

Syllabus for FDNS 8560, Spring 2007

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Instructor Information

Name: Ruth B.S. Harris
Email: harrisrb@uga.edu
Office location: 712A Boyd Graduate Studies Building
Office hours: 4.00 - 6.00 p.m. Monday and Friday or by appointment
Phone: (706) 583-0816

Course Information

Course title: Dissertation/Thesis Proposal Writing
Course number: FDNS 8560
Course description: This course will encourage graduate students in FDNS to identify and develop their Thesis or Dissertation research project. Each student will write a research proposal that will be graded by their advisor and committee members. They will also give a Department-wide presentation of their proposal at the end of the semester. The proposal will be developed in a step-wise process with class presentation and discussion of each section of the proposal.
Course date: Monday, January 8, 2007 through Monday, April 30, 2007
Location: Room 306 Dawson Hall
Meeting day(s): Monday
Meeting time(s): 9.05 - 11.00 a.m.
Prerequisite(s): Co-requisite FDNS 8580 under instruction of your advisor

Course Goals

Course goals: The primary goal of this class is for each student to develop a research proposal. This requires them to identify a general research area, develop a specific research project and write a focused proposal. In the process of writing a proposal the students should develop their powers of critical thinking, learn the principles of effective experimental design and improve their scientific writing skills. By reviewing and critiquing each others proposals, students will learn to appreciate the diversity of graduate research in FDNS, UGA.

Textbooks

Recommended reading: *Essentials of writing biomedical research papers*, Mimi Zeigler, McGraw Hill, Second edition, 0-07-134544-2
Recommended reading: *Elements of Style*, William Strunk and E.B. White, Longman, Simon and Schuster, Fourth Edition, 0-205-31342-6
Recommended reading: *On Writing*, Stephen King, Pocket Books, 2000, 0-671-02425-6

Policies

The class will start promptly at 9.05 a.m. There will be a 5 minute break half-way through the class.
All students are expected to remain for the entire class period and to participate in the discussion and comment of each others presentations. **The instructor does not respond to WebCT email.** If you need to contact Dr Harris, please use the email address harrisrb@uga.edu

Cell Phones

All phones and beepers must be turned off when you enter class. If you have to have a phone on for family reasons and receive a call during class you must leave the room to answer it and you will not be allowed to return to the classroom that day.

Academic Honesty

All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty". Each student is responsible to inform him- or herself about these standards before performing any academic work. Intentional plagiarism during the development of your research proposal is considered academic dishonesty. UGA's Student Honor Code: "I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others."

Attendance

Students are required to attend all class periods. In some cases absences can be excused. Excuses for anticipated absences must be cleared with the instructor before the absence (send an email to Dr Harris at harrisrb@uga.edu explaining the situation). Excused absences include, but are not limited to, court appearances, university business, verifiable illness, and certain family emergencies. Students with 3 unexcused absences will be dropped from this class.

Use of Your Name

If you prefer to not have your name called in class or your name posted, such as for class presentations, then please inform Dr Harris by email (harrisrb@uga.edu) within five days of the first class period.

Grading

Percent of Final Grade

Class Presentations:

Hypothesis and Rationale 5%

Outline of background and significance 5%

Specific Aims, experimental design and methods 5%

Discussion of experiments, time-line and budget 5%

Initial submission of proposal 30%

Revised proposal with changes made in response to review from committee 25%

Departmental Presentation 25%

Class Schedule FDNS 8560 Spring 2007

Date	Mondays 9.05 – 11.00 a.m.
January 8th	Introduction, Scientific writing
January 15th	No class- MLK Day

January 22nd	Scientific Writing
January 29th	Discussion of the content of the proposal and examples of each section
February 5th	Experimental Design
February 12th	Effective Presentations
February 19th	The ethics of scientific writing and recognition of plagiarism <i>Dr Timothy Bartness, Georgia State University</i>
February 26th	Presentation of outlines of background (10 min/person)
March 5th	Presentation of hypothesis and specific aims (10 min/person)
March 12th	Spring Break
March 19th	Presentation of experimental design and expected outcome (20 or 30 min/person)
March 26th	Presentation of experimental designs and expected outcome (20 or 30 min/person) First draft of written proposal due to advisor, committee members and Dr. Harris by 5.00 p.m.
March 30th	Presentation of experimental designs and expected outcome (20 or 30 min/person) Presentation of time lines and budgets (10 min/person)
April 2nd	Presentation of time lines and budgets (10 min/person)
April 9th	Student Presentations of Proposals Proposals and comments returned to students
April 16th	Student Presentations of Proposals
April 19th	Student Presentations of Proposals
April 23rd	Student Presentations of Proposals Submit final draft of proposal to Dr. Harris
April 30th	No Class (Last day of classes, Experimental Biology)