

Research Methods for Chemical Engineers

ECH 6937 Section 0258

Class Periods: Monday, Period 7 (1:55 PM-2:45 PM)

Location: 415 Black Hall

Academic Term: Spring 2019

Instructors:

VJ Tocco

vjtocco@ufl.edu

219 ChE

Carlos Rinaldi

carlos.rinaldi@ufl.edu

289 ChE

Teaching Assistants: None

Course Description

Methods, mechanics and best practices of planning, performing, documenting and disseminating independent engineering research

Course Pre-Requisites / Co-Requisites

Course is open to first-year doctoral students in chemical engineering. Research-oriented master's students or undergraduates may enroll with permission of research advisor.)

Course Objectives

Many first-year graduate students struggle to acclimate to the rigor, independence, and uncertainty of performing chemical engineering research. The aim of this course is to help new graduate students adjust to the methods, mechanics and best practices of the tasks associated with research, including finding and reading literature, designing experiments, and organizing and disseminating the results in a variety of contexts. Students will learn through guided modules and open discussion with accomplished researchers.

Course Schedule

- Week 1: (Re-) Introduction to research, the scientific method, and the Ph.D.
- Week 2: Responsible conduct of research
- Week 3: University resources, shared facilities, seminars and colloquia
- Week 4: Finding, organizing, reading, and critiquing literature
- Week 5: Journal club (student presentations)
- Week 6: Developing a research plan
- Week 7: Record-keeping (Stoppel)
- Week 8: Data processing and visualization
- Week 9: Developing style in scientific writing
- Week 10: Performing research in anticipation of a publication
- Week 11: The thesis proposal (Ziegler)
- Week 12: Effective verbal communication and networking
- Week 13: Designing posters and oral presentations (Hibbitts)
- Week 14: Class presentations (theory, justification and plan for first set of experiments)

Attendance Policy, Class Expectations, and Make-Up Policy

Attendance each week is required. Each unexcused absence beyond the first will result in a reduction of a letter grade. Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the Graduate Catalog (<http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#attendance>) and require appropriate documentation.

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Student Privacy

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see: <http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html>

Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care:

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc>, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu.

<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://www.crc.ufl.edu/>.

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

<https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>.

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

<https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>.

Student Complaints Campus: https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf.

On-Line Students Complaints: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>.