

NS 398: Senior Research Proposal Preparation Fall 2008

Lecture:	Tuesdays 12:00 – 1:00 Location MLH310	
Instructor:	Matthew Brady, Ph.D. MLH 321 792-2828 mjbrady@lsc.edu	Office Hours: M 12:00pm-2:00pm

**Required
Materials
Objective**

Three ring binder, research notebook, dividers with tabs

This course will help you prepare the proposal for your Senior Project, which you will complete while enrolled for xx499 credits. In the process of preparing your senior-research proposal, you will become familiar with the procedure by which proposals are prepared and submitted to funding agencies like the National Science Foundation (NSF). The format of your proposal will be similar that of an NSF proposal. The reason the funding agencies, and we, use this procedure and format is to insure that the research projects are well conceived, carefully planned, and have a reasonable chance of success.

All senior-project proposals will be reviewed by a board of Natural Science faculty members. The proposals will be accepted, accepted with minor revisions, or returned for major revisions with a request for resubmission during the next semester's review. The review board will recommend grades for each research proposal.

NOTE: If you do not intend on conducting the research yourself, you should still write the proposal as if you were. If this is done sufficiently well, anyone should be able to assume the role of the experimenter and follow the research you have proposed

Class Meeting

You will meet with the instructor weekly. At these meetings, I will ask about your progress and answer any questions you have. Missing a weekly meeting with the instructor will result in a 10% reduction in your final grade.

Access

If you feel there is any physical or mental challenge to you that impedes your ability to participate in the class, please see me so we can remove or correct the problem. If you have any special medical needs and the building had to be quickly evacuated, also please inform me. Assistance with accommodation can also be found at the Office of Student Life, Room 111, Reid Centennial Hall.

**Curricular
Context**

This class satisfies part of the Division of Natural Science research requirements for Chemistry, Geochemistry, Environmental Field Biology, Human Biology, Math, Natural Science Composite, and Natural Science Secondary Education majors. The goal of this requirement is to involve you in the process by which new knowledge is generated in natural-science disciplines.

Advisor

After you have chosen an advisor, you should work closely with them to make sure you are using appropriate references, correct citation style, and addressing content. To ensure this communication all work you turn in must be signed off by the advisor. Do not wait until the last minute to get your advisor's signature as I will not be sympathetic to the excuse that you could not find your advisor in the 12th hour

Late Work

Late work is not acceptable. Granting agencies are very strict with deadlines. If there is an unavoidable event that occurs causing you to miss a deadline, you must notify me as far in advance as possible. If you are late with an assignment, I will still accept the work, but you will receive no credit for it. Exceptions to this policy will not be made except under special circumstances, which I may ask you to document. **MISSING THE SECOND ROUGH DRAFT OR FINAL PAPER DEADLINES WILL RESULT IN AN "F" for 398 – SEE THE RFP. ALL ASSIGNED WORK MUST BE COMPLETED OR YOU WILL RECEIVE AN "F".**

Academic Honesty

In the event of academic dishonesty, those involved will be disciplined to the fullest extent possible. This includes receiving an "F" grade for the course and referral of the violation of the *Student Code of Conduct* to the Vice President for Student Affairs (see *LCSC Student Handbook*, page 26). As defined on pages 32-33 of the *LCSC Student Handbook*, Academic Dishonesty is any of the following:

- **Cheating** – intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. The term academic exercise includes all forms of work submitted for credit hours.
- **Fabrication** – intentional and/or unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or the source of any information in an academic exercise
- **Collusion** – facilitating academic dishonesty -- intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of Academic Dishonesty.
- **Plagiarism** – the deliberate adoption or reproduction of ideas or words or statements of another person as one's own without acknowledgment.

Evaluation

ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED OR YOU WILL RECEIVE A FAILING GRADE.

Exercise	Points	Your Score
<i>Proposal Preparation</i>		
Topic Proposals	20	
Topic Introduction	50	
Research Log 1	20	
Research Log 2	20	
Research Plan	50	
Presentation	100	
Detailed Outline	70	
Rough Draft	100	
Peer Review	20	
Faculty Advisor Interaction	50	
<i>Attendance at department seminars and senior seminars</i>	100	
<i>Faculty Review Board Evaluation</i>	400	
Total	1000	

Grade Scale

		A	100.0-93.0%	A-	92.9-90.0%
B+	89.9-87.0%	B	86.9-83.0%	B-	82.9-80.0%
C+	79.9-77.0%	C	76.9-73.0%	C-	72.9-70.0%
D+	69.9-67.0%	D	66.9-60.0%	F	<60.0%

Important academic dates:

The last date to withdraw from this course without a W on your transcript is Sept. 8

The last date to drop this class without a permanent entry on your transcript is Nov. 7

After that date, withdrawal is permitted by petition only and approval of the division chair. The division chair requires documentation of extraordinary circumstances that prevented you from withdrawing by the deadline.

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Course Outline and due-dates, Fall 2008- *note: this schedule is subject to change! Changes will be announced during scheduled class time and posted on LCWarriorMail.*

- **note seminars are not scheduled yet but will normally be held Thursdays noon-1:00**

Week	Date	Assignment due	Comments
1	T Aug. 26	Start research log	
2	T Sep. 2	Research to choose topics (2)	You must discuss these with your potential advisors
3	T Sep. 9	Topic Proposals (2) to me	
4	T Sep. 16	Chosen Topic Introduction to me	Have your advisor look these over before handing them to me.
5	T Sep. 23	Research plan to advisor	
6	T Sep. 30	Research plan to me	Hand in to me both the original that you gave to your advisor as well as the following draft
7	T Oct. 7	1) Detailed Proposal Outline to your advisor 2) Turn in research log to me	
8	T Oct. 14	Detailed Proposal Outline to me	Hand in to me both the original that you gave to your advisor as well as the following draft
9	T Oct. 21	Presentation outline to me	
10	T Oct. 28	Research presentations MLH 310	Your presentation will be evaluated by students in NS 380 as well as faculty within the division
11	T Nov. 4	1 st Rough Draft for peer review (bring to class)	You will complete a peer review during class time
12	T Nov. 11	1 st Rough Draft to your advisor; send me draft file for review by NS 380 students	
13	T Nov. 18	Revised Rough Draft to me	Hand in to me both the original that you gave to your advisor as well as the following draft
14	T Nov. 25	No class; Thanksgiving break	
15	T Dec. 2	1) Final Draft to your advisor 2) Research log to me	
16	T Dec. 9	Final Draft to me	Hand in to me both the original that you gave to your advisor as well as the following draft