COURSE COORDINATOR: Program Director

INSTRUCTORS: TBD

CREDITS: 4

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will cover the topics necessary to analyze research data and prepare the final research paper and oral presentation. This includes coursework in statistical data analysis, technical writing of a scientific manuscript, and oral presentation techniques. Students will work with on final reports (written and oral) and will include data organization and analysis, two written drafts, a final paper and a final oral presentation.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
The objective of this course is to instruct the student in the necessary procedures for synthesizing the results of a scientific research project in an area of interest. Upon return from the field you will learn basic concepts of organization and analysis of your data, and its interpretation necessary to find plausible answers to your research questions. Finally you will learn basic concepts of technical writing to present your final written paper. You will also be shown effective techniques for the oral defense, or presentation of your final paper.

Review the evolution of excellent examples of research projects carried out by ACM colleagues found in the “Student Academic Resources” Dropbox folder. All stages of the research, from formulating the initial idea, to the drafts of the research proposal and final paper can also be found there. The course readings will assist you in all stages of your project.

You will have the opportunity to improve your curriculum vitae and experience (as many former ACM students have done) by using this work as the basis for thesis seminars, senior thesis projects, oral presentations in national or international congresses, or by submission for publication in a related journal, as many former ACM CR Spring students have done. Start by reviewing the evolution of various ACM students' research projects found in the “Student Academic Resources” Dropbox folder. This course and the ACM Costa Rica Spring research semester is considered a prelude for future, more in-depth research you may undertake in the quantitative (environmental and social sciences), as well as, qualitative (social sciences or humanities) fields.

REQUIRED TEXTS
To be determined
COURSE CONTENT

Module 1:
  How to write a research paper, review on plagiarism. : Scientific writing 1: Introduction and methods.

Module 2:
  Organizing your data and data analysis. Review of statistical tests

Module 3:
  Data Analysis (in Groups)

Module 4:
  Scientific writing 2: results and discussion

Module 5:
  Giving an Oral Presentations

ASSESSMENT

Grading: The final grade will be calculated as a percentage earned out of 500 possible points. Please see the documents “Research Paper and Oral Presentation Guidelines” and “Research Paper and Oral Presentation Grading Rubrics” found in the “Student Academic Resources” Dropbox folder.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final research paper</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final oral presentation</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final feedback to research site</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total points possible</strong></td>
<td><strong>500</strong></td>
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Final feedback to research site: Students must present the results of their research back to their host community and/or research institution. Feedback can be in the form of a presentation, poster or pamphlet and must be in Spanish.

ACM POLICY ON ACADEMICS

All academic pursuit depends on trust. All of us should be able to trust that we will be treated with honesty and respect—respect for our ideas and for us as persons. As a participant in an ACM program, you will be expected to conduct yourself with the same level of honesty and openness as is expected on your home campus.

The following academic policies apply to all students participating in an ACM program:

Course load. You are required to carry the full load of courses and credits as determined for the ACM program in which you are enrolled.
Class attendance and participation. You are expected to attend and participate fully in all classroom sessions, site visits, and field trips. Instructors typically take into account attendance and class participation when assigning final grades. Please remember that these are academic programs: it is not appropriate to miss classes because you are traveling or hosting visitors; you are expected to participate in all program activities unless otherwise excused.

Grade Choice. All ACM courses will be graded and reported to home schools on an A-F grading scale. If a student wishes to take a class or classes on a pass/fail basis, the student must contact their home school’s registrar.

Completion of course work. All class assignments (including final papers, presentations and feedback to communities) must be completed and submitted before the end of the program. Any assignments or work submitted after the final day of the program will receive a “0” and this will be factored into the final grade for the course. ACM does not record/report an “Incomplete” grade for courses. Late work will have an automatic deduction of 10% of the final grade.

Academic honesty. Actions of dishonesty are destructive to the well-being of the academic community, and ACM staff respond to them vigorously. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic theft will result in a failing grade for that assignment and may result in failure for the course. Extremely serious incidents of cheating or other actions destructive to the classroom community may result in expulsion from the program. Instructors who encounter plagiarism or other forms of cheating in an ACM program will report such episodes to the Director of Off-Campus Study, who will investigate and hold a review according to the ACM Student Conduct Procedures. Students who are aware of academic dishonesty on the part of other students are expected to report that information to the Director of Off-Campus Study.

Grading policies related to off-campus study. You should consult your home campus registrar’s office for off-campus grading policies in effect on your own campus.

Graduating seniors. Students who expect to graduate at the end of the term of the ACM program should discuss graduation requirements with an advisor at their home school prior to the start of the program. If you need to make special arrangements (e.g., if grades need to be reported by a specific date), you should share this information with the ACM program director at the beginning of the program.

Retention of syllabi, course work, and other course-related materials. Because home campus advisors may wish to review course work to determine how to assign credit for a particular course or courses taken abroad (and because, occasionally, course grades can be misreported), it is important that students bring back to their home campuses all materials from courses taken abroad. This is particularly important for courses taught by an on-site (i.e., non-ACM) faculty member, where it may be difficult to contact the faculty member after the semester or program has ended.

Release of student grades. ACM staff will only release grades to your home campus once all program, financial, and student conduct obligations are complete.

ACM POLICY ON NON-DISCRIMINATION
The Associated Colleges of the Midwest does not discriminate in the operation of its educational programs, activities, or employment on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, marital status, or disability.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT
Laptops, tablets and mobile phones are strictly forbidden during class time.