

URSC 681

Fall 2013

Instructor: George Rogers

Meeting Times Wed 5:00 - 6:00 P.M.

Location: ARCH 302A

Introduction

Course Purpose:

The purpose of this professional seminar is both long-term and short-term. In the short-term the course seeks to help URSC Ph.D. students master the logistics of successfully completing the program. In the latter realm, each step of the program is examined and alternative choices are examined. Student decisions throughout the program can impact the duration of graduate study, efficiency of dissertation completion and even the effectiveness of eventual job search. In the realm of the longer term, doctoral students are often asked to present their ideas in presentations of various types. In this light each student will attend a series of “public” lectures, and summarize and evaluate each. Discussions of these lectures, their strengths and weaknesses, will strengthen student presentations. Recognizing the various kinds of lectures and what is needed for each, developing an understanding of the audience, and recognizing good visual aids are discussed. At least three of the lectures attended also help the student begin the selection process for the graduate advisory committee.

In the course of the seminar you will:

- become familiar with the various kinds of lecture you will be expected to give as a credentialed professional;
- develop your own guidelines for making an excellent presentation;
- understand the nature of professional ethics specifically with respect to plagiarism and recognition of intellectual property;
- become familiar with the Office of Graduate Study (phone 845-3631), Web Site <http://vpr.tamu.edu/ogsforms.html>;
- become familiar with the program web site http://archone.tamu.edu/laup/Programs/URSC_index.html;
- develop a short list of faculty that can become members of your graduate committee; and
- become familiar with the URSC program Handbook.

Performance Evaluation

1) You must complete a one-page summary of each lecture you attend—six in all. Pass/fail of each is determined on the basis of the thoroughness of your summary evaluations.

2) You must create a short list of candidates for your graduate committee and an even shorter list of those you may ask to be your chair.

3) You must identify a short list and preliminary schedule of course work you are thinking about taking.

Tasks (Products)

1. Lecture summaries
2. Committee Short list completed
3. Chair short list completed
4. Course work identified and
5. Preliminary schedule of coursework

Academic Honesty

The Aggie Honor Code states, “An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do.” In our attempt to live up to the ideal that education advances honesty, integrity, and individual responsibility, it is anticipated that students will adhere to the tenets of the code in all respects as an integral part of their education – that is, we are here to teach ourselves how to become honorable, contributing citizens. Adherence to the code is expected as a condition of enrollment in this class. Students are referred to the Honor Council Rules and Procedures found at the website: <http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor>

Americans with Disability Act Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection to persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities in Room 126 of the Koldus Building. The telephone number is 845-1637. If special accommodations are to be made, students must bring documentation from the Department of Student Life to the instructor’s attention during the first week of the semester. Without authorization, instructors are not in a position to provide special accommodation to individual students.