

Horticultural Sciences Seminar

HOS 6931

Mondays as scheduled (4 to 5 pm); Room 2316 Fifield Hall

Spring 2018

Instructor	Carlene A. Chase	Phone	(352) 273-4770
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Office Hours	Fridays 1 PM - 3 PM or by appointment		

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). Students present their proposed research 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 project justification, review of key pertinent literature, objectives, hypothesis, and procedure (including experimental design, treatments, and statistical analyses to be used). Students who have already completed some experiments may include some preliminary data.

Prerequisite: HOS 6934 – Professional Seminar Preparation

Required Text: 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.

Grades: Students will be assigned a grade of satisfactory or unsatisfactory.

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.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. The Counseling and Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. 3190 Radio Road, 392-1575, www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc.

Students Requiring Accommodations: 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. 001 Reid Hall, 392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/.

Course Evaluation: Constructive feedback from students via course evaluation is requested to contribute to enhancing course quality. Students are requested to complete online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu> when advised that the evaluation system is open.

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. 8.
2. Submit seminar title via email – by Jan. 22.

3. Submit draft abstract – by Jan. 29.
 4. Submit draft presentation – 2 weeks prior to seminar.
 5. Supervisor-approved final abstract and biographical sketch – 1 week prior to seminar
 6. Seminar – (25 minute presentation, 5 minutes for questions).
 7. Seminar critiques – immediately after each seminar.
- A written research proposal 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

Date	Activity
Jan 8	Organizational meeting
Jan 16	Deadline to select seminar date
Jan 22	Deadline for seminar titles
Jan 29	Deadline for draft abstracts
Feb 12	2 Seminars
Feb 19	2 Seminars
Feb 26	2 Seminars
Mar 5	Spring Break
Mar 12	2 Seminars
Mar 19	2 Seminars
Mar 26	2 Seminars
Apr 2	2 Seminars
Apr 9	2 Seminars
Apr 16	2 Seminars
Apr 23	2 Seminars