Professional Seminar Preparation
HOS 6934

Course Description: Instruction in the preparation and oral presentation of proposal and research seminars emphasizing presentation design and mechanics.

Student assignments: Students are required to present one proposal (20 min) and one research (12 min) seminar derived from a recent journal article selected by each student. The journal article must be approved by at least one of the instructors. The proposal seminar should describe the research problem and the experiments used to answer the posed question(s). This should include background into why this question/problem is of interest, as well as a clear statement of the objective(s) and hypothesis(es) tested. No data or results will be presented during this seminar. The research seminar should be similar to an oral presentation that is typically given at a scientific meeting. This presentation should briefly introduce the research problem, followed by results and a discussion of their significance.

Class attendance: Class attendance is mandatory. Excused absences require advance notice when possible and documentation such as a note from a medical professional.

Grading: Grades will be assigned based on achievement of the learning objectives listed below, class participation (60%), and class attendance (40%). The following scale will be used: 93 to 100 = A; 90 to 92 = A-; 87 to 89 = B+; 83 to 86 = B; 80 to 82 = B-; 77 to 79 = C+; 73 to 76 = C; 70 to 72 = C-; 67 to 69 = D+; 63 to 66 = D; 60 to 62 = D-; < 59.9 = E.

Make-up policy: In the event that a student has an excused absence on the day of his/her presentation, the instructors will work with the student to reschedule the presentation.

Learning Objectives:
At the conclusion of this course, the student will:

- Organize and prepare research and proposal seminars.
- Satisfactorily deliver both types of seminars in class.
- Critically evaluate and provide constructive criticism of presentations made by other students enrolled in the course.

Students with disabilities: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor(s) when requesting accommodation.
Instructors:
Jeffrey G. Williamson     Donald J. Huber
Professor       Professor
Horticultural Sciences Department   Horticultural Sciences Department
Office: Rm. 2113 Fifield Hall    Office: Rm. 1213 Fifield Hall
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Office hours: MWF, 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Office hours: TR, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m

Prerequisites:  None (required for all incoming HS graduate students).

Credit hours:  1

Frequency:  Offered Fall semesters.

Meeting Times:  TBA (example: Tuesday, period 8).

Location:  TBA

Course format:  Discussion and student presentations.

Text:  There is no required textbook for this course. There is no outside reading list.

Academic Honesty, Software Use, UF Counseling Services, Services for Students with Disabilities

In 1995 the UF student body enacted an honor code and voluntarily committed itself to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. When students enroll at the university, they commit themselves to the standard drafted and enacted by students.

In adopting this honor code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the university community. Students who enroll at the university commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the honor code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the honor code is bound by honor to take corrective action. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon community acceptance and enforcement of the honor code.

The Honor Pledge: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

On all work submitted for credit by students at the university, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

The university requires all members of its community to be honest in all endeavors. A fundamental principle is that the whole process of learning and pursuit of knowledge is
diminished by cheating, plagiarism and other acts of academic dishonesty. In addition, every dishonest act in the academic environment affects other students adversely, from the skewing of the grading curve to giving unfair advantage for honors or for professional or graduate school admission. Therefore, the university will take severe action against dishonest students. Similarly, measures will be taken against faculty, staff and administrators who practice dishonest or demeaning behavior.

Students should report any condition that facilitates dishonesty to the instructor, department chair, college dean, Student Honor Council, or Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution in the Dean of Students Office.

(Source: 2010-2011 Undergraduate Catalog)

It is assumed all work will be completed independently unless the assignment is defined as a group project, in writing by the instructor.

This policy will be vigorously upheld at all times in this course.

**University of Florida Counseling Services:** Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals which interfere with their academic performance. These resources include:

1. **University Counseling Center**, 301 Peabody Halle, 392-1575, personal and career counseling.
2. **Student Mental Health**, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, for personal counseling.
3. **Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)**, Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, for sexual assault counseling.
4. **Career Resource Center**, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling.

**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.