MCNR 300: McNair Research Experience

Credit hours: 3  Prerequisite: Current Participant in Winthrop McNair Scholars Program
McNair Scholars can earn up to 6 credit hours for/of MCNR 300.

Class meets: May 14 – June 19 8:30-10 am; Special Hours TBA and Practice presentations 8:30 am – noon
June 20-22; Travel to present research June 27-July; and GRE Prep all day July 2,3,5, & 6
Class meets in Dinkins Auditorium (upstairs) & 107 or elsewhere as the needs of the students or college require

Instructor: Dr. Cheryl Fortner-Wood  Ph: 803-323-2125; Fax: 803-323-3125;
Em: FortnerC@Winthrop.edu

Dr. FW’s Office Hours MTWRF 10 - 11 am and by appointment @ http://calendly.com/cfw
If you have questions about course material, your research, your performance in the program, or admissions to graduate programs, please visit me during office hours or make an appointment through my online Calendar. In addition to the support provided through MCNR 300, Scholars will receive individual advising including, but not limited to, graduate admissions and financial aid assistance. Please seize this opportunity.

Stats and Methods Coach: Dr. Hayes (HayesM@Winthrop.edu)
Office Hours MTWR 10 am – 11:45, Dinkins first floor until presentations and by appointment

Head Writing Coach: Stephanie Bartlett (BartlettS@Winthrop.edu)
Office Hours will typically be 10 am - 1 pm in the McNair Conference room and by email or appointment

Course Purpose, Description, and Resources
MCNR 300 is the flagship course for the Winthrop McNair Scholars Program. The primary purpose of this course is to prepare Scholars to successfully complete high quality research or scholarly activity. Class sessions will include basic information about literature review, research methodology, statistical analysis, and communicating scholarship in written and verbal forms. Scholars will receive individualized support for their project from their mentor, the course instructor, the Methodology and Statistics Coach, and Writing Coach. Another purpose of the course is to provide experiences that will foster student success in the early stages of the graduate admissions process. To this end, Scholars will create/revise their vita, search for and prioritize graduate programs, prepare for the GRE, and learn ways to fund graduate study.

Modifications to this Syllabus
The instructor reserves the right to make modifications to this syllabus if the needs of the class warrant. Students will be notified in class and/or via email of any modifications. All students are responsible for the consequences of those modifications regardless of absence from class and/or delays in accessing email.

Accessibility
Students with Disabilities/Need of Accommodations for Access: Winthrop University is committed to providing access to education. If you have a condition which may adversely impact your ability to access academics and/or campus life, and you require specific accommodations to complete this course, contact the Office of Accessibility (OA) at 803-323-3290, or, accessibility@winthrop.edu. Please inform me as early as possible, once you have your official notice of accommodations from the Office of Accessibility.

Student Learning Outcomes
There are four major student learning outcomes for MCNR 300. They are:

