



Course Syllabus

Navigating Interpersonal Interactions in Science Careers

NRM692

Fall Semester, 2017

Thursday 3:40 – 5:10 PM Arctic Health & Research Bldg 183

Instructor: Jessie Young-Robertson, Ph.D.

Co-instructors: Kaja Brix (Ph.D.), Megan Hillgartner, Sorina Seeley

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Office hours: (September) Wednesday 3:00 – 5:00, (October – December) Thursday 1:00 – 3:00

Course Description - This course is taught as a team effort between the teachers and the students. This course is the first of its kind at UAF. These are challenging topics, and we don't have all the answers. In fact, there aren't hard and fast ways to navigate these topics. The structure of each class will be 15 minutes of check-ins where each student talks about their challenges from the week and how they are addressing them. The group will provide feedback if the student requests it. After this, there will typically be a short lecture, an activity, and class discussion.

The classroom will be a safe space, wherein we will listen to each other, respect each other's opinions, and keep conversations confidential as necessary. There will be repetition of information as we practice the skills we develop during this class.

Students have the option of recording a StoryCorps with Dr. Young-Robertson (Jessie) during the second and the last week of class. Jessie will talk more about this on the first day of class.

Course Objectives - Upon completing this course, students will have some tools to manage the challenges of interpersonal interactions in science careers. Students will learn to: set and respect boundaries, give and receive feedback (interpersonal, supervisory, written documents), understand field safety protocols, understand the job hunting / application process for academic and agency positions, work on self-care and avoid burn-out, and other self-empowerment strategies to have a successful science career.

Grading - You will be graded on attendance (10 points per class), participation (10 points per class), weekly journal entries that are turned in the next class (5 points each), and two papers (100 points / 50 per paper). **Attendance** – This is simple. You need to show up. You are expected to notify Jessie the first week of the semester if you are planning to miss any classes. If you are sick, please text or call Jessie

(phone number is provided). **Participation** – I need to hear your voice during each class. We will all learn more if everyone takes an active role in each class.

Weekly journal entries – These are written in first person and do not need to be in an academic voice. These are your thoughts from class that week, feedback for us, what you learned, etc. These are to be 100 to 300 words in length. We expect proper grammar and punctuation. You get the full 5 points if you turn this in; you will not be graded on your ideas or thoughts.

Paper due September 7th (second week of class) – This paper is one page in length and has proper grammar and spelling. You will write about what your biggest challenges are at this point in your life and graduate career, and what you would like to work on during this class. Also address the statement: when I think about graduate school, I feel and think....

Paper due December 14th (last week of class) – This paper is one page in length and has proper grammar and spelling. You will revisit the first paper you wrote, and reflect on what you learned during the class and the tools you acquired to help you reach your goals / address your challenges.

Readings – There will only be one or two readings that will be discussed the next class period.

	Points
Attendance (16 classes x 10 points)	160
Participation (16 classes x 10 points)	160
Weekly journal entries (15 classes x 5 points)	75
Paper at the beginning of the semester	50
Paper at the end of the semester	50
Total	495

	TOPICS
31-Aug	Introduction to the class, what to expect, class discussion about what students want to cover, group norms, discussion of StoryCorps
7-Sep	Self-empowerment - discernment, teach people how to treat you, what are your core beliefs, what will you not yield on (working with self and others), submit 1 page paper
14-Sep	Diversity and inclusion, hearing / listening to each other, feedback (what is it, how do we give it, what usually goes wrong, why it is difficult), hand out article to discuss next week
21-Sep	Feedback - manuscripts, papers, reviews, written products in agency work, from negative to neutral, hand out article to discuss next week
28-Sep	Discuss article, Feedback - interpersonal, self, colleagues, supervisors, why we ask for permission to give it
5-Oct	Feedback - workforce differences (academia vs. agency vs. private sector) - guest lectures
12-Oct	Boundaries - why do we need them, what are they, what usually goes wrong, why they are difficult, how and why to set them, boundaries with self and others
19-Oct	Floating day - catch up, mid-semester review of class, identify additional topics to cover
26-Oct	The nature of the graduate student - advisor relationship, nature of the lab relationship, competition
2-Nov	Managing discriminatory behavior in science fields, having difficult conversations

9-Nov	Victim advocate on campus, know your rights, field safety and conduct
16-Nov	Job hunting, applying and interviewing - (academics: your CV and cover letter; agency: navigating applying to USAjobs or other job portals)
23-Nov	Transition from graduate school to the work force, changes in time management and expectations, defining success for yourself
30-Nov	defining your role as a supervisor or graduate advisor, scheduling final StoryCorps
7-Dec	avoiding or managing burn-out, boundaries with self, conducting self-care
14-Dec	Course wrap - up, submit final 1 page paper, discussions, feedback for the course on the next steps

Disability Services: Students with a physical or learning disability, who may need academic accommodations, should contact the Disability Services office. UAF Disability Services is located within the Center for Health and Counseling in the Whitaker Building on the corner of Yukon Drive and North Chandalar (Room 208). The accessible entrance is located on North Chandalar Drive. UAF Disability Services can be contacted by telephone (474-5655) or e-mail (uaf-disabilityservices@alaska.edu). Once documentation of your disability is received, Disability Services will contact me regarding the necessary accommodations.

Support Services: Writing support services are available on the UAF Campus in the Writing Center, located in 801 Gruening, UAF, 907-474-5314, and on the UAA Campus at the Reading/Writing Center, located in 118 Sally Monserud Hall, UAA, 907-786-6918. Note: to access this Center at UAA, students must register in the English Department (907-786-4355) at a rate of \$12 per semester. Students who are not on the UAA or UAF campus should contact the Center for Distance Education for details regarding support services that are available by distance.

Plagiarism. Plagiarism is representing someone else's ideas and work as your own. Plagiarism includes not only copying verbatim, but also rephrasing the ideas of another without properly acknowledging the source. As you prepare and submit work to meet course requirements, whether a draft or a final version of a paper or project, you must take great care to distinguish your own ideas and language from information derived from sources. Sources include published primary and secondary materials, electronic media, and information and opinions gained directly from other people.

Policy on Discrimination, Harassment, and Violence. The University of Alaska Board of Regents has clearly stated in BOR Policy that discrimination, harassment and violence will not be tolerated on any campus of the University of Alaska. If you believe you are experiencing discrimination or any form of harassment including sexual harassment/misconduct/assault, you are encouraged to report that behavior. If you report to a faculty member or any university employee, they must notify the UAF Title IX Coordinator about the basic facts of the incident. Your choices for reporting include: 1) You may access confidential counseling by contacting the UAF Health & Counseling Center at 474-7043; 2) You may access support and file a Title IX report by contacting the UAF Title IX Coordinator at 474-6600; 3) You may file a criminal complaint by contacting the University Police Department at 474-7721