

Seminar Goals

- Orient McNair Scholars to the “culture of the academy” and to explain the structure of universities and graduate programs;
- Introduce McNair Scholars to the concept of graduate school, how to choose a graduate program, and finance graduate education;
- Introduce Scholars to scholarly research.

<p>Instructor Vicki Trier, Ph.D. McNair Program Director Morrill Hall 207 885-6753 vtrier@uidaho.edu</p>	<p>Teaching Assistant Andrea Lyons Morrill Hall Room 207 885-6753 alyons@uidaho.edu</p>	<p>Text and Materials Provided</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduate Admissions Essays (Asher) • Kaplan GRE Workbook • McNair Scholar Handbook • Additional readings (handouts and McNair website) • www.uidaho.edu/mcnair
<p>Course Details Mondays CRN 28144 4:00 – 5:30 pm TLC 144</p>	<p>Course Format Three Credits Graded</p>	

Professional Behavior: You will, at all times, be expected to behave in a professional manner. This means being respectful of your instructors and peers. You are expected to be fully engaged in all aspects of the McNair program.

- **Cell phones:** Use of cell phones is not allowed in class. Turn off your phone before class starts.
- **Laptops:** Use of laptops is not allowed during class unless you provide evidence from Disability Support Services or a doctor that you should use one to take notes. Exceptions will be made for in class activities.
- **Email correspondence:** A crucial part of professional behavior is how you present yourself in email messages. When you email professors and McNair Staff, do not use text language and abbreviations (LOL, etc.). It also means you should proofread your messages for grammar, spelling, punctuation, and clarity before you send them. No email jokes, chain letter forwards etc.

Attendance: You must attend every class meeting ON TIME and must give prior notice if you will be absent. Arriving late for class or meetings is extremely disrespectful and you should pay attention to your schedule so you don't have to be late. You are permitted one absence with an excuse of your choosing. Two absences of any type will require a meeting with the instructor and will result in a grade no higher than “B” in the course. Three or more absences will jeopardize your ability to receive a passing grade and will require a meeting with the instructor and Director of the McNair Program to discuss your continued participation in the class.

Assignments: All assignments given during McNair Seminars are designed to further your understanding of graduate school, to prepare you for the application process, to take the GRE, and to prepare for research with a faculty mentor. Through class and these assignments, you will have the opportunity to draft the materials you will need to eventually apply to graduate school. **All writing assignments must be typed in WORD and emailed to the instructor by 4:00 pm the day they are due. Handwritten assignments will not be accepted.** Make sure to put your name on assignments, papers with no name will be returned and no credit will be given.

All assignments must be completed and turned in on or before the date they are due. If you must turn in an assignment after the due date, **10% (percent)** will be deducted for each day it is late. Please note that additional points may be deducted from that total depending on how well you followed directions and the overall quality of the work.

GRE Assignments: These exercises are designed to assist you in your preparation to take the GRE or other standardized test. Assignment details are below. You will need to register your Kaplan GRE Prep book online at the address provided inside the book to take advantage of the online practice materials.

Reflection Assignments: These assignments are designed to help you reflect on your educational and career goals and how graduate school fits into those goals. Details of the assignments are listed after the daily schedule as are due dates. They are numbered in the following manner: [1], [2], etc. Your responses must be **at least two pages long, typed, and in paragraph form.** You should also reference the readings you've done to explain how your thought processes and decisions. Bullet points are not acceptable. Pay attention to spelling and grammar.

Research Article Critiques: In order to prepare you to conduct your own original research, you must understand the research happening in your discipline and how your potential study fits. You will work with your faculty mentor to choose **3 peer-reviewed research articles** to critique and possible use in the literature review for your study. Guidelines for these critiques will be presented on a separate assignment sheet.

Research Summary: By the end of fall semester, you and your faculty mentor should identify a research question/problem/hypothesis. Your final assignment will be to write a short summary of your research project that will eventually become a research proposal in the spring.

Mentor Meetings: Once you have identified your faculty mentor, you are required to meet with that person **AT LEAST THREE TIMES** during the semester and you will need to complete the mentor meeting sheets and have your mentor sign them. Mentor meeting sheets should be downloaded from the McNair website.

Meetings with Instructor or Teaching Assistant: The McNair Program is not just a series of seminar classes, but a program designed to assist you in prepare you for graduate school in a variety of ways. In order to assess your personal needs and requirements, you are required to meet with Vicki or Andrea at least four (4) times during the semester. You will need to email an agenda of questions, concerns, or other topics you would like to discuss to the McNair Staff member you're meeting with **AT LEAST 24 hours** in advance of your meeting. It is your responsibility to be on time and to call **in advance** if you need to be late or if you need to cancel. Appointments should be scheduled through Monica Washburn (885-6753, monica@uidaho.edu).

