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:
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219 ChE 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.

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Counseling and Wellness Center: [http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc](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/](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](https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml).

**Career Resource Center**, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. [https://www.crc.ufl.edu/](https://www.crc.ufl.edu/).

**Library Support**, [http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask](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/](https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/).

