

	Course	NATS1101 Natural Science & Mathematics Freshman Seminar
	Credits	1 semester hours
	Professor	Mehmet Candas
	Term	Fall 2013
	Meetings	NATS1101.007 Thursday 9:00 - 9:50 a.m. GR3.302

Contact Information

Dr. Mehmet Candas	
Office Phone	972-883-6338
Office Location	FN 3.206
Email Address	candas@utdallas.edu
Office Hours	Email or call for appointment

General Course Information

Pre-requisites Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions	None
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Course Description	NATS1101 Natural Science & Mathematics Freshman Seminar is designed to introduce incoming freshmen to the intellectual and cultural environment of the School of Natural Science 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. Approaches to basic study and learning strategies, critical thinking, problem solving and group-work as well as studentship and professional ethics needed to succeed as an NS&M major will be reviewed. Students will study the connections within the disciplines of NS&M, as well as their relationship to medicine, health and other scientific, technology and engineering fields. Emphasis is given to discussions on current and emerging themes of scientific research, education and interdisciplinary technology applications in the 21st century. Required for all first time in college freshmen in NS&M.
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Required Textbook And Materials	There is no required textbook. Lecture notes/slides, supporting literature and other resources will be posted on eLearning.
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Course Objectives	<p>The course aims to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An understanding of the professions involving natural sciences and the degree programs leading to them.• An appreciation of professional ethics• An awareness of basic skills essential to be successful in science majors including scientific methodology, qualitative and quantitative approaches, analytical and problem solving skills, communications skills, team work.
Student Outcomes	<p>Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Articulate personal and educational goals.• Develop effective study and learning strategies.• Design a better curriculum plan and develop strategies to meet their career goals.• Define good studentship and proper classroom etiquette.• Comprehend the importance of good studentship in professional ethics.• Recognize the significance of reasoning and critical thinking in problem solving and case-based situations.• Contribute to team work and demonstrate productivity in group projects.• Describe the UTD campus culture• Define various resources and services that can help achieve their educational and career goals.

Topics and Tentative Schedule

#	Dates	Topics
1.	Th, Aug 30	Introduction
2.	Th, Sep 6	The learning process
3.	Th, Sep 13	Study and time management
4.	Th, Sep 20	Collaboration, team work and group dynamics
5.	Th, Sep 27	Selecting themes and forming groups for presentations
6.	Th, Oct 4	Written and oral communication
7.	Th, Oct 11	Studentship, academic integrity, and professional ethics
8.	Th, Oct 18	Creativity and brain storming
9.	Th, Oct 25	Group presentations
10.	Th, Nov 8	Group presentations
11.	Th, Nov 15	Group presentations
12.	Th, Nov 22	Group presentations
13.	Th, Nov 29	Group presentations
14.	Th, Dec 6	Final Exam

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

Course Policies

<p>Tests and Grading</p>	<p>Student assessment is based on grades from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attendance and participation in classroom activities • group project and presentation • final exam <p>Attendance, participation in the group work, and completion of the formal exam are mandatory and required for achievement in the course.</p> <p>The final grade is calculated on the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45% Attendance and participation • 45% Group project and presentation • 10% Final exam <p>Class attendance is expected, mandatory, and part of your responsibility as a student. Attendance roster is taken for every class meeting. Points will be deducted for absence and habitual tardiness.</p> <p>Participation is based on contribution in discussions, group activities and brain-storming sessions.</p> <p>Group work is a semester project that will be assigned to teams as shown on the schedule. Teams will be formed or assigned to project groups in the class based on mutual interest in study topics. The project grade is a team grade, which is based on the presentation and the report prepared and delivered by the team.</p> <p>There is 1 formal exam for the course. The exam is given as a final exam and based on the material presented in the lectures. There is no retake for the exam. Make-up exam <u>may be</u> given in case of a <u>documented</u> excuse or emergency (see below).</p>
<p>Make-up Exams</p>	<p>Make-up exams will be provided ONLY in the event of illness (doctor's note required), official university business (e.g., athletic team), or professional school (e.g., medical school) interviews. Documentation is required. Since religious holidays are known in advance, we must be informed of them at the beginning of the semester. Make-up exams may be different from regular exams, and may include a verbal component and/or the drawing of structures.</p>

Attendance	Arriving to the classroom punctually and regular attendance to the class meetings is part of your responsibility and required for successful completion of the course. Lateness or leaving the class early is not tolerated as it is disruptive to orderly and efficient conduct of the class. Although occasional reasons or excuses for missing a class, or coming to the class late, or leaving the class early can be permitted if the instructor is informed in advance, students who establish a trend of habitual lateness/chronic tardiness or leaving the class early will be reported to the Dean of Students Office.
Classroom Etiquette	All students are expected to observe civility in and out of the classroom. Therefore, students should be respectful to everyone and relevant to the topics. Inappropriate, annoying, rude, and disruptive behavior, including excessive talking, cell phone and computer use will not be tolerated. Texting, web-surfing, tweeting, browsing social interaction web sites, listening music, etc are disruptive to the classroom activities and are not permitted.
Use of Electronic Devices	At the discretion of the Professor, laptop and tablet computers may be allowed during class only for taking notes, following the lecture material, or group discussions. Use of all other types of portable electronics, including cellular telephones, PDAs, headphones, and pagers are not permitted and such devices must be turned off and put away during lectures, workshops and exams.

Student Conduct and Discipline	<p>The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, <i>A to Z Guide</i>, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.</p> <p>The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the <i>Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3</i>, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's <i>Handbook of Operating Procedures</i>. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391). A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university</p>
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	regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.
Academic Integrity	<p>The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.</p> <p>Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.</p> <p>Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.</p>
Email Use	The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.
Withdrawal from Class	The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, we cannot drop or

	<p>withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.</p>
<p>Student Grievance Procedures</p>	<p>Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's <i>Handbook of Operating Procedures</i>.</p> <p>In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.</p> <p>Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.</p>
<p>Incomplete Grades</p>	<p>Incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within 8 weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of <u>F</u>.</p>
<p>Disability Services</p>	<p>The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.</p>

	<p>The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is: The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22 PO Box 830688 Richardson, Texas 75083-0688 (972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)</p> <p>Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.</p> <p>It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.</p>
<p>Religious Holy Days</p>	<p>The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.</p> <p>The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.</p> <p>If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or</p>

	examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.
Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities	Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm . Additional information is available from the office of the school dean.

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