

HOS 6931 - Horticultural Sciences Seminar
Syllabus - Spring 2017

Course description:

This 1 credit course provides a forum for Horticultural Sciences graduate students to present their **research proposals** to the department. Students have an opportunity to give an extended presentation (25 min duration, 5 min for questions). They present their research project to a nonthreatening, supportive audience of faculty, staff, and students and receive feedback from the audience that can serve to improve research methodology, extend the scope and impact of the work, and allow recognition of flaws at an early stage that can save the student a lot of time. Presentations usually include literature review, project justification, hypothesis or statement of the problem, objectives, and procedure (experiments, experimental design, and statistical analyses to be used). Students who have already completed some experiments may include some preliminary data.

Prerequisite: HOS 6934 – Professional Seminar Preparation

Credit hours: 1

Course Instructor:

Carlene A. Chase

Horticultural Sciences Department
1245 Fifield Hall
Phone: 273-4770
Email: cachase@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Friday afternoons 1-3 pm or by appointment

Class Schedule: Mondays 4 - 5 pm.

Required Texts: None

Recommended Texts:

Alley, M. 2013. The Craft of Scientific Presentations: Critical Steps to Succeed and Critical Errors to Avoid. Springer, New York.

Malmfors, B., P. Garnsworthy, M. Grossman. 2004. Writing and Presenting Scientific Papers, 2nd Edition. Nottingham University Press.

Course Objectives: The course will assist students in developing scientifically sound thesis/dissertation projects early in their programs, which are executable in a reasonable time period. Students will have an opportunity to prepare and deliver a scientific presentation before a sympathetic audience. The seminar also serves as a forum for faculty, staff, and students in the

department to become familiar with the planned research, and to generate comment and constructive criticism on the proposed research. Such positive feedback should help to improve the project or broaden the scope of the work and the impact of the inferences.

Course Format: Graduate student research proposal seminars.

Policies: Attendance, peer assessment, and presentation of a research proposal seminar are required. Students are urged to arrive on time to avoid disrupting class. Mobile phones must be turned off during class.

Examinations and Grading: Students will be assigned a grade of satisfactory or unsatisfactory.

Grading Scale: None

Academic Honesty: Students are expected to adhere to the University of Florida Honor Code: *We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.* Please refer to conduct regulations at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/STG>. Violations of Academic Honesty Guidelines and the Honor code, which include cheating, plagiarism, bribery, misrepresentation, conspiracy, and fabrication, will not be tolerated.

Software Use: All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Campus Helping Resources: Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. Both the Counseling Center and Student Mental Health Services provide confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students.

University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, www.counsel.ufl.edu
Student Mental Health Services, Rm. 245 Student Health Care Center, 392-1171,
www.shcc.ufl.edu/smhs/

Students with Disabilities: The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. 0001 Reid Hall, 392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/

Course Outline:

Organizational Meeting: Instructor introduction, syllabus, seminar schedule, handouts, examples of previous presentations.

Presentation preparation: Students work independently over several weeks to prepare a presentation in consultation with their advisor and the course instructor.

Student deliverables

1. Attend Organizational Meeting – Jan. 9.
 2. Submit seminar title via email – by Jan. 23.
 3. Draft abstract – by Jan. 30.
 4. Draft Presentation – 2 weeks prior to seminar.
 5. Supervisor-approved final abstract – 1 week prior to seminar
 6. Personal biography – 1 week prior to seminar.
 7. Seminar – (25 minute presentation, 5 minutes for questions).
 8. Seminar critiques – immediately after each seminar.
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- A written research proposal done approved by your advisor is strongly recommended as source material for developing the seminar.
 - Instructor will be available by appointment if you need assistance with developing your presentation and for presentation rehearsal.

Tentative Schedule

Horticultural Sciences Department - Spring Seminar Series, 2017
Mondays: 4:00 pm, Room 2316 Fifield Hall

Date	Activity
Jan 9	Organizational meeting
Jan 16	Deadline to select seminar date
Jan 23	Deadline for seminar titles
Jan 30	Deadline for draft abstracts
Feb 13	Seminar
	Seminar
Feb 20	Seminar
	Seminar
Feb 27	Seminar
	Seminar
Mar 6	Spring Break
Mar 13	Seminar
	Seminar
Mar 20	Seminar
	Seminar
Mar 27	Seminar
	Seminar
Apr 3	Seminar
	Seminar
Apr 10	Seminar
	Seminar
Apr 17	Seminar
	Seminar