

UROP Seminar 291 – Fall 2020

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Description: The Undergraduate Research Opportunity (UROP) Seminar complements the research you are doing with your faculty mentor in your UROP Apprenticeship. The course seeks to help you get the most out of your experience as a research apprentice. Through your work in the Seminar, you will:

- Better understand practices common to research endeavors,
- Learn how to communicate professionally to your faculty and research colleagues,
- Learn how to present your research activities to both specialized and general audiences,
- Develop your abilities to work collaboratively with your peers from different disciplines,
- Practice speaking intelligently about the local and larger significance of the research you are undertaking,
- Examine the ethical and safety implications of a variety of research tasks,
- Think creatively and proactively about your future academic and professional goals.

The Seminar will give you the opportunity to compare different research methods from across the University; you will see what approaches the disciplines share and how they differ from one another.

Course Requirements: This is a one-credit Seminar that meets virtually on Tuesdays from 3:00-3:50pm. Students in this Seminar must have been admitted into the UROP program and must be concurrently working with a faculty mentor. Because of the nature of this credit-bearing course, attendance, active and thoughtful participation, and prompt and meaningful completion of assignments are key requirements.

Assignments: You will be completing a range of short in- and outside-class assignments, including maintaining a research log, preparing a professional research abstract, and presenting the outcomes of your research experience. The assignments will constitute a total of 65% of your course grade, including 10% for a research log and 15% for a final research abstract. (See grading below).

Participation: Students are expected to contribute to class discussions, to share their experiences from their research partnerships, and to support the efforts of their classmates. This is especially important since we will be discussing current research in your fields. Participation will constitute 15% of your course grade. An additional 15% of your grade will be determined by a final presentation to the class.

Attendance: Weekly attendance is required. You will be allowed to miss two classes before your grade will be affected (for example, three absences would lower an A to an A-; five absences would lower an A to a B). In accordance with University policies, we do not use “excused absences” in this course. If you are absent, you are simply absent. You do not have to turn in an excuse, but it would be very helpful if you notified me in advance of known conflicts. **In the case of an absence, students are responsible for finding out about missed assignments by making an appointment.**

Grading: Final grades will be based on the materials you submit over the course of the semester and the records of your class participation.

The grading breakdown is as follows:

30% Attendance and Participation (Includes Discussion Posts)
30% Short Assignments (Abstract Drafts, Faculty Interview, and Campus Talk)
10% Research Log
15% Presentation
15% Final research abstract

General Expectations:

- Treat your peers, fellows, and the directors of the program with respect.
- Keep up to date on all assignments – writing and/or reading.
- Show up prepared and on time for the seminar.
- Engage in classroom discussions and activities.
- Keep us informed about problems in your research.
- Keep an open mind and have fun!

If you require any accommodations to meet any of the requirements of this course, please inform me as soon as possible. Have a great semester!

**UROP Seminar Calendar
Spring 2021**

Please note: this calendar is subject to change – I will update you to changes during class or via email.

Date	Covered in Class	Assignments	Assignments Due
Jan 26 th	Intro, Icebreakers, Syllabus Review. Generate group definition of research. What is research? What are essential characteristics?		
Feb 2 nd	How do you do research? Discuss refining a research question and various research methodologies. What aspects of research are you unclear about? Discuss Research Group Personnel	Introduce Campus Talk and Research Log assignments	
Feb 9 th	Where does my research mentor fit in to the greater disciplinary community? Library visit to find an article written by or contributed to by your faculty mentor.	Faculty Interview	
Feb 16 th	Why do research? Discuss assigned article. What are the greater implications? What happens to research results?		
Feb 23 rd	What research is happening on campus? Student visit to discuss their campus research experiences and NSF/REU information. Discuss McNair Program/ SURF discussion		Research Log – Part 1
Mar 2 nd	What are the rules of research? Research Ethics		
Mar 9 th	How do I communicate my role in research? In-class technical vs. lay description of your research.		
Mar 16 th	How do you present research findings? Read abstract examples. Writing an abstract. Group feedback.		
Mar 23 rd	SPRING BREAK – no class		
Mar 30 th	Abstract Workshop in small groups		Faculty Interview
April 6 th	Continue Abstract Workshop in different groups		1 st draft of abstract
April 13 th	Discuss final presentation What research might you do in the future? Graduate School and discuss Professional Timeline.		2 nd draft of abstract
April 20 th	Poster Presentation Walk Through with Tamara Long		
April 27 th	Visiting Student		Campus Talk Assignment
May 4 th	Final Presentations		Final Abstract
May 11 th	Final Presentations		Final Research Logs