Fall

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<b>Instructor:</b>		<b>Class Meetings:</b>	T/TH 3:00-4:15 <b>**Look at schedule for specifics**</b>
<b>Office Hours and Location:</b>		<b>Class Location:</b>	
<b>EXCEL Office Phone:</b>	(407) 823-6230	<b>Course Modality:</b>	P (face-to-face)
<b>Email:</b>		<b>Credit hours:</b>	1

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### STEM Seminar I Team

**Instructor:**

**Graduate Teaching Assistant:**

**Graduate Teaching Assistant:**

Contact Etiquette:

It is possible that you will have a question or concern about the course during the semester. **All emails with questions, comments, or concerns are going to the instructor, Mack Cates.** In your email, please use the subject line: ISC2054 – Last name, First name - details. Two business days is considered a reasonable

response time for us. If you do not receive a reply, it is your responsibility to send a follow-up email.

## I. Welcome EXCEL/COMPASS Students!

As a member of the EXCEL/COMPASS community, it is expected that you will actively participate in the EXCEL 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 an 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 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 September 4th at 11:59pm.**

## VI. Grading:

Participation will be assessed through the use of iClickers 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 25 at 11:59pm.** There is no final exam for STEM Seminar I.

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Assessment	Percent of Final Grade
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Assignments (5) 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 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, 9/5 by class time at 3:00pm**. During the scale-up period between 8/21 and 8/31, you will be expected to purchase your iClicker, register it, and try it out in class. If you attend STEM Seminar I after **8/31** 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 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.

**Assignments (34%):**

Students will be required to submit **quizzes** about their experiences with course activities. These are important opportunities to reflect on knowledge gained and resources learned during the course lectures.

**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 **Tuesday 11/7, 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, 11/16, 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/iClicker 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 iClicker 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 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 sources 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:

Thanksgiving Break:

**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 UCF email for any alterations to this course.

## **XII. Title IX**

Title IX prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment, and retaliation. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find resources available to support the victim, including confidential resources and information concerning reporting options at <https://letsbeclear.ucf.edu> and <http://cares.sdes.ucf.edu/>.

For more information on diversity and inclusion, Title IX, accessibility, or UCF’s complaint processes contact:

- Title IX – OIE – <http://oie.ucf.edu/> & [askanadvocate@ucf.edu](mailto:askanadvocate@ucf.edu)
- Disability Accommodation – Student Accessibility Services – <http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/> & [sas@ucf.edu](mailto:sas@ucf.edu)

- Diversity and Inclusion Training and Events – [www.diversity.ucf.edu](http://www.diversity.ucf.edu)
- Student Bias Grievances – Just Knights response team – <http://jkr.sdes.ucf.edu/>
- UCF Compliance and Ethics Office – <http://compliance.ucf.edu/> & [complianceandethics@ucf.edu](mailto:complianceandethics@ucf.edu)
- Ombuds Office – <http://www.ombuds.ucf.edu>