

Seminar in Materials Science & Engineering
EMA6936
Class Periods: Tuesday, 8th period and 3:00 – 3:50 pm
Location: 125 Rhines Hall
Academic Term: Fall 2025

Instructor:

Simon Phillpot
phillpot@ufl.edu
Office Phone: (352) 846-3782
Office Hours: On Demand, send email to schedule

Teaching Assistant/Peer Mentor/Supervised Teaching Student:

Please contact through the Canvas website
Donna Moore, office@mse.ufl.edu, Rhines 100

Course Description

Offered in Fall and Spring. Required of all students

Course Pre-Requisites / Co-Requisites

- None

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to think critically about presented topics and provide insights about their applications, future research directions, etc.

Materials and Supply Fees

- None

Required Textbooks and Software

- None

Recommended Materials

- None

Required Computer

- None

Recommended Computer Specifications: <https://it.ufl.edu/get-help/student-computer-recommendations/>
HWCOE Computer Requirements: <https://www.eng.ufl.edu/students/advising/fall-semester-checklist/computer-requirements/>

Course Schedule (Tentative)

Week	Date	Speaker(s)
1	August 26, 2025	Simon Phillpot, Ph.D.; Kevin Jones, Ph.D - <i>Course Introduction/Town Hall</i>
2	September 2, 2025	Ram Seshadri, Ph.D. – University of California, Santa Barbara
3	September 9, 2025	Ying Yang, Ph.D. – Oak Ridge National Laboratory
4	September 16, 2025	Wolfgang Sigmund, Ph.D. – University of Florida (location TBD)
5	September 23, 2025	Sammy Tin, Ph.D. – University of Arizona
6	September 30, 2025	Carlos Lopez, Ph.D. – Pennsylvania State University
7	October 7, 2025	Joseph (Joe) Schlenoff, Ph.D. – Florida State University
8	October 14, 2025	Jean-Charles (JC) Stinville, Ph.D. – University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

9	October 21, 2025	Ramani Narayan, Ph.D. – Michigan State University
10	October 28, 2025	TBD
11	November 4, 2025	Miaofang Chi, Ph.D. – Duke University
12	November 11, 2025	Veteran's Day – No Seminar
13	November 18, 2025	Daniel Gianola, Ph.D. – University of California, Santa Barbara
14	November 25, 2025	Thanksgiving Break – No Seminar
15	December 2, 2025	Nicolo Maria Della Ventura, Ph.D. – University of California, Santa Barbara

Important Dates

- ***September 16th is an important retirement seminar for Dr. Wolfgang Sigmund, please be sure to attend seminar on this date.***

Attendance Policy, Class Expectations, and Make-Up Policy

Attendance is **required** and is taken before each seminar begins. Please be prepared to access the Canvas course and enter the access code. **Arrive on time:** you will not receive credit for the day's seminar **after 3:05 p.m. Stay for the entire class:** students who leave early will be reported to the student honor court for cheating. You will receive an unsatisfactory (U) for this course. Furthermore, the honors court will assign additional educational sanctions, including completion of courses from the following: Avoiding Plagiarism Workshop, Ethical Decision-Making Seminar, and Reflection Paper (see the Faculty Student Resolution Form online for more information). Also, see the section called the "University Honesty Policy" below.

Students are expected to behave professionally during the seminar. No talking, reading, laptop/tablet/notebook/smart-phone activity, etc. is allowed. Students should pay attention to the speaker, actively engage, facilitate and enhance the learning atmosphere, and be courteous at all times. Students who do not behave appropriately will be asked to leave and will not receive attendance credit that day.

Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the Graduate Catalog (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/graduate/regulations>) and require appropriate documentation. Additional information can be found here: <https://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/graduate/regulations/>

Evaluation of Grades

This class offers 13 seminars during class hours in Fall 2025, and students must attend 12 for satisfactory completion. Up to 2 make-up seminars from MSE are allowed, to replace missed seminars, but they must be materials related. Students must obtain approval for the make-up seminar topic from Dr. Phillpot prior to the make-up seminar.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The seminars scheduled for November 18th and December 2nd are mandatory, students are expected to attend.

The following activities are allowable to replace missed seminars:

- Other departmental seminars: A listing of seminars across the UF Engineering Departments can be found at: <https://www.eng.ufl.edu/news-events/events-calendar/>
- Professional conferences: Up to two (2) conference presentations of individuals other than yourself, your advisor or someone in your research group can be used as a make-up seminar.

Furthermore, students must fill out the make-up form on Canvas. The form must include the following information:

- Title of the seminar/presentation
- Name of the speaker
- Hosting department (if applicable)
- Time and place of the seminar
- One paragraph summary and one paragraph analysis/critique of the presentation

These should be turned into Dr. Phillipot. Students who know that they cannot attend 12 official seminars/make-up seminars/conferences/workshops in the semester due to other obligations (e.g., TA schedule conflicts or any off-campus internships) must drop the course before drop/add date in the semester.

Grading Policy

Arrive on time: you will not receive credit for the day's seminar **after 3:05 p.m. Stay for the entire class:** students who leave early will be reported to the student honor court for cheating. You will receive an unsatisfactory (U) for this course.

Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the Graduate Catalog (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/graduate/regulations>) and require appropriate documentation. More information on UF grading policy may be found at:

[UF Graduate Catalog](#)

[UF Grades and Grading Policies](#)

Academic Policies & Resources

To support consistent and accessible communication of university-wide student resources, instructors must include this link to academic policies and campus resources: <https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolices>. Instructor-specific guidelines for courses must accommodate these policies.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. <https://elearning.ufl.edu/>.

Career Connections Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling; <https://career.ufl.edu>.

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>.

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>.

Student Complaints Campus: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>; <https://care.dso.ufl.edu>.

On-Line Students Complaints: <https://distance.ufl.edu/getting-help/>; <https://distance.ufl.edu/state-authorization-status/#student-complaint>.

Commitment to a Positive Learning Environment

The Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering values varied perspectives and lived experiences within our community and is committed to supporting the University's core values.

If you feel like your performance in class is being impacted by discrimination or harassment of any kind, please contact your instructor or any of the following:

- Your academic advisor or Graduate Coordinator
- HWCoe Human Resources, 352-392-0904, student-support-hr@eng.ufl.edu
- Pam Dickrell, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, 352-392-2177, pld@ufl.edu