

FALL 2011 SOPHOMORE HONORS RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

HUM 2944-03

Wednesdays, 5:00- 6:15 p.m. in HCB 101

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Course Description:

This is a 1 credit hour S/U course required for all Honors students who were admitted to the Honors program in spring 2011. Honors students will hear from faculty, staff, and students in a variety of fields to learn the benefits of an undergraduate research experience, how to get involved, how to be a successful and productive member of a research program, and complete written assignments for the course.

Learning Objectives:

1. By the end of the course students will demonstrate an understanding of the role that research plays in a Research University, and of how to get engaged in research at FSU as an undergraduate.
2. Students will learn about the variety of programs and offices at FSU that can help students conduct and apply their research or creative projects.
3. Students will identify research opportunities on campus particular to their own interests that can enhance their undergraduate education.

Course Format:

• Panel Discussions on Undergraduate Research

Two course meetings will consist of panel discussions designed to introduce students to the process of academic research and ways that undergraduates can participate. Students will be able to see examples of how basic research principles and concepts are applied to different fields and research areas.

• Research Experiences and Activities

In lieu of classroom meetings after the first three sessions, there will be four written assignments designed to give students the opportunity to identify possible research experiences. These assignments will be completed and uploaded to the course Blackboard site.

• Blackboard Support

Online support for this colloquium is provided through the campus Blackboard system. Simply visit campus.fsu.edu and log in with your FSU e-mail ID and password, and you'll have access to your ongoing status in the course, resources and supporting documents and staff contact information. Assignments and instructions for on-line submission will be posted under the "Contents" tab of the Blackboard site for this course.

Evaluation and Grading:

• Attendance

Attendance is required at all three class meetings and at the URCAA Symposium (see below). Because we have invited guest speakers for this class who have graciously volunteered their time, it is important that you be on time for each of the class sessions and that you not leave early. If you need to be late or leave early from any session, it is expected that you will discuss this with the instructor in advance.

• Grading

A final grade of S is earned by students who attend all three class meetings and satisfactorily complete and upload all four written assignments by their due dates. Please contact the instructors if circumstances beyond your control interfere with completing the course requirements, or with any other questions about this course.

Course Schedule:

Date	Activity
Aug 31	<i>Meet in HCB 101</i> Introduction to the Second Year Honors Research Colloquium. This introduction to our class is designed to answer your questions about the course format and requirements. We will address: Who are the instructors? Who is in our class? What are our objectives? How will we accomplish them? What will you learn? What will be expected of you?
Sept 7	No Meeting
Sept 14	<i>Meet in HCB 101</i> Getting Involved in Undergraduate Research: A Student Perspective This panel discussion is designed to introduce you to the process of getting involved in undergraduate research. The panel members from the Student Council on Undergraduate Research & Creativity (SCURC) will address a variety of questions about getting involved and getting the most out of an undergraduate research experience such as: How do I decide what I am interested in? How do I find a mentor? What are the benefits of doing research? How do you find the time? What are the keys to being successful?
Sept 21	<i>Meet in HCB 101</i> Taking Your Research to the Next Level: the Honors Thesis The Honors in the Major program at FSU enables students to have an intensive research experience leading to the completion of an honors thesis and <i>graduation with Honors</i> . This panel will introduce course participants to students currently working on an honors thesis and the representative from the Honors Program who directs the <i>Honors in the Major</i> program. The panel is designed to provide students with information about the process of beginning and completing an honors thesis and address questions such as: what are the benefits of completing a thesis? What is the process? How do I apply for the program? How many semesters of research does it usually involve? Is there any reason to do an Honors thesis if I don't plan to go to graduate school? Exploring Your Opportunities: Campus programs that facilitate research This panel is designed to introduce students to a variety of programs on campus that can help students conduct and apply research. Panelists will include representatives from International Programs, the Global Pathways certificate program, Office of National Fellowships, Office of Undergraduate Research, and the Center for Leadership and Civic Education.
Sept 28	Assignment 1 due by 5pm
Oct 6	Attend URCAA Symposium, 5:00 – 8:00 pm <i>Location: Turnbull Conference Center, 555 W. Pensacola St (at Macomb)</i>
Oct 13	Assignment 2 due by 5pm
Nov 4	Assignment 3 due by 5pm
Nov 11	Assignment 4 due by 5pm

Class Assignments

These written assignments usually require 1 to 2 pages each to complete. They should be your own work. When you have finished writing your answers to the questions for an assignment, you may submit the completed document by going to the Blackboard course page, selecting the Assignments tab, clicking on the appropriate assignment link and uploading your document (.pdf, .doc, or .docx format) to SafeAssign according to the instructions.

Assignment #1 (due Sept. 28, 5pm)

Exploring Your Opportunities: Identifying your interests & getting to know your professors

Once you have heard from students who are doing research and understand the benefits that undergraduate research offers your education and future career goals, you will begin the process of exploring research opportunities in your field. Examine the research interests of your professors, the work that other professors are doing in your department, and become familiar with the work of professors in other departments that are related to yours.

