



NATURAL SCIENCES PROGRAM
COURSE OUTLINE

1. **Course:** SCIE 511, Peer Mentoring and Collaborative Learning in Science

FALL 2016

Lecture Sections:

L01: We, 5:00 PM - 7:45 PM, SA 119 Dr. Kyla Flanagan, BI266, 403-220-7644, kmflanag@ucalgary.ca,
Office Hours: by appointment, feel free to contact me anytime to make an appointment.

Course Site Name on Desire 2 Learn (D2L): SCIE 511 L01- CMCL 507 S01 (Fall 2016) - Peer Mentoring and Collaborative Learning in Science (available through My UofC Portal)

USC Specialized Programs Office

EEL 426

403-220-8600

sciemail@ucalgary.ca

Course Description

In this course, students (Peer Mentors) will gain both theoretical knowledge of mentoring and practical experience in supporting their peers through the learning process. Peer Mentors enrolled in this course will act as a bridge between the host instructor and students in a course in which the Peer Mentors have previously demonstrated excellence; they will encourage and motivate learning, convey enthusiasm for course material, and provide support for active learning in and out of the classroom. Specific mentorship duties will be dependent on the host instructor's requirements and each Peer Mentor's vision of mentorship. This course will support Peer Mentors in their role by providing instruction in science-based learning theories and in principles and practices of group facilitation.

Responsibilities and Expectations

My philosophy of teaching is that it is my responsibility to 'set the stage' for learning to occur. It is my job to ensure that the classroom environment, support materials, and assessment tools used all support the conditions that allow students to learn. Feedback from students is very important in this so that I know whether such conditions exist, how well the course is going and where problems are arising. I encourage you to feel free to tell me about these things at any point in the semester. It is also my goal that, as much as possible, students will spend class time actively working with course material and applying what has been learned from the readings and lectures. This means coming to class prepared and willing to participate!

My expectations of you:

• treat others in class with respect. This means:

- Be considerate, open, and encouraging of the contributions of other students in the class
- Listen actively to others
- Assume positive intent when receiving feedback from others
- Be supportive of the efforts and initiatives of others
- Restrict your use of laptops and other electronic devices to only those activities directly related to class
- Be on time & come prepared; participate actively in class

What you can expect from me:

- Treat all students with respect
- Start and end classes on time
- Available outside of class time to discuss course content or any other course concerns
- Post materials for lecture and labs on D2L in a timely manner
- Reply to emails within 24 h (except weekends)

2. **Prerequisites:** permission from the Instructor is required to enrol in this course.

3. **Grading:** The University policy on grading and related matters is described sections [F.1](#) and [F.2](#) of the online University Calendar.

Students will earn grades based on the requirements they choose to complete. Students must complete all the requirements at **AND** below their chosen grade. For example, students who aim to earn an A, must complete all 4 of the Learning Bundles, students who choose to earn a B, must complete Learning Bundles 1-3. Failure to successfully complete Learning Bundle 1 will result in an F grade.

Learning Outcomes for each of the 4 Learning Bundles

- (1) *Practicum* -- Apply theories of learning and tools for teaching during the mentorship of peers in your host class
- (2) *Foundational Concepts* – explain and describe different theories of learning, tools for teaching and approaches of mentorship
- (3) *Reflection* -- Write critical reflections on experiences linking foundational concepts of learning/mentoring and the practice of teaching/mentorship
- (4) *Facilitation* – Apply theories of group management, engagement, team building, and conflict resolution during facilitation within SCIE 511

To receive a D, you must complete the *Practicum* learning bundle to an “acceptable” standard as defined by the Practicum Specifications & Rubric

To receive a C, you must complete the requirements of a D, as well as complete the *Foundational Concepts* learning bundle to an “acceptable” standard as defined by the Foundational Concepts Specifications & Rubric

To receive a B, you must complete all the requirements of a C, as well as complete the *Reflection* learning bundle to an “acceptable” standard as defined by the Reflection Specifications & Rubric

To receive an A, you must complete all the requirements of a B, as well as complete the *Facilitation* learning bundle to an acceptable standard as defined by the Facilitation Specifications & Rubric.

