



SEMINAR SYLLABUS

Course Number: NEW 223 McNair Scholars Seminar	Semester: Spring 2010; Room: 326 Graves Hall Day and Time: Friday, 7:45 - 8:50 AM (tentative)
Instructor: Dr. Lisa M. Hooper 2010 McNair Scholars Faculty Fellow; Assistant Professor, Educational Studies in Psychology, Research Methodology, and Counseling; School Psychology	Contact Information: Office: 315 B Graves Hall Office Hours: By appointment Phone: (205) 348-5611 E-mail: lhooper@bamaed.ua.edu Website: www.bama.ua.edu/~lhooper
Facilitator: Dr. Nancy Campbell Director, McNair Scholars Program and Adjunct Faculty Member, New College; Honors College	Contact Information: Office: 305 Lloyd Hall Office Hours: Drop-in and by appointment Phone: (205) 348-0580 E-mail: nancy.campbell@ua.edu Program Website: http://graduate.ua.edu/mcnair Course Website: http://www.elearning.ua.edu
Other Key Contact Personnel and Information: Ms. Stephanie Hicks McNair Scholar's Program Assistant Ms. Raven Bennett Graduate Assistant Ms. Keisha Wilson Graduate Assistant	Contact Information: Office: 303 Lloyd Hall Phone: (205) 348-0572 E-mail: stephanie.hicks@ua.edu Office: 304 Lloyd Hall Phone: (205) 348-0576 E-mail: rmbennett@crimson.ua.edu Office: 305 Lloyd Hall Phone: (205) 348-0575 E-mail: knwilson@crimson.ua.edu

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

NEW 223 McNair Scholars Seminar (one credit hour)

To provide knowledge and skills in a variety of areas to strengthen personal, academic, and research competencies vital to success in graduate programs.

PREREQUISITE:

2010 McNair Scholar status

REQUIRED TEXT:

Leedy, P. D., & Ormrod, J. E. (2005). Practical research: Planning and design (8th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

The instructor may assign additional readings, handouts, web-based activities throughout the semester.

RECOMMENDED TEXT AND RESOURCES:

American Psychological Association. (2009). Publication manual of the American psychological association (6th edition). Washington, DC: Author. (**or other appropriate style manual**)

Discipline-specific Code of Ethics—related to the ethical conduct of research with human/animal subjects.

COURSE OBJECTIVES (MCNAIR SCHOLARS' LEARNING OUTCOMES):

The primary purpose of the McNair Scholars Seminar is to prepare students for the Summer 2010 Research Internship (UH 305). As part of the seminar, each student is responsible for selecting a Faculty Mentor; completing a written research proposal to be implemented for UH 305; and presenting the research proposal orally in the context of the seminar.

By the completion of this course, students will have:

1. Collaborated with faculty to formulate a specific research topic and research questions or hypotheses
2. Conducted literature review relevant to a research topic
3. Collaborated with faculty to develop applicable research methodology
4. Written a research proposal outlining key elements of the proposed project
5. Presented, if applicable, a proposal to the ethics oversight board
6. Developed a budget for the proposed research
7. Developed a timeline for the proposed research
8. Presented the research proposal orally in seminar
9. Initiated a plan to prepare for taking graduate school entrance exam

COURSE GRADING/ATTENDANCE SCALE:

Grading is "pass" or "fail" (i.e., grade of "P" or "F"). There are no exams or quizzes. In order to earn a grade of "P" the following requirements must be met:

1. Regular attendance and participation in class
2. Completion of assignments in a timely manner (see below)
3. Submission of an acceptable written research proposal for UH 305
4. Submission, if relevant, of IRB or IACUC proposal
5. Oral presentation of research proposal in class as scheduled (see below)
6. Register for a Kaplan GRE test preparation class; participate when scheduled
7. Maintain status as a McNair Scholar per program requirements, which includes regular, scheduled contact with Faculty Mentor, Graduate Mentor, and MSP Director (at least weekly with McNair staff)

Class Participation and Attendance Policy

The most important seminar requirement is regular attendance. It is expected that students will arrive on time and stay for the entire seminar. Involvement in class discussions and activities and interaction with your fellow scholars are important aspects of this class. It is impossible to participate in class if you are not present.

Make-up Policy:

The instructors will work with students to accommodate legitimate needs for flexibility in completing work, such as illness that necessitates an absence from class or adjustment in the deadline for an assignment. Students are, of course, expected to be responsible, e.g., by contacting the instructor immediately in case of any problems completing the requirements for the class and by providing, if needed, any documentation of illness or other extenuating circumstances that might be relevant. Specific arrangements will be made on a case-by-case basis, depending upon circumstances and the nature of the missed work.

Code of Academic Conduct:

All students in attendance at the University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. Academic misconduct includes all acts of dishonesty in any academically related matter and any knowing or intentional help or attempt to help, or conspiracy to help, another student.

Policy on Academic Misconduct:

All acts of dishonesty in any work constitute academic misconduct. The University of Alabama Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Policy will be followed in the event of suspected academic misconduct. For more information, see <http://faculty senate.ua.edu/handbook/append-c.html>

Conduct and Respect:

Students' behavior is governed by the UA Code of Student Conduct, which is accessible through UA's website. Moreover, the McNair Scholars Program not only respects but actively supports diversity among members of the academic community, which enriches intellectual and personal experiences for all. The instructor and students in this course will act with integrity and strive to engage in equitable verbal and nonverbal behavior with respect to differences arising from age, gender, race, ethnicity, physical ability, religious preferences, sexual orientation, and other differences among us.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

The University is committed to making programs and services accessible to individuals with disabilities and seeks to be responsive to the needs of qualified students with disabilities. Students who may have special needs because of a disability or chronic illness are invited to contact the Office of Disability Services at 348-4285. Students with disabilities who are in need of accommodations relative to class attendance/arrival, course requirements, or related aspects of performance are asked to initiate such requests with the instructor prior to their anticipated need. Such requests will be accommodated within constraints of fairness and timeliness with regard for all other students enrolled for the course.

