

Extreme Academics Winter (Independent Study) Seminar (HNRS 3991)

10-11:50 am, Fridays; Cherrington Hall 219

Instructor Contact Info

Dr. Shawn Alfrey (shawn.alfrey@du.edu; 303-871-2035; Mary Reed Building 2)

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Overview

The goal of Extreme Academics is to help you prepare for academic and intellectual pursuits. The Winter Seminar is focused on helping you learn to develop and express your ideas for scholarship, with the specific goal of helping you apply for grants, fellowships, graduate school and similar academic activities. Most concretely, you 1) will develop and prepare a proposal or application (e.g., graduate school application, fellowship application) and present it in written and oral forms, and 2) will propose a specific project for Spring term 2010. Two of the projects for Spring quarter will be funded, with the decision made by a faculty judging panel at the end of the term.

Grading and Expectations

Expectations are the same for all students, regardless of whether they are earning course credit for the seminar. All absences must be excused, and the student must talk as soon as possible with an instructor about how to make up the work. All students are expected to participate fully and actively engage in the seminar activities, including responding to instructor feedback. Summary feedback on each assignment will use a check system. A “check” indicates that expectations and engagement were met. A check-plus signals exceptional work, and a check-minus indicates that more effort, thoughtfulness, or responsiveness is needed. Instructors will speak to individual students if anything less than a check-minus is warranted.

For those students taking this for a grade, these marks correspond to 95%, 100%, and 90%, respectively; final letter grades corresponding to final percentages are: A+: 98+; A: 93-97.9; A-: 90-92.9; etc. Weighting of assignments is given in the third column below, with attendance and participation in class counting for 50%).

Schedule and Overview of Assignments

Additional details about assignments will be given in class.

Date	Topic	Assignment due
1/8	Intro to quarter; from Big Idea to Proposal	What do you want to write this quarter?
1/15	<i>Class does not meet.</i>	Email Dr. Hesse (douglas.hesse@du.edu) a draft of your proposal by 10 a.m.(10%)
1/22	Dr. Hesse on writing and evaluating proposals, feedback on and workshopping proposals.	
1/29	Peer review of proposals	Revised proposal (10%)
2/5	Dr. Lair on talking about your ideas – formally and informally	
2/12	“Panel of judges” talk about how proposals, applications are judged	
2/19	Brown bag Q&A about interviewing, CV/resume’s, professional issues and socialization. (Note: 2/26 and 2/19 sessions may be switched; we’ll let you know later in the quarter)	Bring questions about everything we’ve been talking about, and anything else!
2/26	Practice presentations for instructor and peer review. Presentations will have two parts: What is the specific thing you are proposing/working on (e.g., graduate school application, fellowship, grant), and what specific project/thing would you like Extreme Academics to fund for spring quarter? The second part is competitive - that is, only two students will be funded.	Presentation (10%)
3/5	Presentations from last week to a panel. Afterwards, the panel will decide who gets the awards. You will be notified by email.	Revised presentation (5%) Submit final version of written proposal/application, etc. (15%)