Additionally, for an A, you must produce a *Mentoring Philosophy* and pull together materials produced during the course into a professional Portfolio to an “acceptable” standard as defined by the Mentoring Philosophy & Portfolio Specifications and Rubrics.

Specifications for each Learning Bundle – for each learning Bundle you must successfully complete ***all*** the points specified

1. Practicum Specifications:

- Complete an *average* of 3 hours/week of practicum with the host class where you provide mentorship to your peers (some weeks may be more than 3 hours, some weeks less, but *on average* the expectation is 3 hours per week).
- Conduct yourself professionally in interactions with your host instructor including attending and being on time for meetings (missing or arrive late to no more than one meeting in the semester without notice).
- Conduct yourself professionally in interactions and communication with students in the host class.

** This Learning Bundle will be assessed by your *host instructor* mid-semester and at the end-of-semester using the *Practicum Rubric on D2L*. Only the end-of-semester evaluation will determine successful completion of this Learning Bundle.

2. Foundational Concepts Specifications:

- Attend, be on time, and participate in our SCIE511/CMCL507 class activities and discussions with no more than 1 unexcused late/absence during the semester.
- Submit at the **start of the first class (Sept 14)** a ~300-word typed *Semester Plan* outlining your goals you wish to work towards throughout the semester. Credit for this is awarded if the Semester Plan demonstrates sound academic effort, as measured by completeness and professional writing.
- Submit at the **start of each class (excluding the first class) (Sept 21 - Dec 7)** a ~300-word typed *Reading Summary* outlining the most important points of the reading(s) for the week. Credit for the Reading Summaries will be awarded if it demonstrates sound academic effort, as measured by: completeness, synthesis of ideas in your own words and professional writing.
 - o The Reading Summary should highlight the main points of the reading(s), make links to your personal experience, and provide insights for your mentorship.
 - o Reading Summaries less than 200 words will not be given credit.

- o **10 out of a possible 11** Reading Summaries must be submitted to these specifications to successfully complete this aspect of this Learning bundle.

3. Reflection Specifications:

- Submit at the **start of class every two weeks** (Sept 21, Oct 5, Oct 19, Nov 2, Nov 16, Nov 30) a ~800 word typed *Critical Reflection*.
- **5 out of a possible 6** Critical Reflections must be to an “acceptable” standard, as defined by the *Critical Reflection Rubric* provided on D2L.
- Critical Reflections less than 400 words will not be given credit.

** For Students to receive an “A”, for this Learning Bundle they must ALSO:

- o On the **last day of the semester**, submit a ~600 word typed *Mentoring Philosophy* explaining your reasoning for mentoring, providing a brief description of how you mentor and justifying your beliefs about mentoring. The Mentoring Philosophy must be completed to an acceptable standard as outlined in the *Mentoring Philosophy Rubric* on D2L.
- o On the **last day of the semester**, submit a *Portfolio* containing all the material produced during the semester including all submitted Critical Reflections and the Mentoring Philosophy as well as any other documents as specified in the Portfolio Rubric. The Portfolio must be completed to an acceptable standard as outlined in the *Portfolio Rubric* on D2L.

4. Facilitation Specifications:

- Facilitate 1 group “check-in”. Guidelines for your role in facilitating the check-in will be provided during the first class.
- In a small group of 2-3 students, facilitate a 40-minute class on a topic provided to an “acceptable” standard as outlined in the *Facilitation Rubric* on D2L.
- **At the start of your facilitated class**, provide to the instructor a detailed, typed ‘*lesson plan*’ for the class, identifying learning outcomes, pedagogical tools and techniques used, and motivation for approaches/strategies/tools used.

