1/17/2018

Howdy!

Welcome back! We hope that you had a wonderful winter break and feel refreshed and ready to take on the spring semester! Remember that if you have any questions or concerns about the program or if you would like to schedule an appointment with our staff, feel free to email us at ugr@tamu.edu! Here are some reminders and updates to get you started this semester:

1. **2nd Installment & Progress Report DUE on 1/29 @ noon**
   The next installment deadline is just around the corner! The 2nd Progress Report questions can be found on page 14 of the Thesis Manual & Policy Guide, and the 2nd Installment requirements are on page 16.

   Note: Please make sure that you are working off of the same document that was approved for the 1st Installment. This will limit formatting errors.

   Quick reminder for Teams: All members must submit their own Progress Reports!

   Come see us in Henderson Hall 103 on Friday, January 26th from 3:00-5:00 PM for last minute help on your second installment!

2. **URS Symposium – DEADLINE to register on 1/31 @ noon**
   We still have plenty of timeslots for poster and oral presentations available! You can register for the URS Symposium here: https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b26rHiGZfuqedYV

   Even though it’s the beginning of the semester, it’s really important to start thinking about how you are going to fulfill the public presentation requirement. Remember, your public presentation needs to take place prior to the Presentation Report deadline on April 23rd at noon.

3. **Research Compliance Approval Cut-off DEADLINE on 2/26**
   We wanted to remind you about the research compliance approval deadline at the end of February. If you’re still in the Pending Compliance Approval status, you should have received an email from us. If you’ve been instructed by any of the research compliance committees to pursue training or to take any further action towards research compliance approval, please take care of that as soon as possible.
4. **Diversify your writing portfolio by submitting to the *Explorations* journal:**

   **Deadline is 1/23 @ noon**

   The submissions application for Volume 10 of *Explorations* closes at the end of next week. The journal welcomes research, scholarly, and creative submissions of general interest from any discipline, showcasing the most cutting-edge, original, and student-driven scholarship by undergraduates pursuing intellectual and aesthetic experiences outside of the classroom. If your synopsis is chosen after a round of review, you will be invited to write and submit a full manuscript (1000-2500 words) describing your project and its impact in a manner accessible to a broad audience. Synopsis selections will be announced in February 2018 and will include further guidelines and procedures. Submission of a synopsis indicates your willingness to submit a full manuscript. Successful submission will be published in Volume 10 of *Explorations* in fall 2018.

   Guidelines and more information: [http://tx.ag/SubmitToExplorations](http://tx.ag/SubmitToExplorations)

   To submit: [http://launch.tamu.edu/UGR/Explorations/Submissions](http://launch.tamu.edu/UGR/Explorations/Submissions).

5. **UGST 405 - Optional Thesis Writing course for W-credit and thesis help**

   Thesis Writing (UGST 405) is a 1-credit hour seminar course offered in the spring semester exclusively for students participating in the Undergraduate Research Scholars (URS) program. Enrollment in the class is **not required** for participation in the program, but is a great opportunity for any Undergraduate Research Scholar who needs writing instruction or would like assistance with thesis preparation. The course also serves to satisfy one credit of writing-intensive (W) course requirements for graduation.

   Please be aware that you MUST finish the URS Program in order to complete the course and get the W-credit. If you get withdrawn from the URS Program, you will not pass the course or get the W-credit, and it could affect your graduation.

   Limited seats are available in the course. Enrollment priority will be given to seniors who need a writing-intensive (W) course to graduate. This course is available to students on both main campus and Texas A&M University at Galveston. Students at Texas A&M University at Galveston should contact Dr. Elizabeth Borda at bordae@tamug.edu with questions about the Galveston section.

   For more information: [http://launch.tamu.edu/UGR/URS/Thesis-Writing](http://launch.tamu.edu/UGR/URS/Thesis-Writing)

6. **New Research Seminar This Spring: NRSC 685 (CRN 17022)**

   This unique research seminar combines the science of vision with art. Since the Renaissance artists have been creating the appearance of solid objects on flat surfaces. It is not only artists who create illusions. In this course, you will find out how our brain creates illusions that deceive us in the real world. This is your chance to discover the fascinating world of vision. You will sharpen your observational, critical, and perceptual skills, and have
fun as you pursue a research project in your discipline. This course is open to both graduate and undergraduate majors across disciplines.

7. **Upcoming Deadlines for Summer Research Opportunities**
   If you want to do summer research, now is the time to apply! Visit our [Summer On-Campus](http://launch.tamu.edu/UGR) page and our [Summer Off-Campus](http://launch.tamu.edu/UGR/URS/Resources) page for various summer research opportunities!

Thanks & Gig ‘Em,

LAUNCH: UGR Staff
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