

Syllabus for ANSI/FDSC 5553
Interpreting Animal & Food Science Research

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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COURSE INFORMATION

Course title: Interpreting Animal & Food Science Research
Course number: FDSC/ANSI 5553
Course description: This course will increase the technical capabilities of advanced undergraduate and graduate students and will assist them in understanding, critically evaluating and communicating knowledgeably on the design, analyses and reporting of animal and food science research.
Location: 009 AGH
Meeting days: Tuesday, Thursday
Meeting Times: 9:30-10:15
Semester: Spring

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students should have graduate standing.

COURSE GOALS

- Explore the role of science in society and understand those factors that are important to effectively communicate results of scientific investigation in the field of animal and food sciences to the general public.
- Investigate the role of the media in communicating scientific investigation to the public, as well as the impact that the media can have on government and industry policy.
- Become familiar with different types of animal science and food science research, varied purposes for conducting research and ethical considerations for scientists.
- Acquire the capability to understand technical publications resulting from scientific study and to critically assess designs, protocols, analyses and reporting of scientific investigations.
- Improve technical communication skills – verbal and written.

EXPECTATIONS

This course is designed for students that have a sincere interest in improving their understanding of results from animal and food science research. Course grades will not reflect your technical knowledge *per se* (Ph.D. graduate students will have broader technical capabilities than M.S. students and students focusing on different disciplines will have different technical

backgrounds); but, rather, your effort towards achieving the stated course objectives. Accomplishment of the course objectives by students in ANSI/FDSC 5553 requires commitment and effort outside of class. It is imperative that you read the written materials that I provide, participate in classroom discussions concerning these materials, complete the out-of-class assignments, and turn in assignments when they are due (unexcused tardiness in submitting assignments results in a 5 point/day deduction in scores). It also is important that you have some fundamental understanding of statistical analysis principles.

Graduate students are frequently called upon to travel (to collect data, attend professional meetings, etc.) and may periodically miss scheduled classes, exams and assignment due-dates. Also, excusable circumstances can arise that prevent any student from attending a scheduled class. I will be as flexible as is possible in accommodating the specific needs of each individual student relative to these problems – but, to be considered as being “excused”, you must discuss your intention to miss a class, exam or due-date, as well as the reason that you will miss it, with me before you are to be absent. If you do not have a valid reason to miss class, then it will be in your best interest to attend each day.

GRADING POLICIES

Grades: Final grades will be determined using an accumulation of scores:

Homework/Quizzes/Assignments	25%
Exam A	25%
Exam B	25%
Final Project (Literature Review)	25%

The grade scale of 90% to 100% = A, 80% to 89% = B, 70% to 79% = C and 60% to 69% = D will be used to determine the final grade.

Exam Dates: TBD

Material Covered:

Because of the diversity of topics and/or specific areas of interest to students in the class that will be covered during the semester, combined with my intention to tailor the course each Spring to fit the needs of the students enrolled, it is not possible to assign a single text book or develop a packet of materials covering everything that we will discuss. I will spend a considerable amount of time assembling, copying and disseminating to you written materials that are current and relevant to our classroom discussions and I will periodically provide you with handouts that assist in conveying specific principles of interest. During the semester, we will read, discuss and/or evaluate materials that convey specific principles of interest, along with as many differing types of research publications as is possible, including (but not necessarily limited to) the following:

- Publications addressing technical communications skills and style guidelines
- Standards for ethical behavior in science
- Papers addressing factors that influence the relationship between science and the public

- Papers relating to the role of the media in dissemination of scientific results
- Materials concerning animal science research funding sources
- Scientific “Facts Sheets” and/or industry “Information Reports”
- Industry meeting proceedings
- Magazine and newspaper articles
- Professional meeting abstracts and proceedings
- Department and Experiment Station “Program Reports”
- Refereed Scientific Journal Articles

As we review these materials, we also will discuss experimental design, statistical analysis, making inferences from statistical analysis of data and presentations of scientific results across a variety of audiences. You will be asked several times during the semester to critically evaluate results from scientific studies.

POLICY SECTION

Policy on Dropping Exam Scores. No exam scores will be dropped.

Policy on Final Exam Relief. "In the event a student has three or more final exams scheduled for a single day, the student is entitled to arrange with the faculty member instructing the highest numbered course (4 digit course number), or two highest numbered courses if the student has four final exams on one day, an alternate exam time of mutual convenience during final exam week. Common final exams are not among those to be rescheduled." (University policy in the catalog)

Policy on Academic Dishonesty. Academic dishonesty or misconduct is neither condoned nor tolerated at Oklahoma State University. Academic dishonesty is behavior in which a deliberately fraudulent misrepresentation is employed in an attempt to gain undeserved intellectual credit, either for oneself or for another. Academic misconduct is behavior that results in intellectual advantage obtained by violating specific directions, rules, or accepted academic standards, but without deliberate intent or use of fraudulent means.

Policy on Attendance. Vacation plans, oversleeping, illness not sufficient to require medical attention, social activities (including fraternity, sorority, and residence hall activities), etc... are not sufficient reasons to miss a scheduled quiz or examination.

The only absences that will be excused are: (1) absence for a university approved field trip or activity, (2) absences for a death or serious injury in the family, (3) absences resulting from personal illness which are documented (signed note) by a physician or accompanied with a hospital receipt, and (4) absences resulting from extenuating circumstances not covered above, but discussed with the instructor prior to the absence.

If you know you will miss an exam inform the instructor as early as possible. You must e-mail the instructor with the reason for your absence. The written excuse must say when (date and time) you will take the make-up. You may not take an exam early. You must take the exam the day you return from your excused absence. Validity of other excuses for absence will be reviewed by case.

Policy on Notifying Instructor Regarding Absence. You must notify the instructor of your absence and the reasons for your absence by e-mail. It is not sufficient to notify the instructor verbally. An electronic record must be submitted.

Policy on turning-in late work. Assignments will not be accepted if they are turned in late for anything other than an **unexpected** university **excused** absence. For planned absences in which the date you will be absent is known ahead of time (school activities, etc) you will still be required to turn in the assignment prior to the due date or on the due date. Not being in class is not a valid excuse for not “knowing” an assignment was given.

Policy on Special Accommodation for Students. “According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, each student with a disability is responsible for notifying the University of his or her disability and to request accommodations. If any member of a class thinks that he/she has a qualified disability and needs special accommodations, he/she should notify the instructor and request verification of eligibility for accommodations from the Office of Student Disability Services, to ensure timely implementation of appropriate accommodations. Faculty have an obligation to respond when they receive official notice of a disability but are under no obligation to provide retroactive accommodations.