



### Student Directed Seminars

This page has been inserted into the course syllabus (outline) at the request of the advisory committee that oversees the program for Student Directed Seminars.

The Student Directed Seminars program is intended to provide senior undergraduate students with added opportunities to learn in small, collaborative, group-oriented experiences. It is also the Program's goal to ensure participants, as members of a self-directed group, have a high degree of control over their own learning experience. The UBC program is the only one of its kind in Canada and is modeled on an established student-directed seminar program at the University of California at Berkeley.

To coordinate a seminar, a student (or pair of students) in their third or fourth year of undergraduate study, proposes a course not currently offered at UBC. Proposals are reviewed by a multidisciplinary Advisory Committee made up of Faculty, Staff and Student members. Proposals are evaluated for academic rigour, suitability of the Student Coordinator, and the quality of the learning experience being proposed. We are looking for innovative, academically rich learning opportunities that create a strong peer-based learning experience for participants.

Proposals fall into one of four categories: 1) Approved, 2) Conditionally Approved, 3) Resubmission, and 4) Not Approved. Proposals falling into categories 2) and 3) will undergo further revision and be considered again for approval. During this time, Coordinators also work closely with support and guidance from a Faculty Sponsor. If approved, the student-initiated course is advertised to the general student body.

Following approval Student Coordinators also have the benefit of extensive training which covers facilitation, rubrics and grading, and other topics related to building a high-quality peer-led learning experience.

All upper-level students are eligible to enroll in these classes, however it is up to individual students to determine how seminars will count towards their degree. The minimum enrollment for each class is eight, the maximum fifteen. **Students are only eligible to enroll and receive credit for one seminar as a participant. Students can receive additional credit for one seminar as a Student Coordinator.**

The Student Coordinator is not an instructor. The Coordinator's role is that of a facilitator. S/he is responsible for organizing the learning resources, such as guest lectures, reading materials, and films to be used in the class. The Student Coordinator also sets the parameters of course content, structure, and evaluation procedures, in conjunction with a Faculty Sponsor. However, participants also have an important role in refining the details of all of these elements during the first classes of the term and play an important role as a facilitator during the class.

The entire class is responsible to one another for ensuring that the learning experience has a quality and richness that benefits everyone. Ultimately the Faculty Sponsor is responsible for the grades that are submitted for this course. This course is subject to the normal rules and regulations, as appropriate, which apply to all UBC courses including the university policies around Academic Integrity:

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/?tree=3,54,111,959>.

More program details are available at: <http://students.ubc.ca/success/student-directed-seminars>

Please contact Program Staff at [student.seminars@ubc.ca](mailto:student.seminars@ubc.ca) for any additional information or if you have any questions. We hope your seminar is a rich and rewarding learning experience!