

Graduate Research Orientation and Perspectives AGRO/HORT/SOIL 505

Fall 2020 Syllabus

Tuesdays 10:30-11:45 am: on-line synchronous via Canvas/zoom
Thursdays 10:30-11:45 am: currently planned face-to-face in Skeen Hall N120
Fridays 3:30-4:30 pm: on-line graduate seminar series via zoom

Special Fall 2020 Course Title

Love (Graduate School) in the Time of COVID-19

Instructor	Dr. Niall Hanan	Office	N348, Skeen Hall
Phone	(575) 646-3335	e-mail	nhanan@nmsu.edu
Office hours	Any time by appointment		

Course Description/Objectives:

Introduction to graduate-level scientific research including (i) Introduction to Graduate School (expectations and procedures), (ii) Science Communication (approaches and structures for oral and written communication); (iii) Scientific Method (hypothesis generation and reasoning); and (iv) preparation of individual research proposals, incorporating skills associated with (ii) and (iii).

Course Outcomes:

Students will gain insight into the nature of scientific research and skills vital for their graduate research program and future careers in science, including critical thinking and hypothesis generation, scientific argumentation and the structure of scientific writing. Students will work independently to draft either (i) a proposal for their thesis or dissertation research or (ii) for more advanced students who have already completed their research proposal, a new proposal for future research suitable for submission to a funding agency.

Course Materials (Required Reading):

The Big Ratchet: how humanity thrives in the face of natural crisis: A biography of an ingenious species. Ruth Defries, 2014, Basic Books, NY. (Note: NMSU Book Store has ordered copies).

Assignments and Grading:

Grading will be based on: (i) attendance and participation in all class meetings (10%); (ii) bi-weekly bulleted outlines of each section of your research proposal (20%); (iii) end of semester final research proposal (25%); (iv) submission of short critical reviews/summaries for each chapter of the class reading (15%); (v) submission of constructive comments on peer (classmate) proposal sections (15%); (vi) peer-evaluations for Friday seminar speakers (15%).

POLICIES

CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Students are required to attend every class period and the PES Friday Seminars (3:30-4:20). In Fall 2020, 2 of 3 meetings are planned on-line, with 1 meeting planned as partially face-to-face (depending on enrollment and room capacity). Students may discuss with instructor if they prefer not to attend face-to-face meetings. Logging in to a zoom conference or sitting in a classroom is not the same as participation in class: active participation is required and considered in grades. Do not attend in-person if you are sick, but do notify the instructor as soon as possible if you cannot attend. Three unexcused absences, late arrivals and/or early departures will result in reduction of one letter grade. Six unexcused absences, late arrivals and/or early departures will result in failure of class.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Late assignments lose a grade point; assignments not accepted if more than 3 days late.

Discrimination and Disability Accommodation

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) covers issues relating to disability and accommodations. If a student has questions or needs an accommodation in the classroom (all medical information is treated confidentially), contact:

Jesse Haas, Interim Director
Student Accessibility Services (SAS)
Corbett Center Student Union, Rm. 208
Phone: (575) 646-6840
E-mail: sas@nmsu.edu
Website: <http://sas.nmsu.edu/>

New Mexico State University, in compliance with applicable laws and in furtherance of its commitment to fostering an environment that welcomes and embraces diversity, does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, retaliation, serious medical condition, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, spousal affiliation, or protected veteran status in its programs and activities, including employment, admissions, and educational programs and activities. Inquiries may be directed to:

Laura Castille, Executive Director
Title IX and Section 504 Coordinator
Office of Institutional Equity
P.O. Box 30001, E. 1130 University Avenue
Las Cruces, NM 88003
575.646.3635; 575-646-7802 (TTY)
equity@nmsu.edu

Title IX prohibits sex harassment, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking and retaliation. For more information on discrimination or Title IX, or to file a complaint contact:

Laura Castille, Executive Director and Title IX Coordinator
Office of Institutional Equity (OIE)
O'Loughlin House, 1130 University Avenue
Phone: (575) 646-3635 E-mail: equity@nmsu.edu
Website: <http://equity.nmsu.edu/>

Other NMSU Resources:

NMSU Police Department:	(575) 646-3311	www.nmsupolice.com
NMSU Police Victim Services:	(575) 646-3424	
NMSU Counseling Center:	(575) 646-2731	
NMSU Dean of Students:	(575) 646-1722	
For Any On-campus Emergencies:	911	

Academic Resources

NMSU provides students with academic resources such as tutoring, final exam schedules, library and research, and transcript information on the [NMSU Current Student](#) webpage.