

Preliminary Syllabus: URSA 192 Introduction to UAF Research Fall 2012

CRN 79782 1 Credit
Wed 4:45-5:45PM Schaible Auditorium

Instructor: Dr. Barbara Taylor (betaylor@alaska.edu)
Office: 301 Bunnell (URSA Office) 474-2487
Office hours: The URSA Office is open weekdays 9AM to 5PM

Course description: This is a once-weekly seminar for freshman and sophomores (primarily) providing them an introduction to research conducted at UAF. One-hour seminars are given by faculty researchers or their senior research personnel, especially those representing projects that offer research opportunities to undergraduate students. The seminars will provide an overview of the diversity of research at UAF and the opportunities for undergraduate student participation in research. Students will gain a broad understanding of the significance process and impact of research as conducted as conducted across the wide range of scholarly disciplines represented on all the UAF campuses.

Course goals: Students will learn about a variety of research topics with a focus on research conducted at UAF campuses. Students will also sharpen their critical thinking and presentation skills.

Instructional methods: This course will comprise faculty-led presentations about current research topics at UAF.

Course readings/materials:

Occasionally, journal articles resulting from UAF research may be presented, and students will be emailed a pdf copy of the article prior to the presentation.

Assignments:

Students will be informed of each seminar speaker and topic one week in advance. Students will research, using the internet, the speaker and the topic and write a two-paragraph research-reflection on what they learn through their internet search and how their expectations for the seminar have been shaped by their research. The research-reflection is due at the seminar. Following the seminar students will write a two-paragraph seminar-reflection articulating what they learned from the seminar and how their views, formed through the internet search, were reshaped by the seminar itself. Seminar-reflections are due at the seminar; thus, two assignments will be turned in at all seminars except the first and the last. Seminar-reflections for the final seminar are due one week after the seminar. Reflection assignments will not be accepted if the student does not attend the seminar.

Grading: Each reflection (one research-reflection and one seminar-reflection for each of approximately 15 seminars – 30 reflections in all) will be graded out of ten points by the instructor (aided by a TA if class size warrants). This is a Pass/Fail course. Students must accumulate 210 points on their assignments to pass the course.

Course policies:

As a UAF student, you are subject to the Student Code of Conduct

(<http://www.uaf.edu/ses/student-resources/conduct/#condu>). In accordance with Board of Regents' Policy 09.02.01, UAF will maintain an academic environment in which the freedom to teach, conduct research, learn, and administer the university is protected. Students will enjoy maximum benefit from this environment by accepting responsibilities commensurate with their role in the academic community. The principles of the Code are designed to facilitate communication, foster academic integrity, and defend freedoms of inquiry, discussion, and expression among members of the university community. You should become familiar with campus policies and regulations as published in the student handbook.

UAF requires students to conduct themselves honestly and responsibly, and to respect the rights of others. Conduct that unreasonably interferes with the learning environment or that violates the rights of others is prohibited. Students and student organizations will be responsible for ensuring that they and their guests comply with the Code while on property owned or controlled by the university or at activities authorized by the university.

Disciplinary action may be initiated by the university and disciplinary sanctions imposed against any student or student organization found responsible for committing, attempting to commit, or intentionally assisting in the commission of any of the following prohibited forms of conduct:

- A. cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty;
- B. forgery, falsification, alteration, or misuse of documents, funds, or property;
- C. damage or destruction of property;
- D. theft of property or services;
- E. harassment;
- F. endangerment, assault, or infliction of physical harm;
- G. disruptive or obstructive actions;
- H. misuse of firearms, explosives, weapons, dangerous devices, or dangerous chemicals;
- I. failure to comply with university directives;
- J. misuse of alcohol or other intoxicants or drugs;
- K. violation of published university policies, regulations, rules, or procedures; or
- L. any other actions that result in unreasonable interference with the learning environment or the rights of others.

This list is not intended to define prohibited conduct in exhaustive terms, but rather to set forth examples to serve as guidelines for acceptable and unacceptable behavior.

Honesty is a primary responsibility of you and every other UAF student. The following are common guidelines regarding academic integrity:

1. Students will not collaborate on any quizzes or exams that will contribute to their grade in a course, unless permission is granted by the instructor of the course. Only those materials permitted by the instructor may be used to assist in quizzes and exams.
2. Students will not represent the work of others as their own. A student will attribute the source of information not original with himself or herself (direct quotes or paraphrases) in compositions, theses and other reports.
3. No work submitted for one course may be submitted for credit in another course without the explicit approval of both instructors.

Alleged violations of the Code of Conduct will be reviewed in accordance with procedures specified in regent's policy, university regulations and UAF rules and procedures. For additional information and details about the Student Code of Conduct, contact the Dean of Student Services or web www.alaska.edu/bor/ or refer to the student handbook that is printed in the back of the class schedule for each semester. Students are encouraged to review the entire code.

A Few Words on Plagiarism: In general, DO NOT present someone else's ideas or data as your own: you are expected and required to give credit where credit is due. Plagiarism is a violation of the law and may lead to serious repercussions! Please follow the following guidelines: for any written assignments, if you use someone else's ideas, data, or other information, write it in your own words and include the reference in parentheses directly following that information. Avoid copying someone else's text. If, however, you feel you have to include an exact copy of that text, put it in quotation marks followed by the reference in parentheses. Of course, include all cited references in the Literature Cited section. During oral presentations, please acknowledge the sources by mentioning their name(s) and year of publication or by printing them on overheads, slides, or handouts. Also be aware that you need to cite earlier work by yourself. Any substantial use of any written or other materials that was used for another course or that was generated in any other circumstances will not be accepted for credit in this course. Only minor contributions from earlier work with appropriate citation(s) will be accepted.

Withdrawal:

Students are expected to formally withdraw from the class if they cannot complete the course. I will not automatically withdraw students who do not attend or fall behind. Students who do not successfully complete the class and do not withdraw will receive a grade of "F".

Participation and Preparation:

"Participation" is defined as being on time, staying for the whole class, and contributing in groups. Please share your thoughts respectfully with the whole group, as this is how we can all learn from each other. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated. Students are expected to contribute to class in a manner that is conducive to learning. Students who display

behavior that is disrespectful or distracting to class participants or that is inappropriate for a classroom setting will be asked to leave.

Student Responsibility:

As students, you must accept the responsibility of ensuring your own success. It is your responsibility to know what you need to do and when you need to do it. This requires a great deal of initiative on your part. Always ask if you don't know what is expected of you. Never wait for someone to tell you. "I didn't know," and "no one told me," are not acceptable reasons for failure to fulfill your student obligations. I am here to help and support students who take the initiative to help themselves.

Support Services:

Students in need of support are encouraged to contact me via telephone. I have posted office hours and am available for group and private face to face meetings during the specified times. All college classes require strong reading and communication skills. There may be a student support program in your area. If you feel that you may be falling behind, contact me immediately. I want you to be successful. Never be afraid to ask for help.

Disabilities Services:

The Office of Disability Services (612 N Chandalar, 474-5655) implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and insures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials. I will work with the Office of Disabilities Services to provide reasonable accommodation to rural students with disabilities. Please contact me or The Office of Disability Services is you require special assistance.