** Students will be given **three (3) ‘free-passes’** you can use to get “forgiveness” for lateness/absence or to re-submit any material once per pass as a re-attempt to get the work to an “acceptable” standard. **

** Students who *exceed* expectations *FOR A GIVEN* letter grade, will earn the “+” letter designation. For example, a student aiming to complete the “B” letter grade requirements who completes 6 out of 6 Critical Reflections to an acceptable standard (rather than 5/6) *and* 11 out of 11 Reading Summaries to an acceptable standard (rather than 10/11) will earn a B+ letter grade. To earn an A+ students must exceed expectations for all Learning Bundles. **

** Students who do not successfully complete **1 (and only 1)** of the specifications **within a single Learning Bundle**, will earn the “-” letter designation. For example, a student aiming to complete the “B” letter grade requirements, who only completes 4 out of 6 Critical Reflections to an acceptable standard (rather than 5/6) **or** 9 out of 11 Reading Summaries to an acceptable standard (rather than 10/11) will earn a B- letter grade. Students not successfully completing **more than one** of the specifications **within a single Learning Bundle**, will be assessed as **not having met the requirements for that Learning Bundle** and will drop to the Letter grade associated with the Learning Bundles they have successfully completed. This excludes the Practicum Bundle, which must be completed for successful completion of the course.**

4. **Missed Components of Term Work:** The regulations of the Faculty of Science pertaining to this matter are found in the Faculty of Science area of the Calendar in [Section 3.6](#). It is the student's responsibility to familiarize himself/herself with these regulations. See also [Section E.3](#) of the University Calendar

5. **Scheduled out-of-class activities:** This course has a practicum component with an expectation of 3 hours of out of class time activities a week. Students will make arrangements for their practicum in collaboration with their host instructor.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED CLASSES HAVE PRECEDENCE OVER ANY OUT-OF-CLASS-TIME-ACTIVITY. If you have a clash with this out-of-class-time-activity, please inform your instructor as soon as possible so that alternative arrangements may be made for you.

6. **Course Materials:** All course Readings are provided on D2L.

7. **Examination Policy:** There are no examinations in this course.

8. **Writing across the curriculum statement:** In this course, the quality of the student's writing will be a factor in the evaluation of those reports. See also [Section E.2](#) of the University Calendar.

9. **Human studies statement:** students in the course may be expected to participate as subjects or researchers. See [Section E.5](#) of the University Calendar.

10. OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS:

(a) **Academic Misconduct:** (*cheating, plagiarism, or any other form*) is a very serious offence that will be dealt with rigorously in all cases. A single offence may lead to disciplinary probation or suspension or expulsion. The Faculty of Science follows a zero tolerance policy regarding dishonesty. Please read the sections of the University Calendar under [Section K](#). Student Misconduct to inform yourself of definitions, processes and penalties

(b) **Assembly Points:** In case of emergency during class time, be sure to FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF with the information on [assembly points](#).

(c) **Student Accommodations:** Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should contact Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities_0.pdf. Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the Program Director of the Natural Sciences Program, Dr. Wendy Benoit by email at wlbenoit@ucalgary.ca

(d) **Safewalk:** Campus Security will escort individuals day or night (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/> . Call **220-5333** for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phones located at most parking lot pay stations.

(e) **Freedom of Information and Privacy:** This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP). As one consequence, students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number on each subsequent page. For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy> .

(f) **Student Union Information:** VP Academic Phone: 403 220-3911 Email: suvpaca@ucalgary.ca
SU Faculty Rep. Phone: 403 220-3913 Email: science1@su.ucalgary.ca, science2@su.ucalgary.ca, science3@ucalgary.ca
Student Ombuds Office: 403 220-6420 Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca; <http://ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

(g) **Internet and Electronic Device Information:** You can assume that in all classes that you attend, **your cell phone should be turned off** unless instructed otherwise. Also, communication with other individuals, via laptop computers, Blackberries or other devices connectable to the Internet is not allowed in class time unless specifically permitted by the instructor. If you violate this policy you may be asked to leave the classroom. Repeated abuse may result in a charge of misconduct.

(h) At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (www.ucalgary.ca/usri). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys.

