

NFS 395
Research Methods
Fall 2021

Instructor: Dr. Paul Kindstedt
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Class Location: Lafayette L406

Class Meeting Time: Tuesday/Thursday; 8:30 – 9:45 am

Office Hours: Available by appointment.

Course Objectives: This course is designed to introduce new MS thesis and non-thesis (including AMP) graduate students to the process of conducting research from start to finish; from conception and refinement of a research question and hypothesis, to experimental planning, design, execution, data analysis and presentation, peer-reviewed publication and communication through the popular press.

Grading: Each student will give oral presentations to the class, each 10 minutes long including time for Q&A/discussion, on eight different aspects of their proposed research over the course of the semester. Each presentation will be worth 10% of the course grade. The remaining 20% of the course grade will be based on attendance and participation in class discussions.

Class oral presentations: 80%

Class attendance and participation: 20%

NFS 395 Course Syllabus – Fall 2021

Week 1	Introduction and Overview of the Course; Every Graduate Student has a Story
Week 2	In the Beginning: The Research Idea, the Specific Question, the Hypothesis
Week 3	Laying Down a Solid Foundation: The Literature Review – Literature Searches (Process and Mechanics), Library Resources Guest lecture: Christie Silkotch
Week 4	The Literature Review Continued – Crafting the Story/Framing the Objectives
Week 5	Choosing the Right Analytical Methods -General Considerations
Week 6	Choosing the Right Experimental Design and Statistical Analyses – General Considerations
Week 7 and 8	Essential Aspects of Research in Selected Fields of NFS - Guest lectures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Microbiology Research – Andrea Etter • Behavior, Nutrition and Health Research – Lizzy Pope • Food and Culture/Qualitative Research – Amy Trubek
Week 9	Required Trainings and Approvals. Execution of the Research Plan
Week 10	Communication of Research through Professional Meetings, Social Media and Public Media - Guest lecture: Jean Harvey Experiential non-thesis AMP research - Guest lecture: Todd Pritchard
Week 11	Preparation of the Journal Article. The Peer-review Process
Week 12	Grant Writing
Week 13	Managing Stress and the Unexpected
Week 14	Semester Summary and Reflection