



Syllabus for ALD 118C: McNair Seminar

Spring 2019

Wednesdays 5-6 PM, MAI 220F

Office: SSB 4.410

Instructors:

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Teaching Assistants:

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COURSE SEMINAR DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to provide an experience for students to familiarize themselves with the academic discipline, to establish and center their research and to prepare for their pursuit of graduate studies programs. This semester, students will begin researching their respective fields in order to gain a better understanding of how they fit within their academic discipline(s), and vice versa. Through writing assignments, course work, guest speakers, and readings, students will explore the culture of their discipline, including key issues, research methodologies, publications, and scholars in their field. The course is designed for students to become acquainted with their field so that they are better prepared to work with and/or challenge current research produced in their areas of interest, as well as prepare students to think about their graduate school application processes.

Tips for success:

This course is designed to enable you to take responsibility for your learning and research. This requires self-discipline and self-management of your own time. Be proactive about these assignments and budget your time/energy accordingly.

Be proactive in consulting your faculty mentors to become better acquainted with methodologies, literature, and approaches in your field of interest.

CLASS POLICIES

Attendance and Participation

To maintain a rich conversation that we can all cultivate throughout the semester, student attendance, timeliness, preparation, and engagement are essential. We understand that things come up; as such, you are allowed one absence (excused or unexcused) throughout the course of the semester. With each additional absence, we will lower your final grade by **one letter grade each subsequent time**.

Cell Phones and Email during Class Time

Please let those in personal and professional life know that you are not available during class time. Limit access to personal computing devices only during times in class when we are accessing class materials or you are using the device to take notes, participate in class instruction and/or learning.

GRADING

Assignment	Percentage	Due Dates
Attendance/Participation	75%	
Research Presentation	25%	

ASSIGNMENTS

Attendance/Participation – 75%

You are expected to attend class and be an active participant in the class. This will include participating in conversations, interacting with any guest speakers, etc.

Presentation – 25%

Presentations: The presentation will be to give an update on your current research. This will consist of a brief literature review, methods section, preliminary results, next steps. If there are no preliminary results, you will be expected to create an expected results section. If preliminary results are not what you expected you will still need to present those and explain what these results mean

COURSE OUTLINE

Date	Course Content	Assignments Due
1/23	Brief Update on Research Project	5 min conversation
1/30	Presentation from LBJ Research Group	
2/6	Discussion of Summer Programs	2/7
2/13	Grad Life Problems – Helping Family Understand	2/14
2/20	Grad Life Problems – Financial Awareness and Surviving	
2/27	UNT Recap	
2/28	Research Update	
3/6	Grad Life Problems – Relationships	
3/13	Research Update	
3/27	Grade Life Problems – I’m a PhD, now what?	
4/3	Research Update	
4/10	Grad Life Problems – Department Politics	
4/17	SRI Orientation	
4/24	McNair End of Year Event	

Religious Holidays

By UT Austin policy, you must notify us of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Use of Canvas

This course requires the use of Canvas, a Web-based course management system with password-protected access at <http://canvas.utexas.edu/> to distribute course materials, to communicate and collaborate online, and to post grades. You can find support in using Canvas at <http://guides.instructure.com/>.

Documented Disability Statement

Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at (512) 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (video phone). We are not required to provide accommodations without an official accommodation letter from SSD.

- Contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (video phone) or reference SSD's website for more disability-related information: http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/for_cstudents.php

Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. You should refer to the Student Judicial Services web site at <http://www.utexas.edu/depts/dos/sjs/> to access the official University policies and procedures on scholastic dishonesty as well as further elaboration on what constitutes scholastic dishonesty. Please see the following website and view the video for information on plagiarism. <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/plagiarism>