

Course Syllabus

Course Information - Fall 2016

NATS 1101 Natural Sciences and Mathematics Freshman Seminar
NATS 1101.001
Room: SLC 1.202
Time: MW 9.00 AM -9.50 AM
Final: None

Professor Contact Information

Prof. David McPhail
Office: BSB 11.609
Phone: 2973
Email: david.mcphail@utdallas.edu
Office Hours: 9-5 most days

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

Corequisite: UNIV 1010

Course Description

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

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Upon completion of this course:

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.**

Required Textbooks and Materials – NONE

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

Assignments & Academic Calendar

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

Faculty Topic	FYL Topic 2nd day of week	CLO	Notes/Comments	DSM	TR
Introductions Who am I, and who are the FYL? Who are you now and who do you want to be in 2020?	Making the most of the university experience	1, 6		22 nd Aug	24 th Aug
Taking ownership of your life (professional and personal)	Intro to UTD	1		29 th Aug	31 st Aug
No Class					7 th Sep
Time management and study skills	Time Management and Schedule	6		12 th Sep	14 th Sep
Your CV and profile on social media	Organization. Managing your College Environment	2		19 th Sep	21 st Sep
Scientific thinking ABC		3		26 th Sep	28 th Sep
Scientific thinking ABC		3		3 rd Oct	5 th Oct
Communication skills	Academic Communication	2		10 th Oct	12 th Oct
Empirical and quantitative skills	Campus Services	3		17 th Oct	19 th Oct
Team projects		4		24 th Oct	26 th Oct
Team project elevator pitches	Wellness	2		31 st Oct	2 nd Nov
Social and personal responsibility and ethics		5		7 th Nov	9 th Nov
Social and personal responsibility and ethics	Midterm Madness	5		14 th Nov	16 th Nov
Final project outcomes including video and portfolio		2		28 th Nov	30 th Nov
Reflections on the course	Life Skills	1, 6		5 th Dec	7 th Dec

Grading Policy:	Attendance	--	20%
	Quizzes	--	30 %
	Semester project: (includes all reports)	--	50%
	Total	--	100 %

Grade ranges for ECS 1200 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 subject to change!

Course & Instructor Policies

(make-up exams, extra credit, late work, special assignments, class attendance, classroom citizenship, etc.)

Exams: There are currently no formal exams in this course. Quizzes will be embedded in the lectures.

Semester Project: The semester project will be assigned as shown on the schedule above. Note that the project grade is a team grade, including the presentation/demo and the final report.

Class attendance: Class attendance is taken.

Off-campus Instruction and Course Activities

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.

[UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures webpage](#)

Brief summaries of the policies and procedures are provided for you at 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, 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>

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