FYI Biology

BSC 1920—Fall 2015—Sections 13A2, 6086, 2425, 124H

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Office hours - Mondays 2:30-4:30 and other times by appointment.

Course Objectives & Policies

Learning Objectives:

As you begin your career as an undergraduate student at UF, this course provides an introduction to the field of biology and UF resources specific to that discipline. It is expected that this course will be taken the first semester after declaring a biology, zoology, or botany major. In order to encourage interactions between you and the faculty instructor, the class size has been kept small.

Students who have participated fully in this class will be able to:

1. Describe the nature of science (hypothesis testing, peer review, grant funding).
2. Identify and use library resources and databases.
3. Access the scientific literature.
4. Distinguish between primary and secondary scientific literature and popular literature
5. State principles of scientific ethics including proper application of the scientific method, proper design and analysis of experiments, proper citation of the literature and absence of plagiarism, the ethical use of animals, best and safe lab practices.
6. Write a paper using the scientific style of organization and literature citation.
7. Identify opportunities for undergraduate research
8. Identify opportunities for faculty/student interactions.
9. Identify and use advising and career resources.

The focus for our scientific discussions and your paper writing will be controversies surrounding the topics of climate change, genetically modified organisms, and childhood vaccinations.

Textbook:

There is no required text, but readings will be assigned and made available electronically.

Grading

This is a S/U course, so your performance will either be S (satisfactory) or U (unsatisfactory). To earn an "S" in the course, you must complete all required assignments (i.e., paper, review and paper revision) and earn a total of 41 points (out of 55 possible points) via the completion of assignments and participation in the course. There are no exams, but quizzes are associated with some assignments.

Course Assignments and Grading: *Pts will be given for good-effort completion of assignments*

1. Develop an **Academic Plan**: CLAS students: View the Advising Center PowerPoint presentation and take the online quiz. Students in other colleges: See an academic advisor and develop a two-year course plan. *Note: Development of a Career Plan is an alternative to this assignment for senior students.* (5 pts)
2. Create a **Bibliography**: Using the database search engines available at UF and reference software (e.g., EndnoteWeb) as explained in the Library Tutorial, conduct a literature search on your research topic and submit a formatted bibliography. (5 pts)
3. **Annotate one Reference**. Keeping track of what you've read and where is a key component of proper citation. Try the annotated bibliography approach to summarizing what you read in a primarily literature source. (5 pts)
4. Write a 5-page **Paper** on a topic of your choice related to controversies in climate change, genetically modified organisms, or childhood vaccinations; individual topics will be approved by the instructor. Your **first submission** will be reviewed by a classmate and revisions will be required for the **final submission**. These are **REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTs** (5 pts each for original and revised submissions = 10 pts total).
5. **Review** a classmate's paper. Provide an anonymous, constructive review of a peer's first paper submission. This is a **REQUIRED ASSIGNMENT** (5 pts).
6. Complete **Animal Care and Use Training**. Online training is required for every person who will have contact with animals in a research setting. Complete the basic online training module Working with the UF IACUC (non-VA version). (5 pts)
7. Complete **CHOMP questionnaire**. UF has purchased access to several programs to aid in the discovery of your "best-fit" major and career. These are free resources that help you to set your eyes on a path that will ultimately suit you. (5 pts)
8. **Class Participation**. Participation in class discussions is key to your success of this course, and attendance will be documented. (15 pts total, each missed class is a deduction of 1 participation point).

Class discussions

A goal of this course is discussion and the recognition that in many respects there is no single answer to a question and much is yet unknown in biology. In class discussions, please be courteous to others and respectful of alternative views. All of you are encouraged to ask either factual or interpretative questions and discuss the assigned reading material. Please refrain from side-bar discussions and distracting behavior.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious violation of the Student Honor Code.
https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/

It includes:

- "Borrowing" without giving credit for the source of an idea, observation, or conclusion
- Failing to cite sources, or citing them improperly
- Changing some words but using the same sentence structure as a source without giving credit
- Copying too many words or ideas from a source, even if you give credit
- Submitting someone else's work as your own

Consequences of plagiarism in BSC 1920:

- No credit will be given for any assignment that includes plagiarized text.

Course policies

Readings should be done in advance of class; you are expected to come ready to discuss the topics. In cases of major medical and/or family emergencies, as officially documented by a letter, students can negotiate an incomplete for the term. Consistent with University policy, Incompletes will revert to U if not completed within one term.

University support services

Resources are available on campus to help students meet academic goals and solve personal problems, which may interfere with their academic performance. Such resources include:

1. UF Counseling and Wellness Center, 301 Peabody Hall and Radio Rd Facility, 392-1575, personal and career counseling.
2. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling.
3. CLAS Academic Advising Center, Farrior Hall, 100 Fletcher Drive, 392-1521, provides advise on course selection and course planning to meet graduation requirements

Disability Notice

Students with disabilities enrolled in this course and who may need disability-related classroom accommodations are encouraged to make an appointment to see me before the end of the second week of the term. All discussions will remain confidential, although the Student Accessibility Services office may be consulted to discuss appropriate implementation of any accommodation requested.