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<th><strong>1. Students will successfully complete a high quality summer research project or scholarly activity including specific individual project milestones.</strong></th>
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<td>1.1. The specific components to be completed and the manner in which the student completes these components will follow appropriate practices in discipline of the Scholar or Faculty Mentor. For example, a scientific research project will include the following components: (Lit review, Methods, Analysis, Conclusions, CITI or animal care module certification).</td>
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<td>1.2. Students will connect their research and scholarly activities with future graduate experiences.</td>
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<td><strong>2. Students will be able to present information effectively using both oral and written modes of communication.</strong></td>
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<td>2.1. By the end of the MCNR 300, students will consistently show effective communication in writing samples on a variety of topics.</td>
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<td>2.2. By the end of the MCNR 300, students will consistently show effective communication in Oral Presentations.</td>
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<td>2.3. Students will provide constructive feedback to their peers and will utilize constructive feedback from peers, mentors, other faculty, the Instructor, and program coaches.</td>
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<td>2.4. All students will be prepared to submit a peer-reviewed proposal for a conference or journal as first or second author.</td>
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<td>2.5 Seniors will identify at least two publication outlets to submit their research.</td>
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<td><strong>3. Students will begin preparation for the Graduate Records Exam (GRE) General Test.</strong></td>
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<td>3.1. Students will become familiar with the content the test assesses, the types of questions asked on the exam, and how the exam is scored. Students will complete two practice exams and learn how to take advantage of Program resources to prepare for the exam.</td>
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<td>3.2. Students will know how to register for and complete the GRE as well as how to acquire GRE fee waivers from The Program.</td>
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<td>3.3 Seniors will determine when they will take the exam and develop a study plan.</td>
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<td><strong>4. Students will find graduate programs in their field of interest.</strong> This includes learning:</td>
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<td>4.1. What resources are suitable for finding programs and how to use those resources to search for appropriate programs,</td>
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<td>4.2. How to determine their priorities and how to use those priorities to determine which programs to apply to,</td>
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<td>4.3. Multiple ways to fund their graduate education, and</td>
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<td>4.4 The core components of the graduate admissions.</td>
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**Student code of conduct**

As noted several times in the Student Conduct Code: “Responsibility for good conduct rests with students as adult individuals.” The Student Life policy on student academic misconduct is outlined in the “Student Conduct Code Academic Misconduct Policy” in the online Student Handbook (http://www.winthrop.edu/uploadedFiles/studentconduct/StudentHandbook.pdf). Academic dishonesty of any form (including but not limited to cheating, plagiarism, falsifying information) may result in a student receiving an F for this course and jeopardize your status in the McNair program.

**My Expectations of You**

1) You will prepare for, attend, and participate in every class.
2) You will be an active learner: raising questions, contributing to discussions both in and out of class, utilizing course resources, taking accurate and complete notes, attentively reading assignments, and sharing relevant resources you have found with your classmates. Being an active learner also means engaging in discussions we
have in class and that you will not text, email, or talk on your cell phone while in class. 
3) You will complete all assignments and readings according to the directions, honorably, and on time. 
4) You will contact me as soon as possible if you have concerns about understanding material, accessing course 
   materials, completing assignments, or your performance in this class. 
5) You will utilize program staff, your mentor, guest speakers, and the Coaches as resources as early and often 
   as necessary. Take advantage of their accessibility through office hours, appointments, e-mail, Skype, and/or 
   phone. 
6) You will listen and interact effectively and sensitively with fellow classmates and everyone affiliated with the 
   program, even when someone expresses a viewpoint that is very different from you own. 
7) You will exhibit academic integrity at all times. 
8) You will use this syllabus as your roadmap for the course and temperature cards as one way to communicate 
   your needs or concerns.

Attendance
You are responsible for all announcements, material, and discussions that occur during our class. This includes, 
but is not limited to, information about assignment directions and due dates. You will be expected to complete 
assignments according to the information I provided during class, regardless of whether you were there to 
hear it. If you miss class, regardless of the reason, the responsibility rests with you to be sure you are 
sufficiently informed about what took place. Please take every step possible to avoid inconveniencing others 
with your absence or need to catch up. I will be tracking attendance in this class. McNair Scholars are expected 
to make every effort to attend every class meeting and to contact the instructor before a class meeting if he or 
she anticipates a schedule conflict. In accordance with the university’s policies, absences totaling more than 25 
percent of class sessions will result in a failing grade. The formal attendance policy is outlined in Winthrop 
University’s Undergraduate Catalog (http://www.winthrop.edu/recandreg/default.aspx?id=7378).

Required Reading
You are required to read: 1) all materials your mentor assigns; 2) assignments from the test prep materials you 
will receive; 3) articles and other course materials as assigned; 4) the IRB CITI training materials; 5) an 
appropriate number and variety of professional and empirical sources found by you in order to be sufficiently 
 informed to successfully complete and inform others about your project; and 6) Dr. McNair’s biography (In the 
 Spirit of Ronald E. McNair: Astronaut, An American Hero; by Carl McNair).

