

COURSE SYLLABUS

NATS 1101.017 Natural Sciences and Mathematics First Year Seminar

LINDA ELGIN Science Building: 2.215 Time: Tues. 2-2:50 pm
First Year Leaders (FYL's) Helix Hall 2.002 Time: Thurs 2-2:50 pm
FYLs contact info:

My Contact Information

Linda Elgin, Ph.D., Advisor III/Instructor
Location: **Classroom Bldg.** office 1.101 F
NS&M Advising Office Phone: 972/883-2500
Email: Linda.Elgin@UTDallas.edu

Course Modality: In Person

Course Platform: Classroom participation, some eLearning assignments and interactive instruction

eLearning Technical Requirements

1) At the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD), in addition to a level of confidence in computer and basic research literacy, a minimum technical preparatory course requirements must be met to enable a successful eLearning experience. See the [eLearning Current Students](#) webpage for detailed eLearning information. eLearning or a similar app will be utilized for many classes during your 4-years at UTD.

2) You must review and practice the important technical requirements on the [Getting Started with eLearning](#) webpage, so that you are able to access weekly information. All assignments must be submitted personally through eLearning for a grade. Written assignments will not be accepted via email or printed out and turned in by hand. NS&M and my class are paperless.

eLearning Course Access and Navigation

- A) This course can be accessed using your UT Dallas NetID account on the [eLearning](#) website.
- B) Please see the course access and navigation section of the [Getting Started with eLearning](#) webpage for the information you need beginning the first day of classes.
- C) To become proficient with the eLearning tool, use the [Student eLearning Tutorials](#) webpage.
- D) UT Dallas provides eLearning technical support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The [eLearning Support Center](#) includes a toll-free telephone number for immediate assistance (1-866-588-3192), email request service, and an online chat service.

Communication

NATS 1101 utilizes online tools for interaction and communication primarily Microsoft Teams during the

semester. If you need to download the app and are not familiar with the use of Microsoft Teams, review the information provided by the [Office of Information Technology](#) (OIT).

Microsoft Teams will be the primary virtual meeting tool in use along with Microsoft Bookings. ***If you do not already have the necessary software, go to the Galaxy OIT website to download Microsoft 365 free in Android or Apple formats.***

Students should communicate with the Instructor or First Year Leaders (FYL'S) primarily on Microsoft NATS Class Teams, eLearning Bulletin Board, or for urgent personal situations using the regular Microsoft Teams chat. Phone calls to the instructor go through the NS&M Advising office front desk and messages are relayed. No phone advising is authorized. FYL's may allow Teams phone calls at their personal discretion. Calls should be limited to work hours of 8 am to 5 pm except in emergencies.

Student Resources

At UTD students have access to a number of resources including the NS&M Academic Advising office and webpage, McDermott Library, The Office of Student AccessAbility, Student Success Center (SSC), and many others you may need listed on the Resources list sent in your Orientation Welcome email.

eLearning Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties:

UTD is committed to providing a reliable learning management system to all users. However, Sunday evenings eLearning may be down for updates. These will normally be communicated in advance by email on your UTD net email account.

In the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assignment, the instructor will provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation reported by the Office of the Provost.

Students should immediately report accessibility problems to the online [eLearning Help Desk](#) . Any issues with the eLearning pages should be reported to the instructor or FYL's before assignments are due. The eLearning Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time and the instructor will respond during regular business hours between 8 am and 5 pm, Monday through Friday.

COVID-19 Guidelines and Resources

Little impact from new variants of COVID is anticipated. However, the information contained in the following link lists the University's COVID-19 resources for students and instructors of record. Please see <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> and the main UTD Galaxy page should there be any change that will impact the format of classes or renewed social distancing.