SEVERE WEATHER POLICY

In the event of severe weather, all classes will meet as planned unless the University of Alabama in conjunction with the National Weather Service recommends alternative safety precautions (e.g., close the university). Please note that for this class, we will follow the weather advisory posted on the University of Alabama homepage (<http://ua.edu/>) to inform class cancellations or changes.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

Since all classes do not progress at the same rate, the instructor may wish to change or modify the schedule and the scheduled assignments. Also, please note that in the event classes are cancelled **due to weather** the instructor may wish to change or modify the schedule.

CLASS	TOPIC	PRESENTERS	READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS
Class 1: January 8	Review Syllabus; Complete IRB online Training http://www.osp.ua.edu/irbtraining.html	Drs. Hooper & Campbell	No seminar meeting	
Class 2: January 15	Introduction, Syllabus, Seminar Overview	Dr. Hooper		Submit ethics training documentation
Class 3: January 22	IRB, IACUC, & Research Ethics	Dr. Tanta Myles	Main text: (101-106) UA IRB Website	See Dr. Hooper for necessary support (e.g., style manual and code of ethics)
Class 4: January 29	The Nature of Intellectual Inquiry; Research Models and Methodologies	Dr. Hooper	Chapters (Chps.): 1, 3, & 5; McNair journal article	Confirm Faculty Mentor selections and topic with Dr. Campbell
Class 5: February 5	Literature Searches and Literature Reviews Meet @Gorgas Library 2 nd Floor	Brett Spencer	Chps.: 2 & 4	Bring to seminar written statement of research interest; meet with Librarian Mentor
Class 6: February 12	Research in the Social Sciences and Humanities	Dr. Hooper	Chps.: 9 & 10	Bring to seminar REVISED written statement of research interest
Class 7: February 19	The McNair Research Experience	Panel of McNair Scholars		Bring drafts of lit review in progress to discuss; also, review sample IRB materials
Class 8: February 26	Research in the "Hard" Sciences	Dr. Hooper	Chps.: 7 & 8	Bring drafts of IRB proposal
Class 9: March 5	Writing the Research Proposal	Drs. Campbell & Hooper	Chps.: 5 & 6	Bring REVISED drafts of IRB proposal
Class 10: March 12	Working with Faculty Mentors and a Committee	Faculty panel		Continue review and discussion of work in progress
Class 11: March 19	Spring Break		No seminar meeting	
Classes 12-14: March 26 – April 9	(Work closely with Faculty Mentors to complete research proposals)	Faculty Mentors; MSP staff also available as needed	Follow Research Proposal Outline to complete proposals (No seminar meetings)	Update MSP staff often re: work with Faculty Mentor and research proposal
Class 15: April 16	Planning Budgets and Timetables for Research Proposal	Dr. Campbell	Relevant sections of the Scholars' Handbook	Review examples of budgets, timetables in sample proposals at MSP offices
Note: During April, practice with GA for 10-minute oral presentations of research proposal for seminar (scheduled below); PowerPoint and/or handouts recommended; ask for video feedback during practice.				
Two secrets to great presentations: (1) Prepare thoroughly and (2) Practice, practice, practice!				
Class 16: April 23	Scholar Presentations (10-12 minute presentations & QA)	Drs. Hooper & Campbell	Prepare presentations	Continue practice of presentations for seminar
Class 17: April 30	Scholar Presentations (10-12 minute presentations & QA) Also: Research proposals due	Drs. Hooper & Campbell	Prepare presentations and finalize research proposal	Continue research according to timetable

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES AND SEMESTER-RELATED EVENTS:

1. UA Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Conference (Check for when proposal/abstracts are due)
2. UA Annual Graduate Student Association 24th Annual Research and Thesis Conference (**Saturday, March 6, 2010**; Check for conference location)
3. UA Honors Day (**April 9, 2010**)
4. UA Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Conference (**Thursday, April 15, 2010**)
5. Check for departmental and campus-wide announcements for relevant activities (e.g., symposia, lectures, conferences, and other presentations on research and scholarship). Please be sure to share with your fellow scholars.
6. **McNair Scholars Honors Convocation; details to be discussed in seminar. (Thursday, April 1, 2010, 5:30 – 7:00 PM)**

OTHER IMPORTANT "FUTURE" DATES AND RELATED EVENTS:

1. UH 305: Summer I and most of II; approximately June – July
2. McNair conference travel: TBA, probably late July or early August
3. UA GTA Workshop: Exact dates TBA, mid-August
4. **UA 11th Annual McNair Scholars Research Conference:** TBA, probably in October

ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES:

INSTRUCTOR AVAILABILITY:

If, at anytime, you wish to discuss any issue related to the class with me, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am very willing to set up an appointment with you at a time outside of class. Your suggestions and ideas are always welcome, both during class and outside of class.

All messages will be returned within 48 hours. However, because technology (phone and e-mail) is not without its limitations, IF you do not hear back from me within 48 hours please contact me again. I want to hear from you and want your questions to be answered in a timely manner.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY STATEMENT (RESPECT FOR INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES):

This instructor does not believe that all students think the same way, but she does expect in the context of the classroom and in students' role as scholars, students will be accepting of ALL differences—including cultural and racial differences—and strive to understand how other students' perspectives, behaviors, and world views are different from their own.

Note: Electronic Device Notice

As a matter of courtesy to your fellow scholars and the instructor, please turn off and do not use your PDAs, cell phones, and any other electronic devices during class.

