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Office hours: By Appointment

Course Objective: The FWCB Graduate Student Orientation Seminar is intended to help you hit the ground running at the beginning of your graduate career. Hopefully, the topics we address and the discussion we have as a group will minimize the number of pitfalls you encounter during your tenure as a graduate student. Our Departmental orientation seminar is conducted as a discussion course. You are expected to actively participate, ask questions, and volunteer your experiences in order to make our time together as beneficial as possible. There will be a number of guest speakers, and thus the order of topics may change.

Meeting Times: Dates and hours will be arranged to accommodate the majority of the class with the goal of finishing the course within the first five weeks of the semester.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

- Introduction: your expectations/questions and graduate school requirements
- Coursework and Program of Study
- Committees, qualifying exams, and your thesis/dissertation defense
- Working with your advisor: advisor and student responsibilities
- Developing a research proposal
- Techniques for productive writing and publishing
- Current student perspectives
- Diversity and topics related to under-represented groups
- Science-policy interface and advocacy
- Ethics training
- Library Resources for Research
- Animal Care and Use