Electronic Submission of Assignments via Email
You are required to email all research milestones and course assignments to by the deadline specified 
(fortnerc@winthrop.edu). For research milestones, ALSO be sure to CC your Mentor AND 
BartlettS@winthrop.edu. All documents should have a title that begins with your name (e.g. “Fortner-Wood 
Lit Review McNair17”). Be sure you also list your name at the top of the first page of every document you 
email me.

Course Requirements
To earn an A in this class, you must attend class, participate in class discussions, read assigned materials, 
submit required homework as directed, and complete in-class assignments on time. Points will be deducted for 
failing to meet any of these criteria. In some cases, assignments will be given an all-or-nothing grade of 
completed or not (e.g., submitting GRE essays or responding on temperature cards). Failure to submit the 
assignment on time or as directed will result in a reduced grade or grade of 0.

(1) Homework and Assignments (25%). Expect daily in-class assignments, to be working on your research project every weekday (and sometimes weekends), and to have some homework assignments in
addition to project milestones (e.g., reading and presenting on readings or cultural events, vita, top 10 graduate schools, at least three grad funding sources). These oral reports and written assignments will be directly related to what you are doing in the course and/or your research project. I will not intentionally assign any activity that does not help you meet MCNR 300 student learning outcomes. For example, every Friday you will provide an oral update on the progress of your project. Complete all of these assignments thoughtfully, on time, and as directed and you will earn an A for this component of your grade.

(2) Research Project Milestones (50%). Your grade in this course depends primarily on submitting your project milestones on time and as directed. Follow the directions and recommendations of your faculty mentor, the program coaches, and the Director and you will earn an A for this component of your grade. Our coursework will provide you with foundational knowledge. Your mentor, our Coaches, and Dr. FW will provide you individualized advice and resources which are tailored to your project and needs. Feedback will be sought from your mentor about your performance and this feedback will be used to inform your grade on this component.

(3) GRE Preparation (25%). McNair test preparation will provide you with valuable information about the GRE General Test which is a critical step in the graduate admissions process. Your grade on this component does not depend on your performance on the practice tests or activities but it does depend on your effort. Do your best on the assignments and take advantage of the wisdom shared by your test prep instructors and you will earn an A on this component of your grade. Please note: No federal funds are used to provide test preparation or registration.

Evaluation of Student Learning
All assignments submitted in accordance with the directions will be scored using letter grades and check marks. To earn an A in this course, you must show that you have achieved all expected learning outcomes listed on page 2 of this document. Because all assignments in the three components assess progress on the four learning outcomes, you must complete all assignments on time and in accordance with the directions. If you have an A average on all three components, you are guaranteed an A in the course. Likewise, you cannot pass the class if you have a failing average on any single component of the course. In cases where a student has not earned As on all components and has not failed a component, the weight for each component (25%, 50%, 25%) will be multiplied by average grade achieved (up to 100%) and the products will be summed to determine the final grade. At the risk of making it sound more complicated than it is, here’s an example:

(Homework =25% x average grade = 80%) + (Research Milestones = 50% x average grade 100%) + (GRE Prep = 25% x 90%) = (.25 x .8) + (.5 x 1.0) + (.25 x .9) = .2 + .5 + .225 = .925 or 92.5% = A-

Important points:
1) Late assignments will earn no grade.
2) You are welcome to turn assignments in early.
3) The instructor will return assignments in a timely manner so you can use feedback to inform your next steps.
At the same time, please keep in mind that each student’s work deserves thoughtful consideration and we will take as long as we need to be sure each assignment receives constructive feedback.
4) It is your responsibility to keep track of your grades and graded assignments. You will receive a midterm grade report to help you verify your standing in the class. You are also welcome to check your calculations with the instructor during office hours or via email.
5) The daily course calendar will be distributed in class.