Class Participation

Regular class attendance is expected regardless of course modality. Classes are anticipated to remain "In Person" format for the fall semester. ****Class starts at exactly 2:00 pm.**

****A significantly large portion of the grade for NATS 1101 is directly tied to your attendance and participation. That includes actively engaging in interpersonal (pairs), small group (3-6 person) and large group (full class) discussions, or other interactive activities during the semester on both Tuesdays with me and Thursdays with your FYL's that can only be completed with your attendance.**

****Class participation as attendance is documented by roll call or sign-in sheet and documented in eLearning by the instructor weekly. Successful participation is defined as consistently adhering to the University of Texas at Dallas requirements as presented in this syllabus. Failure to comply with these university requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#). Absences must be reported in advance for sports participation, or for illness the day the illness occurs to either myself for Tuesdays or FYLs for Thursday missed attendance. Serious personal injury should be reported as soon as possible by you, your family or the AccessAbility office.**

****Assignments for class *must* be turned in for grading by each student in the correct week & assignment link on eLearning. The percentage breakdown is provided for you in this syllabus and/or on each assignment. Every assignment must be submitted in a Microsoft Word, Excel or PowerPoint format to receive a grade. Mac users must use the Microsoft to Mac available through OIT to be compatible. If I cannot open the document, no grade is given for that assignment.**

Security and Lecture Recordings

****Students are expected to follow appropriate UTD policies and maintain the security of their net ID and passwords to set up and to access course materials. Failure to comply with these UTD requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#). This may result in the temporary loss of access to your account.**

****The instructor may provide brief recordings of the PowerPoint (PPT) presentations available each week that students can access after the in-class presentation. To supplement the classroom experience, additional resources are available for the rest of the semester to all students registered for NATS 1101 to supplement the classroom experience. Supplemental resources are not a substitution for attendance and participation. All PPTs are the property of the instructor. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, shared, or uploaded to other online environments.**

Recorded PPT presentations may be copied to a personal device solely to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. They should never be shared with others.

Should the instructor or a UTD school/department/office plan any other in class recordings (not anticipated for NATS 1101), consent of the students identifiable in the recordings is required prior to such use unless an exception is allowed by law. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#)

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLO)

NATS 1101 Natural Sciences and Mathematics First Year (Freshman) Seminar – 1 semester hour credit

This course is designed to introduce incoming first year students to the intellectual and cultural environment of the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (NS&M). Personal Discovery, Inquisitive Research, and Networking with staff advisors, faculty advisors and professions advisors is key for student personal success.

****Students will interact daily with others in their own major and related NS&M majors, learning more about individualizing plans of study and finding the best resources for career paths that focus on the majors of Biology, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Geoscience, Mathematics (Actuarial and Data Science), Molecular Biology, and Physics. STEM junior high and high school Education is provided through U-Teach Dallas.**

Various UNIVERSITY LEVEL practices to succeed at UTD including study skills and resource utilization, problem solving techniques, team building, and communication skills specific to, and needed as, an NS&M major will be covered. An overview of the connections within the disciplines of the Natural Sciences and Mathematics will be presented, as well personal responsibilities to local, regional and world challenges. Recognition of personal point of view (POV) and the parts we each play in society as a whole, is explored through interpersonal communication practice and discussion. Success will be gauged through group projects that emphasize the interrelationships of your major disciplines, public welfare, and goals to measure personal success.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES (SLO)

****Students will be coached through the transition from a successful high school student into an outstanding, responsible undergraduate university student. Learning is designed to prepare students for advanced coursework at UTD and qualify for a post baccalaureate professional education (e.g. medical, dental, physician's assistant school etc., master's degree, Ph.D., or professional certification exams.)**

******Emphasis for this class:***

1. Improve **Team Based problem solving skills** explicitly required for the scientific process; as well as personal lives;
2. Improve interpersonal and public speaking **Communication Skills** required to explain scientific concepts to laymen, colleagues, and agencies;
3. major related awareness and development of **Personal Responsibility toward Social and Ethical Impacts** of individual words and actions on professionalism and the world at large, as well as
4. Encourage and introduce opportunities in the University setting toward **Proactive Engagement and Exploration** of personal/professional services and organizations to achieve long-term goals.

