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|  | Course | NATS 1101.009 Natural Sciences and Mathematics Freshman Seminar |
| | Professor; TYLs | Dr. Robert J. Stern; Yaw Agina & Caelan Anyagafu |
| | Term | Fall 2016 |
| | Meetings | TuTh 12:00-12:50 SLC 1.202 |

Professor's Contact Information

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| Office Phone | 972-883-2442 |
| Office Location | ROC 1.1 |
| Email Address | rjstern@utdallas.edu |
| Office Hours | TuTh 12:00-12:50 |
| Other Information | Office Hours: M 1-2 or by Appointment |

General Course Information

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| Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, & 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. Corequisite: UNIV 1010 . (1-1) Y |
| Learning Outcomes | Upon completion of this course, the student 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 Empirical and Quantitative Skills needed in the Scientific process 4. Begin the development of Teamwork needed in the Scientific process and community 5. Begin the development of Social and Personal Responsibility and ethics required in the world and society at large. 6. Understand how to develop and plan for long-term goals. 7. Know about their major, school, and future career |
| Required Texts | None |
| Recommended | None |

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| Facebook | NATS 1101 Natural Sciences and Mathematics Freshman Seminar (closed group within UT Dallas). Ask to join if you like and feel free to post comments, files, images, etc. that other members might benefit from. |
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Join Facebook group NATS 1101 Natural Sciences and Mathematics Freshman Seminar

Assignments & Academic Calendar

| Schedule of Topics | Readings (in parentheses) |
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| Aug. 23 Tu: | Syllabus and Introduction |
| Aug. 25 Th: | FYL |
| Aug. 30 Tu: | What do you hope to accomplish at UTD? |
| Sept. 1 Th: | FYL |
| Sept. 6 Tu: | What are your greatest strengths? |
| Sept. 8 Th: | FYL |
| Sept. 13 Tu: | What is your greatest fear? |
| Sept. 15 Th: | FYL |
| Sept. 20 Tu: | Professional communications |
| Sept. 22: | Th FYL |
| Sept. 27 Tu: | No class; RJS at GSA meeting in Denver |
| Sept. 29 Th: | FYL |
| Oct. 4 Tu: | What is a university and what should it do? |
| Oct. 6 Th: | FYL |
| Oct. 11 Tu: | <u>Project proposals due</u> |
| Oct. 13 Th: | FYL |
| Oct. 18 Tu: | TBD |
| Oct. 20 Th: | FYL |
| Oct. 25 Tu: | TBD |
| Oct. 27 Th: | FYL (RJS at UT Austin) |
| Nov. 1 Tu: | TBD |
| Nov. 3 Th: | FYL |
| Nov. 8 Tu: | TBD |
| Nov. 10 Th: | FYL |
| Nov. 15 Tu: | TBD |
| Nov. 17: | Th: FYL (RJS at U Delaware) |
| Nov. 24 Tu: | No class – Fall Break |
| Nov. 26 Th: | Thanksgiving |
| Nov. 29 Tu: | Group 1-4 presentations |
| Dec. 1 Th: | Group 5-8 presentations |
| Dec. 6 Tu: | Group 9-11 presentations |

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| Grading Criteria | 50% attendance, 5% group proposal, 45% group presentation. Projects must address something to make UTD, NS&M, or your department better. Proposals (due Oct. 11) should be no more than 1 paragraph and be signed by all group members. Project presentations will be using powerpoint and have no more than 5 slides: Slide 1 is title slide with names of members. Slide 2 should explain the |
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| | <p>problem and why improvement is needed. Slide 3 and 4 should summarize research on problem and solution, including interviews with responsible university officials. Slide 5 should summarize the proposed solution, including budget. Each member of the group needs to explain at least one slide.</p> |
| Extra Credit | <p>1 point extra credit for attending departmental seminars (Must turn in sheet with title of lecture, along with signature of a Faculty Member and date). 1 point extra credit for attending UTD registered club (Sheet must have name of club, date of meeting, and signature of club officer). Max of 10 points extra credit for seminar/club attendance.</p> <p>1 point extra credit for completing on-line course evaluation</p> |
| 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).</p> <p>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 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.</p> |
| 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. 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> |
| Concealed Carry | <p>Senate Bill 11 (SB 11), also known as "campus carry," permits handgun license holders to carry their weapons onto the campus and into the general buildings of public universities and colleges in Texas. Passed by the 84th Texas Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Greg Abbott, SB 11 took effect Aug. 1, 2016. Open carry is not allowed. If the license holder carries a visible handgun, or if the handgun is intentionally displayed in plain view of another person, it is considered a criminal offense. If you have a concealed handgun and bring it to class, I do not want to know about it. The handgun must not have a round in the chamber and the safety must be on at all times. If any student is shown any part of any handgun in the classroom at any time, please notify the professor or TA; the classroom will be evacuated</p> |

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| | immediately and the UTD Police notified. |
| 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, I cannot drop or 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. |
| Student Grievance Procedures | <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> |
| Incomplete Grades | As per university policy, 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 eight (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 F . |
| Disability Services | <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> |

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| | <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> |
| Religious Holy Days | <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 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.</p> |
| Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities | <p>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.</p> |
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These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.