National calls to improve undergraduate STEM education have emphasized the importance of undergraduate research experiences. Course-based Undergraduate Research Experiences, or CUREs, involve groups of students in addressing research problems or questions in the context of a class, and have been proposed as scalable ways of involving undergraduates in research. This seminar will offer a definition of CUREs, describe what makes them distinctive from other learning experiences, outline the state of knowledge about CURE effectiveness, and highlight results from the Freshman Research Initiative at the University of Texas at Austin as a unique and highly impactful CURE model.

Erin Dolan is Professor of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology and Georgia Athletic Association Professor of Innovative Science Education at the University of Georgia. As a graduate student in Neuroscience at University of California San Francisco, she volunteered extensively in K-12 schools, which prompted her to pursue a career in biology education. She teaches introductory biology and biochemistry. Her research group studies science research environments as contexts for undergraduate and graduate students’ psychological and social development within the scientific community. She is also Editor-in-Chief of the biology education journal, *CBE – Life Sciences Education*.