

ZOO 6939

Graduate Seminar in Animal Behavior

Fall 2022



CLASS MEETINGS AND FORMAT

Thursdays 12:50 PM - 2:45 PM

Location: [Carr Hall Room 611 \(CRR 0611\)](#)

This seminar class takes the form of a journal club, where the literature we read is chosen by students. Each week one student will serve as the discussion leader and we will read and discuss a paper of their choice. The chosen paper can be a classic in animal behavior, or contemporary research that is of interest to a broad readership. In addition to the main paper discussion, the discussion leader will also present a brief “highlight” focusing on a paper, event, etc. that they think others may be interested to learn which pertains to animal behavior broadly.

Instructor: Nick Keiser, PhD

Nick Keiser is a behavioral disease ecologist, and the Keiser Lab studies infectious disease through the lens of animal behavior using a diversity of test systems (spiders, ants, flies, frogs, ticks). Nick also has experience in studying social behavior, predator-prey interactions, herbivory, and individual differences in behavior (animal personality).

Contact information:

Email: ckeiser@ufl.edu

Phone: 352-273-4981

Office Hours: Thursdays 3:00PM – 4:00PM

www.keiserlab.com

COURSE RESOURCES

Textbook: N/A

Course Website (e-Learning):

Class material will be posted on the Canvas e-Learning website (<http://lss.at.ufl.edu>). You are responsible for receiving all Announcements made in lecture and/or posted on the course website for this class. For help with e-Learning, call the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357, or visit the e-Learning support website: <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

ASSESSMENTS AND GRADING

Students will sign up on Canvas with their intention to lead a discussion as soon as possible. At least **one week prior** to the class meeting, post a link to the paper and provide a brief statement about the paper authors. Any other information you choose to share is welcome. In preparation to lead the discussion it is advisable to prepare leading questions, points of particular interest in the paper, and a summary of important contributions the paper makes. Also, describe to the class how this topic pertains to your current research or interests. This preparation may require reading additional related literature.

On the canvas discussions page, please post a link to the peer-reviewed paper the group will be reading during your week to lead the discussion. For best results, post a link directly to the journal web page and also attach a PDF. Links to library web pages or directories often encounter errors when others try to access them, so that should be avoided. Before midnight on the day of your presentation, please upload a powerpoint or PDF file to the assignments tab on Canvas.

Grading Summary:

Discussion lead: 40%
Highlight presentation: 10%
Class participation: 40%

Letter Grades

A	90% - 100%
B	80% - 89.9%
C	70% - 79.9%
D	60% - 69.9%
F	< 60%

DROP/ADD/WITHDRAWAL

A student can drop/add during the drop add period with no penalty. After drop/add, a student who drops will receive a W until the date listed in the academic calendar. After that date, the student may be assigned an "E" (fail). Note: it is the responsibility of the STUDENT to withdraw from a course, not the instructor. Failure to participate/complete the class is NOT a drop.

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to check the course Canvas website regularly for announcements, assignment due dates, and other course related information. Attendance is not required, but unexcused absences will negatively affect your class participation grade.

COURSE EVALUATION

Anonymous course evaluations will be open via UF's online evaluations system near the end of the semester (<https://evaluations.ufl.edu>). You will receive e-mail notifications of when the evaluations open. Evaluations are stored and reported in a completely anonymous manner. Authentication for evaluation submission is only to ensure that only one evaluation is submitted per student.

COVID-19 SAFETY

[This section prepared and approved by UF administration]

In response to COVID-19, the following recommendations are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit one.ufl.edu for screening / testing and vaccination opportunities.
- If you are sick, stay home. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 to be evaluated.
- As with any excused absence, you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up missed work.

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

Accommodations for students with disabilities: Students who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester. Requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565; www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Please contact the DRC or your instructor as early as possible in the semester to ensure that you receive the necessary accommodations.

Course Evaluations: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be notified of specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

Academic Integrity

UF students are bound by **The Honor Pledge** which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services: Student Health Care Center, 392-1161. University Police Department, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies). <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>. Career Connections Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://career.ufl.edu/>

Library Support: <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/> Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

Basic Needs: Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support –

see <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu>. Please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so, and visit The **Field and Fork Pantry** <https://pantry.fieldandfork.ufl.edu> for additional resources. The **Molm Family Gator Career Closet** ([link](#)) alleviates the financial strain of purchasing professional clothing for career fairs, interviews, and the workplace. This service is available to all University of Florida students with a valid UF ID and UF alumni up to one year after graduation.

Recording lectures: Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student