

# Graduate Research Orientation and Perspectives

## AGRO/HORT/SOIL 505

### Fall 2021 Syllabus

Tuesdays 10:30-11:45 am: currently planned hybrid in Skeen Hall N120

Thursdays 10:30-11:45 am: currently planned hybrid in Skeen Hall N120

Fridays 3:30-4:30 pm: graduate seminar series via zoom

|                     |                         |                 |                 |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Instructor</b>   | Dr. Niall Hanan         | <b>Pronouns</b> | He/Him/His      |
| <b>Phone</b>        | (575) 646-3335          | <b>Email</b>    | nhanan@nmsu.edu |
| <b>Office hours</b> | Any time by appointment |                 |                 |

### Course Description/Objectives:

Introduction to graduate-level scientific research including (i) Introduction to Graduate School (expectations and procedures), (ii) Science Communication: structures and strategies for effective (a) oral and (b) written science communication; (iii) Scientific Method (critical thinking, scientific reasoning and hypothesis generation); and (iv) preparation of individual research proposal, incorporating skills associated with (ii)-(iii).

### Course Outcomes:

Students will gain insight into the nature of scientific research and skills vital for their graduate research program and future careers in science, including critical thinking and hypothesis generation, and the structures and strategies for science communication (written and oral). Students will work independently to draft a proposal for their thesis or dissertation research (or for more advanced students, a new proposal for future research suitable for submission to a funding agency).

### Course Materials (Required Reading):

The Big Ratchet: how humanity thrives in the face of natural crisis: A biography of an ingenious species. Ruth Defries, 2014, Basic Books, NY. (Note: NMSU Book Store has ordered copies).

### Assignments and Grading:

Grading will be based on: (i) attendance and participation in all class meetings (10%); (ii) bi-weekly bulleted and verbal presentations relating to your research proposal (20%); (iii) end of semester final research proposal (25%); (iv) participation in discussion and critical reviews for each chapter of the class reading (15%); (v) submission of constructive comments on peer (classmate) proposal sections (15%); (vi) peer-evaluations for Friday seminar speakers (15%).

## POLICIES

### **DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITMENT**

I am committed to fostering an inclusive, welcoming and respectful environment for all students, including use of preferred names and pronouns. I support PES, ACES and NMSU commitment to developing and maintaining an inclusive environment and culture for students, faculty and staff that recognizes and embraces diverse backgrounds, cultures, experiences and aspirations.

### **CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION**

Students are required to attend every class period and the PES Friday Seminars (3:30-4:20). In Fall 2021, hybrid in-person and zoom options are planned, allowing for in-person and off-campus participation. Students may discuss with instructor if they prefer not to attend face-to-face meetings. Logging in to a zoom conference or sitting in a classroom is not the same as participation in class: active participation is required and considered in grades. Do not attend in-person if you are sick, but do notify the instructor as soon as possible if you cannot attend. Three unexcused absences, late arrivals and/or early departures will result in reduction of one letter grade. Six unexcused absences, late arrivals and/or early departures will result in failure of class.

## **Discrimination and Disability Accommodation**

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) covers issues relating to disability and accommodations. If a student has questions or needs an accommodation in the classroom (all medical information is treated confidentially), contact:

Jesse Haas, Interim Director  
Student Accessibility Services (SAS)  
Corbett Center Student Union, Rm. 208  
Phone: (575) 646-6840  
E-mail: [sas@nmsu.edu](mailto:sas@nmsu.edu)  
Website: <http://sas.nmsu.edu/>

New Mexico State University, in compliance with applicable laws and in furtherance of its commitment to fostering an environment that welcomes and embraces diversity, does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, retaliation, serious medical condition, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, spousal affiliation, or protected veteran status in its programs and activities, including employment, admissions, and educational programs and activities. Inquiries may be directed to:

Laura Castille, Executive Director  
Title IX and Section 504 Coordinator  
Office of Institutional Equity  
P.O. Box 30001, E. 1130 University Avenue  
Las Cruces, NM 88003  
575.646.3635; 575-646-7802 (TTY)  
[equity@nmsu.edu](mailto:equity@nmsu.edu)

Title IX prohibits sex harassment, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking and retaliation. For more information on discrimination or Title IX, or to file a complaint contact:

Laura Castille, Executive Director and Title IX Coordinator  
Office of Institutional Equity (OIE)  
O'Loughlin House, 1130 University Avenue  
Phone: (575) 646-3635 E-mail: [equity@nmsu.edu](mailto:equity@nmsu.edu)  
Website: <http://equity.nmsu.edu/>

## **Other NMSU Resources:**

|                                |                |  |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--|
| NMSU Police Department:        | (575) 646-3311 | <a href="http://www.nmsupolice.com">www.nmsupolice.com</a> |
| NMSU Police Victim Services:   | (575) 646-3424 |  |
| NMSU Counseling Center:        | (575) 646-2731 |  |
| NMSU Dean of Students:         | (575) 646-1722 |  |
| For Any On-campus Emergencies: | 911            |  |

## **Academic Resources**

NMSU provides students with academic resources such as tutoring, final exam schedules, library and research, and transcript information on the [NMSU Current Student](#) webpage.