

BSC3911 – Entering Research in Biology (Principles of Undergraduate Research)

Syllabus – Fall 2017

Class Meetings: Thursday period 9 (4:05-4:55 pm), Carr Hall 222

Credit Hours: 1

Instructors: Dr. Teresa Mutahi, and the Biology Graduate Student Association (BGSA)

Office: Bartram Hall 214B

Office Hours: by appointment and immediately after class

Email: tmutahi@ufl.edu

Course Description:

This course is designed to enhance the undergraduate research experience by focusing on critical communication skills for success in research, and broadly transferable professional skills. Students will become part of a community of scholars in the Department of Biology. The course is suitable for students beginning the first semester of undergraduate research, as well as students completing their second or later semesters of research.

Course objectives - professional development and communicating about research:

Students will develop roles in a community of undergraduate student, graduate student, and faculty scholars.

Students will recognize and be able to describe ethical conduct in research.

Students will build an annotated bibliography of sources related to their research.

Students will write and improve a research proposal and summary of results and findings. (one-page research proposal and the end of semester report currently required of all students registered for research credit).

Students will be able to verbally describe their research in both formal and informal settings.

Students will discuss expectations of this course and collaborate with the mentor on course assignments.

Students will discuss and reflect upon their research experiences, and discuss conflict management and teamwork.

Additional professional development opportunities for students enrolled in this course:

Through optional seminars, workshops, and events,

Students will create a list of resources regarding resume and CV writing, applying to professional and graduate schools, and interviewing.

Students will outline the major ways in which scientific research is funded in the US, and will explore the funding opportunities available to them on campus.

Students will write a funding proposal for an on-campus resource for research or travel.

Students will present their results at a formal venue.

Required assignments

1. Initial presentation

In collaboration with your mentor, you wrote a one-page proposal for the research you would complete this semester in order to enroll for research credit. In this talk, you will present your proposed work, including the hypotheses you will test, your experimental design and predictions, what data you will gather, and any preliminary results you may have early in the semester. This talk is informal and should be about 15 minutes long.

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2. *Annotated bibliography*

The annotated bibliography is a list of published papers that you have read and have used to inform your research project. An annotated bibliography includes short paragraphs with each citation, outlining how the paper is relevant and why.

- a. ≥ 10 sources
- b. one paragraph summary of each source
- c. alphabetical order

3. *Final presentation*

In this talk, you will summarize your research for the semester, including hypotheses tested, experimental design, data gathered, results, and a discussion of your findings. This talk is formal, and should be about 25 minutes long.

4. *End of semester report*

This is the end of semester report already required at the end of each semester of enrolled research. The report should be similar to the final presentation, in formal written style, with references from your annotated bibliography cited properly.

Required events

1. *Biology Graduate Student Association (BGSA) picnic/ Field Trip* (organized by Chris Krieg, President, BGSA) This will event will help you get to know the community of scholars you've just joined, and will give you an opportunity to share your experiences with potential new undergraduate researchers.

2. *Seminars*

The following seminars, which meet during the regularly scheduled class period, are required:

- a. Expectations from you and your mentor
- b. Using the library (presented by Tara Cataldo, Marston Science Library faculty)
- c. Ethics in research (presented by Dr. Marta Wayne, Professor and Chair, Biology)
- d. Initial presentations (all)
- e. Final presentations (all)

3. *Additional opportunities for professional development*

You must participate in **at least two** of the following events, seminars, or workshops:

- a. Workshop - Writing a resume or CV and interviewing skills (Takes place at the Career Resource Center)
- b. Workshop – Applying to Professional school Medical School (presented by TBA..BGSA)
- c. Workshop - Applying to graduate school/funding (presented by TBA...BGSA)
- d. Attend an exit seminar, talk, poster presentation or conference.

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Grading

Assignment	Points	Percentage
Initial presentation	50	10%
Annotated bibliography	50	10%
Final presentation	100	20%
End of semester report	50	10%
Attendance – picnic/field trip	50	10%
Attendance and participation - required seminars	100	20%
Attendance –symposium/seminar/conference	50	10%
Participation in additional opportunities	50	10%
Total	500	100%

Grading scale:

90 – 100% = A

80 – 89.9% = B

70 – 79.9% = C

60 – 69.9% = D

below 60% = F

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Course Schedule:

Week	Topic	Assignment
Aug 24	No class meeting - meet with your mentor and plan for the semester	
Aug 31	Expectations from you, and from your mentor	Attend picnic/ weekend field trip
Sep 7	Using the library (Presented by Marston Science Library faculty Tara Cataldo - meet in the Thomson Computer Lab on the 1st floor of Marston Library)	Directions: Go to 2 nd floor Marston, then go downstairs to right back corner lab
Sep 14	Ethics in research (presented by Dr. Marta Wayne, Professor and Biology Department Chair/TBA)	
Sep 21	Initial Presentations	
Sep 28	Initial Presentations	Start working on research report: Introduction, literature review, methods
Oct 5	Mid Semester Breather and Check in *Homecoming Week*	
Oct 12	ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY - Workshop: CV and resume writing, interviewing skills (Book an appointment & visit the Career Resource Center)	Submit your CV
Oct 19	ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY - Workshop: Applying to Professional schools-Medical (Presented byBGSA)	
Oct 26	ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY -Workshop: Applying to Graduate School/Funding (Presented byBGSA)	Mentor checks your results, work on final presentation
Nov 2	Final Presentations	
Nov 9	Final Presentations	Annotated bibliography
Nov 16	Attend a Graduate exit Seminar/ Symposium/poster/Talk/Presentation	
Nov 23	No class*****Thanksgiving week*****	

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Nov 30	End of Semester Report	Report Due
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Course attendance:

Attendance is required and essential for success in this course and is a component of your participation grade. I understand that absences happen, but if you make this a habit, you are guaranteed to perform poorly. Attendance is a component of your class participation grade.

Make up policy:

If you have a valid documented excuse and notify me in advance, you may be able to make up missed discussion assignments. I will determine this on an as-needed basis.

U Matter, We Care: Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

UF counseling services:

Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals. The resources include:

UF Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Rd, 392-1575, psychological and psychiatric services.

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career and job search services.

Many students experience test anxiety and other stress – related problems. “A Self Help Guide for Students” is available through the Counseling Center (301 Peabody Hall; 392-1575) and at their web site:

<http://www.counsel.ufl.edu/>.

Academic Honesty Policy:

All students registered at the University of Florida have agreed to comply with the following statement:

“I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.”

In addition, on all work submitted for credit the following pledge is either required or implied:

“On my honor I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

If you witness any instances of academic dishonesty in this class, please notify the instructor or contact the Student Honor Court (392-1631) or Cheating Hotline (392-6999). For additional information on Academic Honesty, please refer to the University of Florida Academic Honesty Guidelines at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx#honesty>.

Plagiarism is a violation of the Academic Honesty Policy. It will not be tolerated. Please review how to define plagiarism and how to avoid it: <http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/msl/07b/studentplagiarism.html>

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Accommodations for students with disabilities:

Students who will require a classroom accommodation for a disability must contact the Dean of Students Office of Disability Resources, in Peabody 202 (phone: 352-392-1261). Please see the University of Florida Disability Resources website for more information at: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>. Note that the student should provide documentation of a requirement for accommodation by the second week of classes. No accommodations are available to students who lack this documentation. It is the policy of the University of Florida that the student, not the instructor, is responsible for arranging accommodations when needed. Once notification is complete, the Dean of Students Office of Disability Resources will work with the instructor to accommodate the student.