

**AGRO/HORT/SOIL 590/694—Graduate Seminar
Fall 2020
Friday, 3:30-4:20 pm on Zoom**

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-2pm or by appointment

COURSE OVERVIEW

The purpose of seminar is to teach science communication skills through graduate student presentations, visiting scholar lectures and peer evaluation.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After completing this course, students:

- will have presented a science presentation to an audience
- will learn to give objective and constructive criticism
- evaluate presentations for completeness and clarity

COURSE MATERIALS:

There are no required materials for this course.

Canvas: (<http://learn.nmsu.edu>) will be the main communication tool for this course. Get in the habit of checking it frequently. You will submit your evaluation of speakers via canvas. We will discuss this more on January 31.

COURSE ZOOM ADDRESS:

[HTTPS://NMSU.ZOOM.US/J/99958003515](https://nmsu.zoom.us/j/99958003515)

MEETING ID: 999 5800 3515

Grading Policy

Below are listed the assignments from which your grade will be derived.

Assignments in this course:

Assignments	How many	Points each/total	Weight
Attendance at all class meetings	14	50/700	25%
Peer evaluations of all speakers	13*	50/650	25%
Your presentation	1	100	50%
Total		1,450	100%

Grading Scale:

Percentage	Points	Grade
90-100%	1,305-1450	A
80-89%	1,160-1,304	B
70-79%	1,015-1,159	C
60-69%	870-1,014	D
59% and Below	Below 869	F

GRADED ASSIGNMENTS:

Attendance

All students are expected to attend every seminar via zoom. This is mandatory. I recognize that you may have other obligations during the semester which will preclude you from attending synchronously but please make every effort to attend 'live' if possible. If you're unable to attend live, please watch the zoom recording of the speaker and then provide your feedback.

Peer evaluations

Learning to give and receive constructive feedback is part of this course. You will be required to submit through Canvas feedback on every presentation, both other students and guest lecturers. Evaluation comments on student presentations will be shared anonymously with the student presenter so they may know what they're doing well and areas where they can improve. It is important to remember that learning to communicate your science is vital for success. The most groundbreaking science advancements mean nothing if they can't be communicated (especially to those who have funding to provide!)

You will also be asked to evaluate guest lecturers, though this will not be shared with them. Learning to evaluate the communication skills of others helps refine your own skills.

Your presentation

Masters and early-stage PhD students will be assigned 20 minute time slots with 5 minutes each for questions. PhD students nearing completion of their degrees will be assigned 40 minute slots with 10 minutes for questions. If you are a Masters candidate or early-stage PhD student, you will share the presentation with another student, so 2 presenters on some days.

Your major advisor is expected to 'attend' your presentation and introduce you, therefore, **please be sure to ask them if there are days they are not available prior to letting me know your available dates.** If they are not available, you may choose someone else on your committee to present you. If neither of those work, you may choose someone else on faculty, or ask me to present you. Your presenter is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!**

You are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to have a "rehearsal" prior to your presentation with your advisor and/or others who can provide you with helpful feedback before your assigned day. I am happy to be one of those people if you choose. (I was in theatre for 20 years, and I sit on two editorial boards so am happy to help even if I don't know your specific research.) Please be sure to have a good strong WiFi signal, as well as a good microphone, on your presentation day; do not try to do your presentation on your phone.

Everyone must present their abstract no less than 1 week prior to their presentation.

Your abstracts are shared via email in the department and college. Not having your abstract lowers attendance and reflects poorly on you, as well as results in a ½ letter grade reduction for your presentation.

The key to a good scientific presentation is to place your research in a larger context. The majority of your audience will not know why your science is important, so providing background information and explaining the importance of your project is vital. Explain why your research is interesting and how it relates to other areas. Don't forget to summarize your research and talk about what next steps are, either in your research or for other researchers to consider. Provide a take-home message! Remember to use language and terminology that everyone understands and don't use abbreviations unless you explain what they mean. Using jargon alienates the audience and makes your presentation less successful.

Academic Misconduct

Academic and non-academic misconduct: The Student Code of Conduct defines academic misconduct, non-academic misconduct and the consequences or penalties for each. The Student Code of Conduct is available in the NMSU Student Handbook online:

<http://studenthandbook.nmsu.edu/>

Academic misconduct is explained here:

<http://studenthandbook.nmsu.edu/student-code-of-conduct/academic-misconduct/>

Discrimination and Disability Accommodation

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADA) 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:

Main Campus
Student Accessibility Services (SAS)
Corbett Center Student Union Room 208
Trudy Luken, Director
575-646-6840
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 the 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	
Any On-campus Emergencies:	911	