Program Approval: Approved by the Program Director (Dr. Wendy Benoit)

Date: September 2, 2016

Assistant Dean's Approval for alternate
final exam arrangements: Approved by the Assistant Dean (Dr. Nancy Chibry)

Date: September 7, 2016

Tentative Course Schedule Fall 2016

Week	Theme	Activities	Readings	Assessment
1 (Sep 14)	Welcome to the Curricular Peer Mentoring program!	Orientation and Introduction Ethics paperwork, Course Outline Reflective Writing Specifications for Critical Reflections	1. Course Outline (D2L) 2. Ethics Guidelines (in class) 3. Question Formulation Technique (in class) 4. Critical Reflection Specifications (in class) 5. "Reflection in Higher Education Learning" (D2L) 6. "Reflective Writing Guidance Notes for Students" (D2L)	DUE: <u>Semester Plan</u>
2 (Sep 21)	The Nature of Learning	Facilitated Check-in (45 minutes) De-brief The Nature of Learning Constructing an activity/lesson plan incorporating The Nature of Learning	1. "The Nature of Learning: Using Research to Inspire Practice – the Practitioner’s Guide" (D2L)	DUE: <u>Reading Summary #1</u> DUE: <u>Critical Reflection #1</u>
3 (Sep 28)	Active Learning	Facilitated Check-in (45 minutes) Active learning. What is it? Why do we do it? What's the alternative? Who holds the responsibility for learning, teacher or student? Discussion: Sage on the Stage vs. Guide on the Side Incorporate an Active Learning Technique into a mentoring plan	1. "Classroom activities for Active Learning" (D2L)	DUE: <u>Reading Summary #2</u>
4 (Oct 5)	Collaborative Learning	Facilitated Check-in (45 minutes) De-brief "My pedagogical creed" Designing and learning institution	1. "My Pedagogical Creed" (D2L) 2. "The Art of Collaborative Learning" (D2L)	DUE: <u>Reading Summary #3</u> DUE: <u>Critical Reflection #2</u>
5 (Oct 12)	Metacognition & Exam prep.	Facilitated Check-in (45 minutes) De-brief "Promoting Student Metacognition" Jigsaw activity on studying techniques that help students learn	1. "Promoting Student Metacognition" (D2L) 2. "Improving Students' Learning with effective learning techniques" (handouts in class)	DUE: <u>Reading Summary #4</u>
Empowering Learners				
6* (Oct 19)	Power & Zone of Proximal development	Check-in (45 minutes) Student Facilitated Class	1. "In and Out of the Zone of Proximal Development. Vygotsky on Education" (D2L) 2. "Collaboration across the power line" (D2L)	DUE: <u>Reading Summary #5</u> DUE: <u>Critical Reflection #3</u>
7* (Oct 26)	Is intelligence fixed? The will to learn	Check-in (45 minutes) Student Facilitated Class	1. "Why do beliefs about intelligence influence learning success?" (D2L)	DUE: <u>Reading Summary #6</u>
8* (Nov 2)	Teaching and Freedom	Check-in (45 minutes) Student Facilitated Class	1. "Pedagogy of the oppressed" Chapter 2 (D2L)	DUE: <u>Reading Summary #7</u> DUE: <u>Critical Reflection #4</u>
9 (Nov 9)			Reading Days -- NO CLASS	
10* (Nov 16)	Gender and the classroom	Check-in (45 minutes) Student Facilitated Class	1. "Teaching to Transgress"	DUE: <u>Reading Summary #8</u> DUE: <u>Critical Reflection #5</u>
11* (Nov 23)	Transformative Learning	Check-in (45 minutes) Student Facilitated Class	1. "Transformative Learning: From Theory to Practice" (D2L)	DUE: <u>Reading Summary #9</u>
12* (Nov 30)	Holistic Learning	Check-in (45 minutes) Student Facilitated Class	1. "Towards a philosophy of human learning. Human learning: An holistic approach" (D2L)	DUE: <u>Reading Summary #10</u> DUE: <u>Critical Reflection #6</u>
13* (Dec 7)	Teaching with Heart and Soul	Check-in (45 minutes) Student Facilitated Class	1. "Teaching with Heart and Soul: Reflections on Spirituality in Teacher Education" (D2L)	DUE: <u>Reading Summary #11</u> DUE: <u>Final Portfolio with Mentoring Philosophy</u>

*indicates student facilitated classes