Required Textbooks or purchased Materials – NONE

Support Materials, recorded PPT's, links and other resources will be posted in eLearning

Course Policies

I am acting as an Instructor for NATS 1101, but my full-time duties are as an Advisor III in NS&M Academic Advising for Biomedical Sciences (BIMS) all last name alphas:

- 1) *In-class please refer to me either as, "Linda, Dr. Elgin, or Ms. Elgin."* Expect interactions in the classroom setting to differ significantly from student & Advisor conversations.
- 2) **No individual academic advising** will be conducted before, during, or after class while in the SCI 2.215 classroom to show respect for your fellow students' time and needs. Chat with me before or after class in the hallway, or make an appointment with your appropriate academic advisor.
- 3) **For individual academic advising all students should make an appointment via Microsoft Bookings from the NSM Advising webpage (<https://nsm.utdallas.edu/advising/>) with their assigned advisor based on major and last name alpha (<https://www.utdallas.edu/directory/>).** Call 972/883-2500 for information to contact your advisor if you are uncertain who your academic advisor is or look them up on the NSM Advising website.
- 4) **Regarding personal class/grades concerns**, if no Tuesday appointments are available on my calendar, or Tuesday a.m. appointments are not feasible for your fall schedule, or in an emergency; call the Advising office at 972/883-2500 and speak to Anoja, or leave a voice message with your name, net ID, and **NATS 1101 section number** to ask Anoja to alert me to your situation to request that I message you.
- 5) Clarification concerning NATS 1101 class assignments or concepts would be of most benefit to all students if asked during class, or on the NATS 1101 TEAMS Class chat with general questions about the class. Or to the FYL's (Thursday classes) via Discussion Board and we will respond as quickly as possible.
- 6) If you need to broach a personal, private issue, or are alerting me to your health situation, or reporting sports related absences as required by UTD policy, do that as far in advance as possible. Missing class for a health reason must be reported the day it occurs. Sports absences must be reported to instructors PRIOR to the absence for accommodations. In personal communications, **clearly specify your NATS 1101 section number so that I know immediately which of my classes you are referring to. Never use Outlook emails for this class.**
- 7) My expectation is that students will choose to find a positive aspect to take away from every learning experience in every course throughout their 4 years at UTD. Approach learning thoughtfully and make every effort to be courteous to others in any communication setting, including electronic methods.

GRADING POLICY:	Attendance & In-class participation*	65%
	Assignments & Team Project	(NATS) 35%
	Total weighted NATS distribution	100%

Grade ranges will appear in eLearning as follows: A+ 97-100; A 93-96; A- 90-92; B+ 87-89; B 83-86; B- 80-82; C+ 77-79; C 73-76; C- 70-72; D+ 67-69; D 63-66; D- 60-62; F 59 and below.

Note: eLearning grading and assignments may be subject to change.

eLearning Assignment Grading: is based on 10, 15, 20, 25 & 30 points earned per assignment, ranging from low-risk early assignments to higher valuation project assignments, and the total points available in each assignment. Those are factored into the total percentage of participation or assignments (calculated by eLearning). **After initial grading is posted, a resubmission with corrections to earn a higher grade is available but due no later than (NLT) Tuesday of the week following the due date.** Attendance is taken by roll call or with a sign-in sheet and factored into the Attendance & Participation 65 percentage points.

Attendance & Participation*

*****Class Attendance** is based on your arrival in class at or before 2 pm. Classes will start immediately at 2 pm. IF roll is not called, and the sign-in sheet is set out, **it is your responsibility to sign in.** **The signature of your name on the provided class roster is required for the attendance record (initials or print not accepted) which is scanned in and retained for the class records.** *Forgetting to sign in is counted as an absence.* Sign-ins by another student constitute a [Student Code of Conduct](#) violations and disciplinary action will be addressed accordingly for one or both parties by the academic dishonesty committee.

Students must remain in class until excused by me at or before 1:50 pm unless permission to leave early is approved by me in advance. The attendance sheets will be collected 5 minutes after the start of class. Late arrivals may only get partial credit if they arrive before in the first 5 minutes before the weekly lecture begins.

Class Participation* will be evaluated by the instructor or FYL's using **attendance and visual confirmation of active engagement** in all activities conducted during the class (i.e. staying on task). Active listening, talking or taking notes is engagement.

