



UNIVERSITY OF
CENTRAL FLORIDA

ISC 2055: STEM Seminar II

Course Syllabus: Sections 300 and 301

Spring

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

STEM Seminar II Team

Instructor:

Graduate Teaching Assistant:

Graduate Teaching Assistant:

Graduate Teaching Assistant:

Contact Etiquette:

You may have a question or concern about the course during the semester. **All emails with questions, comments, or concerns are going to the instructor.** Please give 24-48 business hours for a response. This is a reasonable response time.

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.

II. Course Description:

Lectures and activities supporting the EXCEL/COMPASS community, including exploration of STEM fields and majors, research opportunities, and 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 is 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. The iClicker registration deadline is 1/23 by class time at 3:00 pm.***

VI. Grading:

Participation will be assessed through the use of iClickers and in-class activities. Several quizzes, discussions, and surveys will be given throughout the course to assess student participation. Students will take a syllabus quiz during week one and will participate in several surveys regarding class activities. **The Syllabus Quiz is due by January 12, by 11:59 pm.** There is no final exam for STEM Seminar II.

Assessment	Percent of Final Grade
Knight's Life Assignments Syllabus Quiz, Class Surveys, Discussions, and Quizzes	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 speakers, math reviews, study sessions, and academic advising will be important opportunities for studying 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, 1/23 by class time at 3:00 pm**. During the scale-up period between 1/8/2024 and 1/22, you will be expected to purchase your iClicker, register it, and try it out in class. If you attend STEM Seminar II after 1/23 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. iClickers are needed for all Math Reviews.
 - **Students not in an EXCEL Math Course or students in Math Launch will need to complete one hour in the EXCEL Center to receive participation points for math reviews. Only one hour is needed per Math review (there are a total of 4), so only four hours are necessary.**

Assignments (50%):

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

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 several

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 also to make changes based on your feedback.

VII. **Grade Dissemination:**

Students can access their scores at 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: Any assignments turned in late will be assessed a penalty: a 10-point deduction if it is one day late and a 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** 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 48 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 grades.**

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 sources for information.

Deployed Active-Duty Military Students: Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.

Religious Observances: Students must notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class for a religious observance. For more information, see the UCF policy at [5.020ReligiousObservancesFINALJan19.pdf \(ucf.edu\)](https://scai.sdes.ucf.edu/student-rules-of-conduct/)

Academic Honesty: Reflections quizzes

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of Conduct at <https://scai.sdes.ucf.edu/student-rules-of-conduct/>. All reflection quizzes should be original and unique work produced by each individual student. Plagiarism and self-plagiarism are not tolerated.

XI. Important Dates:

Martin Luther King Day:
Spring Break:
Withdrawal Deadline:

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
- Disability Accommodation – Student Accessibility Services – <http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/> & sas@ucf.edu
- Diversity and Inclusion Training and Events – 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
- Ombuds Office – <http://www.ombuds.ucf.edu>