Questions:

1. What is the main department or program that you are interested in here at FSU? List two other related departments that you are interested in or will need to take classes in to pursue your interests and complete your major.

2. Identifying Faculty.
 - a. Take a look at the faculty web pages for each of these departments and read about the work that they are doing. List three professors whose work is the most interesting to you. What is the research area for each (describe it in a few sentences)?
 - b. If you are already engaged in undergraduate research, your current mentor should be one of the professors – but given that research is often very interdisciplinary, it is important that you know who else on campus might be interested in the work you are doing. So finding two other relevant professors may be helpful to your work.
 - c. If you don't plan to take advantage of the opportunities for getting an undergraduate research experience, this is an excellent opportunity for you to explore the professors in your field of study and help you decide who you would like to take classes with in the future.

3. Find the title of at least one recent (last 5 years) publication or reference to a creative work by each of the three professors and list the authors, title, journal (or performance venue), and date.

4. Choose one of the three professors that you have listed. Imagine that you have visited them in their office hours to talk with them about their research. How would you introduce yourself? What questions would you ask them? What would you hope to learn from them? If you are potentially interested in getting a research experience under their guidance, how would you discuss this with them?

Assignment #2 (due Oct. 13, 5pm)

Exploring Your Opportunities: URCAA Symposium

You will attend the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Awards (URCAA) Symposium on **October 6, 2011, 5-8pm** in the **Turnbull Conference Center**, 555 West Pensacola Street. This undergraduate research symposium is an annual university-wide event that features posters and oral presentations by undergraduates who have won URCAA, MRCE, and ACC awards for their research projects. Each student will attend at least 3 presentations (two posters and one oral presentation) and answer the following questions in writing for upload to Bb:

1. Whom did you talk with at the symposium? What were the project titles? What were the main objectives of the works?
2. Give some examples of the types of things you discussed with the poster presenters. What questions did you have?
3. Attend at least one of the talks. What were your impressions of the talk(s) you attended? What were your impressions of the presentation style? Were you able to understand it? What recommendations would you have for the presenter?
4. If you participate in this event in the future as a presenter, would you prefer an oral presentation or a poster? Why?

Assignment #3 (due Nov 4, 5pm)

Research Applications: Using academic research in your field

During this course each student will attend and report on a departmental seminar, colloquium, speaker, performance, or other type of event that illustrates how research in your field is conducted or used. It should be in an area of your interest, and can but need not be in your major department. Answer the following questions for upload to Bb.

1. What was the title, date, and location of the presentation you attended?
2. Who was the speaker or performer?
3. If it was a research presentation, what were the experimental questions or hypotheses that were being addressed? If it was a creative work, what were the aims of the production or event?
4. What questions did you have that were left unanswered?
5. What would be the next step in the process for this work?

Questions about applicability of events to the research focus of this course should be directed to the Instructor. Students will then complete the *Research Applications Assignment* on Blackboard. This assignment may be completed at any time before the due date.

Assignment #4 (due Nov 11, 5pm)

Moving On: Developing your plan for getting involved in undergraduate research

Develop a formal plan to get an undergraduate research experience. Complete this plan by answering the questions below for submission to Bb, putting together all of the information you have learned about undergraduate research this semester.

1. Formulate some specific research goals. What do you want the end product to be? An honors thesis? A project in a specific lab? A collaboration with a certain faculty member? Independent work in a specific area of interest? Try to figure out what you most hope to gain from research and be as clear as you can about it --- this will help you determine what steps to take. Include in this section a description of what topic area you want to focus on.

2. You need a faculty mentor. Describe the specific steps you will take to find a faculty member to work with. Where will you look? How will you make contact? What will you propose to do with your mentor? Once you have a mentor, what would you like the nature of your collaboration to be? Include in this section some names possible faculty mentors, or, if you already have one, indicate who it is.
3. Many research projects are parts of projects a faculty member is already working on. Others are individual student projects undertaking with faculty supervision and advice. Which of these kinds of projects do you expect to do? Why? Is it possible that you might do both kinds? How?
4. Once your research topic has been formulated and your work has begun, how do you see it continuing? How many semesters of research do you envision? What are the ways you will try to enhance your research – e.g. are there any funding opportunities? Are there meetings in your field you could attend? What are the opportunities for presenting or publishing your work? Describe what you will do to find out the answers to these questions.
5. Assume you have successfully carried out a mentored research project at FSU, and you are now graduating and reflecting back on your experience. What would you like to be able to say about it? What value would you like it to have? What can you do **this year** to help make that a reality?

Honor Code:

Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code published in The Florida State University Bulletin and the Student Handbook. The Academic Honor System of The Florida State University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the university community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the university community. The Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to “. . . be honest and truthful and . . . [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University.” (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://dof.fsu.edu/honorpolicy.htm>.)

ADA:

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center, (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class.