

Undergraduate Seminar on Advanced Research Topics

Instructor: J. Arthur Woodward, Visiting Professor, NTU

Course Title: Undergraduate Seminar on Advanced Research Topics

Credits: 3 credits; two hours of lecture, and one hour of outside work and consultation

Class meeting time: Tuesday, 10 am -12 noon.

Classroom: SB 16

Enrollment limits:

- (a) 15 students; having taken intro psychology required;
- (b) interest in applying to graduate school in the States or other English speaking Universities is required;
- (c) topics related to psychology preferred,
- (d) junior standing preferred but not required.

Enrollment procedure:

- (a) Interested Students will write a proposal (approximately two pages single spaced page limit) describing the areas of research in which they want to do advanced study in the seminar.**
- (b) The proposal should include: (1) description of the topic (3 sentences); (2) explanation of why you are interested (1/2 page); (3) Describe your topic in detail and explain why its important (one page); (4) description of your interest in graduate school(1/2 page); and, (4) your email address.**
- (c) Due date for written proposal: January 30, 2009**
- (d) Method of submission: Email to awoodward@ucmerced.edu**
- (e) Interview students with the best proposals during the first class meeting. The students to be interviewed will be notified by email prior to the first week of class.**

Course objectives:

- (1) Depth: Students will study their topics in greater detail than in a typical course;
- (2) English scientific writing: To provide opportunity for students to write a scholarly paper in English with mentoring;
- (3) Oral presentation: To provide the opportunity to improve oral presentations in English;
- (4) Applying to graduate school: To mentor students in all aspects of the applications process, including the identification of target universities, writing the statement of research interest and other applications materials, and getting helpful recommendation letters from NTU faculty.

Course description:

This seminar will be centered about two themes: (1) topics selected in advance by students; and (2) the process of applying to graduate school.

Each student will make four oral presentations: introduce their topic of interest to the class; present the results of library and internet research on the topic, present a first draft of their research paper to the class; and make a 15 minute presentation of the final paper. This aspect of the course is designed to increase skills in oral presentation, which will increase the student's capability in serving as a teaching assistant in an English speaking university.

Students will consult with the instructor during and outside of class individually or in small groups to discuss their interests in attending graduate school. The instructor will assist the students in every aspect of the application process. Students will be asked to find one NTU professor who is an expert in the areas of their paper and ask them to review and comment on the content. The instructor will assist in the writing of the papers and will carefully edit them. If the papers are good enough they can be included with the application materials, and they can form a partial basis of the statement of research in the applications process.