

**ESCI 3204: Research Experience in Environmental  
Science 1 SYLLABUS and TENTATIVE SCHEDULE  
Fall 2023 (CRN: 14345), Thursday 3:30 PM – 5:20 PM, NURS 135**

Instructor: James Kubicki  
Office: 101A Geology  
Office hours: By appointment  
email: [jdkubicki@utep.edu](mailto:jdkubicki@utep.edu)  
TA: Cat Cort

Instructor: Elizabeth La Rue  
Office: BIOL 404  
Office hours: By appointment  
email: [ealarue@utep.edu](mailto:ealarue@utep.edu)  
email: [cecort@miners.utep.edu](mailto:cecort@miners.utep.edu)

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**COURSE OBJECTIVE**

Training in conducting and communicating research through workshops and active data collection for citizen-scientist based research studies.

Students will be required to spend a minimum of **4-6 hrs per week** working on a research topic with your faculty mentor in addition to attending class.

Specific skills learned will include:

- How to keep a lab notebook
- Developing research proposals (e.g., hypotheses, experimental design)
- Applying for summer internships
- How to complete and present a research poster
- How to give an Elevator Talk
- Ethics in Environmental Research
- Communicating science to the general public

**GRADE  
DETERMINATION  
POINTS**

Lab notebook:	10
Faculty evaluation:	30
Elevator talk:	10
Practice presentation:	10
Final presentation:	30
Attendance & Participation & Quizzes	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

**ASSIGNMENT OF GRADES**

90-100 POINTS = A
80-89 POINTS = B
70-79 POINTS = C
60-69 POINTS = D
<60 POINTS = F

Rubrics for all presentations will be posted on Blackboard.

**Required Textbook:** None required.

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE - Fall 2023 | Thursday 3:30 PM – 5:20 PM | NURS 135

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Instructor</b>
Week 1 - Aug 31	Introduction to Research	La Rue/Kubicki
Week 2 – Sept 7	Lab Safety Training	Kubicki
Week 3 - Sept 14	Hypothesis Development	Kubicki
Week 4 - Sept 21	Experimental Design	La Rue
Week 5 - Sept 28	Enviro Ethics & Research Conduct	La Rue
Week 6 - Oct 5	Communicating Science to the Public	Kubicki
Week 7 - Oct 12	How to Present an Elevator Talk/Scientific Paper	La Rue
Week 8 - Oct 19	Elevator Talk/Scientific Presentations	La Rue
Week 9 - Oct 26	Elevator Talk/Scientific Presentations	Cort
Week 10 - Nov 2	How to Make a Research Poster	Cort
<b>Course Drop Deadline (Nov. 3)</b>		
Week 11 - Nov 9	Constructing and Presenting Graphs	Kubicki
Week 12 - Nov 16	Panel with Research Mentors	Kubicki/Cort
Week 13 - Nov 23	<b>No lab - Thanksgiving</b>	-----
Week 14 - Nov 30	Practice Poster Presentations	Cort
Week 15 - Dec 7	Formal poster presentations	All
Week 16 – Dec 11-15	Exam week	-----

### **COURSE POLICIES**

**POLICY ON DROP DEADLINE:** We will follow the College of Science and UTEP with respect to the drop date of Nov. 3rd. No requests for a withdrawal will be approved after this date.

**POLICY ON CLASS PARTICIPATION, ATTENDANCE, AND MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS:** You are expected to come to class prepared and ready to engage in the topic. Attendance and participation are part of your grade (10%). Students are responsible for turning in assignments on time; late assignments will be given a zero. No make-up assignments will be given for reasons other than illness (doctor's note required), absence with the instructor's prior approval, or when a student is on official University business (documentation required BEFORE the absence). If you have been diagnosed with or are experiencing symptoms of a contagious illness, please contact your instructor as soon as possible to discuss if an excused absence is warranted.

*This syllabus is subject to change. The most recent version will be on Blackboard.*

**POLICY ON CAMPUS CARRY:** Persons holding a Concealed Handgun License can lawfully carry their handgun into a UTEP classroom as long as the gun remains concealed. Open carry remains prohibited on campus. In other words, none of us should see (or be able to tell that there is) a gun at UTEP. Call the University Police at 747-5611 or dial 911 if you see any individual on campus with a handgun or other type of weapon. For more information on campus carry, see [<http://sa.utep.edu/campuscarry/>]; for more information on overall campus safety, see [<http://admin.utep.edu/emergency>].

**POLICY ON CIVILITY:** Please come to class on time. It is disturbing and distracting everybody if people come in late. Please do not hold private conversations during lectures, but feel free to ask questions or start a discussion at any time. **Cell phones *MUST* be turned off during class. DO NOT answer phones while in class.**

**DISABILITY STATEMENT:** If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at [www.sa.utep.edu/cass](http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass). *CASS' Staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.*

**MILITARY STATEMENT:** If you are a military student with the potential of being called to military service and /or training during the course of the semester, you are encouraged to contact one of the instructors no later than Sept 15th.

**POLICY ON GROUP WORK:** All homework assignments are to be individual efforts unless specifically told otherwise. This policy will be strictly enforced.

**POLICY ON ACADEMIC HONESTY:** Academic Dishonesty will not be tolerated. All university guidelines will be strictly followed, so please read these guidelines carefully. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#). Unless assignment instructions indicate otherwise, copying material generated from an AI, such as ChatGPT, and claiming it as your own work without proper attribution, is considered academic dishonesty. If you have any questions regarding the university policy, please contact the Dean of Students.

**POLICY ON ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** Use of **laptops** during class is not permitted, except for class assigned presentations or accommodations directed by CASS. The necessity of classroom interaction in this course negates the usefulness of laptops as a note-taking device. The use of your laptop during class can also prove distracting to your classmates, so please refrain from using your laptop during class. Use of **cell phones or other wireless devices are not permitted.**

- Set your phone to mute or silent mode before coming to class.
- Do not answer incoming calls or make outgoing calls except in an emergency.
- Do not use text messaging or web browser features while in class.

***If you choose not to comply with these policies, you will be ask to leave the classroom.***