

Course Syllabus: NATS 1101: Natural Sciences and Mathematics First-Year Seminar

Instructor Contact Information:

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Academic Advisor Contact Information:

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Course Information:

NATS 1101.003

Fall 2025 12:00 PM- 12:50 PM

Room: SCI 2.215 & Helix Hall 2.002

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

NONE

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce incoming freshmen to the intellectual and cultural environment of the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (NS&M). Students will learn about plans of study and career paths for majors in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Geosciences and Science and Mathematics Education. Basic study, problem solving and other skills needed to succeed as an NS&M major will be covered. An overview of the connections within the disciplines of Natural Sciences and Mathematics will be presented, as well as their relationship to engineering, medicine and health, and other fields. Required for all first time in college freshmen in NS&M (1-1) Y

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

The students will begin the transition from a successful high school student to a successful university and responsible citizen.

Upon completion of this course, students will:

1. Begin the development of critical thinking skills needed in the scientific process.
2. Begin the development of communication skills required to explain scientific concepts.
3. Begin the development of social and personal responsibility and ethics required in society and the world at large.
4. Begin to proactively engage in the university and community.
5. Begin to develop plans for short and long-term goals.

Required Textbooks and Materials-NONE

Notes, supporting material, other resources will be posted on eLearning.

Academic Calendar

(Topics, Reading Assignments, Due Date, Exam Date)

Week	Monday/ Wednesday	Faculty Topic (Mondays)	FYL Topic (Wednesdays)	CLO
1	Aug. 25	Welcome, Syllabus, Introductions		4
	Aug. 27		Introductions & PLTL	
2	Sept. 1	LABOR DAY-UNIVERSITY CLOSED		
	Sept. 3		Student Organizations & Clubs	
3	Sept. 8	Communication & Self-Advocacy		2, 3
	Sept. 10		Things to Do in the DFW Area	
4	Sept. 15	Academic Advising 101		1, 2, 4
	Sept. 17		Self-Discovery & Goal Setting	
5	Sept. 22	Reading & Navigating Degree Plans		2, 3
	Sept. 24		Academic Resources	
6	Sept. 29	Planning for Spring 2026		3, 4, 5
	Oct. 1		Study Skills	
7	Oct. 6	UTD Librarian Liaison		1, 3, 5
	Oct. 8		Time Management	
8	Oct. 13	Student Organizations & Clubs		3,4
	Oct. 15		Money Management	
9	Oct. 20	UTD Student Success Center		1, 2, 3, 4, 5
	Oct. 22		Course Registration for Spring 2026	
10	Oct. 27	NS&M Career Success Center		2,3
	Oct. 29		Teamwork & Collaboration	
11	Nov. 3	NS&M Career Success Center (Continued)		2, 3, 4, 5
	Nov. 5		Self-Reflection & Personal Development	
12	Nov. 10	Final Project Assignment		1, 2, 5
	Nov. 12		Leadership Development	
13	Nov. 17	Project Time		1, 2, 3, 5
	Nov. 19		Mental Health	
14	Nov. 24	FALL BREAK-NO CLASS		
	Nov. 26		FALL BREAK-NO CLASS	
15	Dec. 1	Project Presentations		1, 2, 3, 5
	Dec. 3		Project Presentations	
16	Dec. 8	Project Presentations		1, 2, 3, 5

Grading Policy:

Attendance/Participation	30 points
Assignments	40 points
Final Project	30 points
Total	100 points

Grade ranges for NATS 1101 are: 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: below 60.

NOTE: Grading policy is subject to change!

Course & Instructor Policies

(Make-Up Exams, Extra Credit, Late Work, Class Attendance, Classroom Citizenship, etc.)

Class Attendance: Attendance will be taken every Monday and Wednesday. If you have a UTD sanctioned absence (i.e., UTD extracurriculars), you **MUST** contact the instructor via email prior to your anticipated absence. Please include documentation within the email. In the event of illness, emergency, or personal situation, please contact the instructor via email as soon as possible to discuss options. The University's attendance policy requirement is that individual faculty set their course attendance requirements. Regular and punctual class attendance is expected regardless of course modality. Students who fail to attend class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty.

Class Participation:

Regular class participation is expected regardless of course modality. Students who fail to participate in class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. A portion of the grade for this course is directly tied to your participation in this class. It also includes engaging in group or other activities during class that solicit your feedback on assignments, or materials covered in the lectures (and/or labs). Class participation is documented by faculty. Successful participation is defined as consistently adhering to university requirements, as presented in this syllabus. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Class Materials:

The instructor may provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course; however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Assignments: In any course, the assignment is a good indicator of a student's knowledge of the course material. In an online course, as detailed above, the assignment serves additional purposes. For each assignment, the presenter will seek to be clear in the expectation of the content. Students are expected to seek additional guidance from the faculty if additional information and guidance is needed. An assignment is on-time and fully graded if it is received by the due date. Late assignments could result in point deductions or no grade. It is the student's responsibility to communicate with the instructor if there was an obstacle in providing the assignment by the proper date.

Final Project: Students will be assigned in groups to prepare the next incoming first-year class for their first semester as an NS&M student. The team members will need to work together and prepare project plans and a presentation describing the necessary resources, advice, and steps for having a successful first semester at UTD. All members must be included in each task. The presentations will be viewed by the other students in the class.

Exams: There are no formal exams for this course.

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.”

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The University of Texas at Dallas is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. The syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. If you are seeking classroom accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (2008), you are required to register with the [AccessAbility Resource Center \(ARC\)](#), located in the Administration Building, Suite 2.224. They can be reached by email at studentaccess@utdallas.edu, calling 972-883-2098, or at their [website](#). To receive academic accommodation for this class, please register and request services by completing the Request for Services form with the proper documentation and meeting with the Director of ARC at the beginning of the semester.

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

Please visit the [Syllabus Policies](#) page to view the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Instructor.