

SYLLABUS for AST 597 – Reading for Comprehensive Exam (Prospectus Writing) Spring 2025 - F 11:00 – 11:50 am

General Information:

- Meeting Times: *F 11:00am – 11:50 pm (1 credit)*
- Location: *Physical Sciences Room 111*
- Mode of Instruction: *Face-to-face*
- Grading scheme: *Pass/Fail*
- Instructor: *Prof. Josh Emery*
 - Email: *joshua.emery@nau.edu*
 - Office: *Physical Sciences 323/324*
 - Office Phone: *928-523-6495 (landline – no texting capability)*
 - Office Hours: *By appointment*

Course Description: The written comprehensive examination consists of a written prospectus detailing the student’s proposed dissertation topic. The purpose of the prospectus is to demonstrate that the student’s research has high scientific merit and that the proposed work is of an achievable scope. The written comprehensive examination must be successfully approved prior to scheduling the oral comprehensive examination. This seminar series will help you to assemble a strong prospectus.

Course Objectives: This seminar series will help students understand the requirements and expectations of the written prospectus, and will help students get started writing their prospectus. We will review requirements and expectations of the prospectus, workshop ideas for each student’s prospectus, and will begin writing the prospectus. As a group, we will perform reviews of drafts, thereby giving students ample feedback on their prospectus.

Course Topics Outline:

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC
1	Jan 17	Overview of Written Exam / Prospectus; Develop semester plan
2	Jan 24	Discussion of scientific writing
3	Jan 31	Discussion of literature reading, notes, organization
4	Feb 7	FINESST due Feb 5
5	Feb 14	
6	Feb 21	
7	Feb 28	
8	Mar 7	
	<i>Mar 14</i>	<i>No Class (Spring Break/LPSC)</i>
9	Mar 21	
10	Mar 28	
11	Apr 4	
12	Apr 11	
13	Apr 18	
14	Apr 25	
15	May 2	