Nonparticipation includes playing with a phone, tablet or other device not directly utilized for the NATS participation activity (e.g. YouTube videos, meme's, listening to music, checking texts from friends, playing games online, staring out the window etc.), doing homework for another class, talking about the last or next exam in CHEM or MATH with another student, or similar non-NATS activities/discussions.

Course Assignments: are noted in eLearning under each weekly folder in **RED** for the title as for example: **"Think, Pair, Share Assignment +"** and so on. The specified dates and times an assignment starts and is due are posted in each week as well. Assignments start on the Tuesday for that week and are due in eLearning before 10pm the following Tuesday. This gives you two class periods to ask for clarification in class. 10pm is chosen to help students avoid procrastination. Assignments can be completed and turned in after they are visible in eLearning within the posted date & time range.

Grading for the Assignments category is based on points for each assignment times the percentage of the total number of assignments submitted for the semester **on time** for the respective deadlines. **First Submission Deadlines and re-submission deadlines are final unless special circumstances are communicated to me or your FYLs immediately. This is Because Learning effective time management is**

extremely important to personal success at UTD and all your professional endeavors.

One-on-one meetings with your First Year Leaders (FYLs) is primarily for your personal benefit, but is also a directive for the FYL's from their coordinator, and therefore a graded requirement for the Thursday classes calculated into the participation percentage.

Team Project for NATS *

Instructions and guidelines for completion will be provided weekly. Students will be divided as evenly as possible into 6 Teams. Every person on each team should be present for their group presentation and present an equal number of slides (no less than 3 each) in their team's overall PowerPoint (PPT) presentation.* Grades will be accessed by meeting the criterion based on **individual performance only**.* *Your Team PowerPoint presentations must be posted to eLearning in its entirety by each student on the team for that assignment credit.** The responsible team member's names MUST appear on each of their slides for a grade.*

Make-up Credit: Could be available on a case-by-case basis with advanced documentation of sporting event participation or personal emergencies. A failure to plan ahead and use good time management skills as they relate to your other classes and NATS 1101 is not sufficient cause for requesting make up for missed or late assignments, participation or absences. *System outages for eLearning and possible resulting due date adjustments will be addressed on the NATS 1101.011 TEAMS Homepage as they occur.* **WARNING: eLearning is often offline Sunday evenings for maintenance as is reported weekly on the eLearning site in advance—do NOT wait until the last minute to try to upload your assignments for NATS 1101 which are due no later than 10:00 pm TUESDAY's! If you don't receive the confirmation bounce back from eLearning, the assignment was not submitted in time.**

Off-campus Instruction and Course Activities

No off campus activities are planned.

Below is a description of any travel and/or risk-related activity associated with this course:

Policies and Procedures for Students

The University of Texas at Dallas provides a number of policies and procedures designed to provide students with a safe and supportive learning environment. Brief summaries of the policies and procedures are provided for you at <http://provost.utdallas.edu/home/index.php/syllabus-policies-and-procedures-text> and include information about technical support, field trip policies, off-campus activities, student conduct and discipline, academic integrity, copyright infringement, email use, withdrawal from class(es), student grievance procedures, incomplete grades, access to disability services, and religious holy days. You may also seek further information at these websites:

http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm

<http://www.utdallas.edu/judicialaffairs/UTDJudicialAffairs-HOPV.html>

<http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/intellectualproperty/copypol2.htm>