Assignments	Points	Total
GRE Assignments (2 Assignments)	25 pts/each	50
Reflection Assignments (4 Assignments)	50 pts/each	200
Article Critiques (3 Assignments)	75 pts/each	225
Meetings with Instructor/TA (4 during the semester)	25 pts/each	100
Faculty/Graduate Student Interviews (3 each)	25 pts/each	150
Personal Statement and Vita	50 pts/each	100
Mentor Meetings (at least 3)	25 pts/each	75
Research Summary	100 pts	100
Total Points		1000

Grading Scale

- A = 1000 to 900 pts.
- B = 899 to 800 pts.
- C = 799 to 700 pts.
- D = 699 to 600 pts.
- F = 599 and below

You must receive at least a B in this course and a signed Mentoring Agreement to advance to the next McNair Seminar.

Incompletes will only be given in extreme cases and must be completed before you can enroll in the Research Seminar.

Date	Topics	Assignments Due
August 20	Becoming a Scholar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facing Fears First • Working & Communication Styles • Professional Behavior 	Pick up your books from your mailbox in the McNair Office.
August 27	Choosing the Graduate Program for You <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing Program Criteria • Selection Flexibility • Choosing Programs / Criteria • Contacting Faculty 	Due today <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholar Handbook pp. 1-19 • Asher pp. xi-26 • Begin Faculty/Graduate Student Interviews
September 3	NO CLASS, Labor Day Holiday, Office Closed	Due today (Tuesday, Sept. 4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [1] Reflection Assignment 1 • GRE Practice Exam
September 10	Assembling the Application <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Application Process • Components of the Application 	Due today <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asher, Chps. 3 & 4 • McNair Handbook pp. 20-26
September 17	Financing Your Graduate Education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Aid • Exploring your options for funding Summer Internships 	Due today <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asher, Chps. 5 – 7
September 24	The Mentoring Relationship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose of mentoring • Expectations-A two-way relationship • How to be a good protégé • Letters of Recommendation 	Due today <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholar Handbook pp. 26-27 • UW Mentoring Guide for Graduate Students (on website) • [2] Reflection Assignment 2
October 1	Demystifying the GRE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Components and Scoring • Preparation • Review the GRE website (www.ets.org/gre) 	Due today <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaplan GRE Book, pp. ix-20 • GRE Study Plan
October 8	Preparing for Research Presentations and Panel: McNair Scholar Veterans	Due today <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty/Graduate Student Interviews due • [3] Reflection Assignment 3
October 15	What is Research? (Part 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group research review • Presentations (Midterm Grades Due)	Due today <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assigned McNair Journal Article • Vita & Personal Statement Drafts • Signed Mentoring Agreement due
October 22	What is Research? (Part 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate McNair Journal article utilizing Leedy and Ormrod article • The Research Process Prepare questions for Faculty Panel	Due today <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leedy & Ormrod Reading (Handout)
October 29	Learning from Faculty Guest Panel: UI Faculty Members	Due today <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Personal Statement and Vita • Mentor Meeting Sheet due
November 5	Research Reading and Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differences from Reports • Critique the critique Prepare questions for Graduate Student Panel	Due today <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article Critique 1
November 12	Life as a Graduate Student Guest Panel: UI Graduate Students Review Asher pp. 70-71	Due today <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article Critique 2 • McNair Handbook pp. 27-40 • Mentor Meeting Sheet due

November 19	NO CLASS, Thanksgiving Break, McNair Office Closed	Due today • Work on Research Summary
November 26	In-class Peer Session • Research Updates • Semester Q & A	Due today • [4] Reflection Assignment 4 • Article Critique 3 • Mentor Meeting Sheet due
December 3	Seminar Wrap-up and Evaluations	Due today • Work on Research Summary
December 10	NO CLASS, Finals Week (Final Grades due December 20)	Due today • Research Summary Due 4:00 pm

Reflection Assignments

1. Write a statement of your current research interests, career plans and goals. What topics do you hope to investigate further? What educational experiences do you still need to achieve your goals? What in your past experience has helped you prepare? **DUE September 3**
2. Using the Graduate School Application Trackers on the McNair website, identify at least 5 graduate programs of interest. At least 3 must not be UI or WSU. Include the name and research interests of at least one faculty member in each graduate program. **DUE September 24**
3. Once you complete the Faculty and Graduate Student Interviews, revisit Reflection Assignment 1 and if you've made any changes to your research interests, be sure to note and explain them. Discuss which faculty member you might want to ask to be your mentor and why. Include a short explanation of their research and why it interests you. **DUE October 8**
4. Write a reflection on what you learned from the three panels (McNair Scholars, Graduate Students, and Faculty). What information was reinforced? What was a surprise? What questions haven't been answered for you? **DUE November 26**

GRE Assignments

1. Take an online practice exam utilizing the Kaplan website, print your scores and turn them in. **DUE September 4**
2. Reflect on how you did on the practice exam. What were your strengths, weaknesses, and were you surprised by anything? Utilize the Kaplan GRE Prep book and online tools to design your own study plan. **DUE October 1**

Have a fun and restful Holiday Season!