



2023-2024 Syllabus

FACULTY ADVISORS

Ryan Brandt

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About: I am a lecturer of Biology at Elon. I teach Human Physiology, Anatomy, Neuroscience, and COR1100. I'm originally from Marquette, MI located in the Upper Peninsula. I attended Northern Michigan University where I completed a B.S. in Biology-Physiology and M.S. in Biology-Neuroscience. My research interests focus on the neurotrophin brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) in relation to pathology, neuroplasticity, and pharmacology. Additionally, I'm a guitarist, snowboarder, mountain biker, hiking guide, and photographer.

RESIDENT ADVISOR

Brendan Gallagher

STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Blake Byerly, Clare Miller-Petznick, Avery Underwood

DESCRIPTION

The Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics Living Learning Community (STEM LLC) is intended to build a sense of community amongst students with an interest in STEM fields. The STEM LLC is a group of scholars who live in the same residence hall and are actively engaged in the Elon community. Having a group of people to talk with who enjoy thinking about science, and participating in STEM activities together, promotes a direct link between residential and extracurricular life, which facilitates the transition into college, the development of a support network of students who are interested in STEM, success in the classroom, closer interactions with faculty and staff, and a comfort with being curious.

OUTCOMES

- Develop leadership and interpersonal skills through collaboration with student organizations.
- Engage in educational programs that promote academic achievement such as tutoring and study nights.
- Participate in community events to explore professional career opportunities in STEM.
- Network with faculty, upper-level students, and alumni to strengthen communication skills
- Build a community and network of individuals that share an interest in STEM

LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITIES' GOALS

- Living Learning Communities provide students with a sense of belonging in a community of their peers united by a common interest.
- LLCs support students' intellectual, personal, and social growth by providing them with opportunities to learn in a collaborative, engaging environment.
- LLCs work to integrate students' academic, social, and residential experiences, providing a seamless learning environment in which students develop "connected knowing" outside of the classroom on disciplinary and interdisciplinary projects.
- LLCs challenge students to test their skills/knowledge through applications, experiences, reflection and synthesis outside the classroom. Examples of this include intellectual discussions, trips, projects, speakers, and events.
- LLCs provide opportunity for faculty and staff to engage in university service and student mentoring in intentional mentorship with students outside of the classroom in their field of interest or discipline.

EVENTS

- Advisor lunch: Ryan will be at Clohan at 1:45 pm on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the Month
 - College Coffee at 10 am Tuesday
- Your student ambassadors will be working to plan events for the semester including:

- Elon Challenge Course
- Field Trips
- Movie and/or Trivia Nights
- Colonnades MakerSpace Events
- And more...

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

For students interested in leadership opportunities, the LLC provides a couple types of opportunities:

1. You can serve as a student ambassador. This year we have several returning students in this role; however, new and highly motivated students can reach out and let us know if they are interested in joining that team.
2. You can assist the student ambassadors. This is a highly valuable way to contribute to the LLC - particularly if you have a specific event you are interested in helping plan. There is always plenty to do, and more help organizing and executing plans is always welcome!

STEM LLC EXPECTATIONS

An LLC is only fun if its members are committed to it! On the other hand, we recognize that as the school year progresses, you will become more and more busy. To make this an awesome community, **we are requiring STEM LLC students to attend at least three STEM LLC events each semester.** One of these events needs to be a STEM lunch with Ryan (I would love to get to know all of you, and this is an essential prerequisite to being able to organize an effective community. If you can't make the lunch, just let me know and we can set up something else).

When we plan events, we require that you respond to each event (one way or the other) with your plans to attend (or not attend) any given event. We will track who has attended which events, and we will track response rates to event invitations also.

STEM LLC RETURN POLICY

If you would like to reapply to live in the STEM LLC for the 2024-2025 academic year, you will need to meet the expectations above.