<http://www.utdallas.edu/disability/documentation/index.html>

WEEKLY CALENDAR VIEW

Week	Tuesday NATS 1101.011 DUE DATES	Thursday NATS 1101.011	Focus	TUESDAY Instructor Topics	FYL Tentative Topics Thursday	Class Learning Objectives	OVERVIEW: Lectures, Discussions * and Assignments +
1	26-Aug-2025		DISCOVERY	How to UTD-- Organizations; Self-Awareness & Discussion	Introductions* & Ice Breakers	Team problem solving, Comms, Social Ethics	Think/Pair/Share * Think/pair/share+
	In Class Activity credit *	28-Aug-2025					
2	02-Sep-2025			How to UTD-- Advising; Communication In A Diverse Group	Managing your College Environment	Team problem solving, Comms, Social Ethics	Emotional Intelligence * Engagement +
	Think, Pair & Share due+	04-Sep-2025					
3	09-Sep-2025			How to UTD— Univ Career & NS&M Centers; Naturally Inquisitive & Critical Analysis and reasoning	Academic Dishonesty & start One-on- ones	Team problem solving, Comms, Personal, Engaged, Exploration	5-Whys to Success Steps to Problem- Solving *+ Handshake enroll+
	Engagement +	11-Sep-2025					
4	16-Sep-2025			How to UTD – Library, Online & Google; Designed for Discovery UN based Local Sustainability Topics Intro	Academic Communication & One-on-ones	Team based problem solving, social & ethical	Fishbowl discussions local issue/problem*
	5 Whys Assignment due+ Handshake due+	18-Sep-2025					
5	23-Sep-2025		RESEARCH	How to UTD—Basic Resource Guide; Creative Problem Solving & Questioning discussion	Midterm Madness / Wellness*	Team based problem solving, social & ethical	Groups by major 5 Whys Rapid Prototyping*+
	Independent POV on UN subgroups worksheet due+	25-Sep-2025					
6	30-Sep-2025			How to UTD— HPAC & SSC; 6-Part Presentation Format: Best of the Best examples	Finances & Budgeting	Team based problem solving, social & ethical	Group Planning- Presenter Parts Outline+
	5 Whys Transcript due+	02 Oct-2025					
7	07-Oct-2025			How to UTD-- Galaxy Info for Students; Pulling "IT" All Apart Content & Creativity	Campus Resources & One-on-ones	Teams based problem solving, comms, social & ethical	In Class Workday Brainstorming Team top 2 +
	6-part Presenter Outline due+	09-Oct-2025					
8	14-Oct-2025			Degree Plans & 4 Year Plan PDF's	Relationships & One-on-ones	Teams based problem solving, comms, social & ethical	
	Team Top 2 Statements due+	16-Oct-2025					
9	21-Oct-2025			Check for Holds & How to Register	Student Portal Registration tips	Personal responsibility,	

	Degree plan & 4-year Plan +	23-Oct-2025			teams practice		
10	28-Oct-2025		ACTION	Academic Calendar & Schedule Planner	FYL's open choice	Comms and personal responsibility	Schedule Planner & Orion
		30-Oct-2025					
11	04-Nov-2025		ACTION	In Class Workday Team PPT Choice+	FYL's open choice	Comms and personal responsibility	In Class Workday Team PPT Choice+
	Team PPT choice due+	06-Nov-2025					
12	11 Nov-2025		ACTION	15-minute Present & In Class Workday * Team Presentations	FYL's choice	In class work day	Each Team member posts their parts of presentation +
	NONE	13-Nov-2025					
13	18-Nov-2025		ACTION	In Class Group Project recorded PowerPoint Presentations Synopsis*	FYL's choice	Teams, Comm skills, Project synopsis**	Your Name MUST be on Each of Your Slides +
	Each Team Member's personal PPT Slides +	20-Nov-2025					
14	25-Nov-2025		ACTION		FALL BREAK		
		27 Nov-2025					
15	02 Dec-2025		ACTION	Each Team member posts entire presentation NLT 10:00pm	FYL's choice	Teams, Comm skills, Project synopsis	
	OPEN TBA	04 Dec-2025					
16	09-Dec-2025		ACTION	ONLINE ONLY Survey Follow Up; Evaluations+		Major related engagement and feedback	FINAL GRADES POSTED
	LAST DAY OF CLASSES 09-Dec-	2025 Online Class Feedback +					

Comet Creed:

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

NS&M Slogan:

Was Naturally Inquisitive NOW DESIGNED to DISCOVER

Academic Support Resources:

The information contained in the following link lists the University's academic support resources for all students. Please go to [Academic Support Resources](#) webpage for these policies.

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures:

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please go to [UT Dallas Syllabus Policies](#) webpage for these policies.

Only basic descriptions and some timelines contained in this syllabus may be subject to change at the discretion of the Instructor if they are considered detrimental to NATS 1101 student performance in the class.