

# BSC 1920 – FYI: First Year Introduction to Biology at UF

Sections 089G, 09EF, 09E0

Syllabus for Spring 2014

## I. Course Description and Prerequisites

Introduces the field of biology and the academic resources specific to this discipline at UF. Discussions of the nature and practice of scientific research, laboratory safety, advising and career resources for biologists. (S-U) 1 credit.

**Prerequisites:** None

## II. Course Meetings

**Class Meetings:**

Section 089G: Tuesdays period 3 Turlington 2342

Section 09EF: Tuesdays period 4 Turlington 2346

Section 09E0: Tuesdays period 5 Turlington 2306

\*\*Some class meetings will be held elsewhere. Check the schedule on Sakai before class to make sure you are in the right location! There is no final exam for this course.

## III. Instructors

**Course Instructor:**

**Dr. Nicole Gerlach**

Department of Biology

Office: 520 Carr Hall

Office Hours: TBA

E-mail: [ngerlach@ufl.edu](mailto:ngerlach@ufl.edu)

## IV. Course Communications

**Course Website:** <http://lss.at.ufl.edu>

**Contacting Your Instructor:** If you have a question about course mechanics or course material that cannot be answered from the syllabus, course announcements, or the course FAQ, please post it to the Discussion Boards on eLearning. If you have a question involving a personal issue, please e-mail Dr. Gerlach, as appropriate. All e-mail correspondence must originate from your ufl.edu account, have your full name in the body of the e-mail, and contain "BSC 1920" in the subject line. E-mails not meeting these requirements may not be recognized by my e-mail filters, and thus may not be answered. Barring unusual circumstances, expect a reply with 24 hours. E-mails and Discussion Board posts are checked at least once per day, but sometimes not more than that.

**Communications From Your Instructor:**

Each student is solely responsible for reading and following the policies, instructions, and schedules in this syllabus, on the course webpage, and announced in class. Not having read the information in this syllabus, on the webpage, or in course announcements will not constitute an excuse for missing deadlines, assignments, or other assessments.

## V. Course Resources

### A. Textbook

There is no required text in this course, but readings will be assigned from books and journal articles; these will be made available electronically.

### B. eLearning (Sakai):

All course materials, announcements, assignments, and grades will be handled via the course's eLearning site. <http://lss.at.ufl.edu>

## VI. Course Policies

### A. Time Commitment

The UF College of Liberal Arts and Sciences assumes that each student will devote 3-4 hours per week per credit-hour to each course.

### B. Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes and participate in classroom activities and discussions. Excused absences should be accompanied by appropriate official documentation (i.e. letter from athletic office, Dean of Students office, medical professional, etc.) as soon as possible. Multiple excused absences may result in an incomplete for the term; see "Assessments and Grading" below for details.

### C. Classroom Behavior

Readings should be done in advance of class; you are expected to come ready to discuss the topics. A short writing prompt may be given at the beginning of class to assess student preparation and facilitate discussion.

A goal of this course is the recognition that in many cases 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 material. Please refrain from side-bar discussions and distracting behavior; students engaged in disrespectful or disruptive behavior may be asked to leave, resulting in the loss of attendance points for that day. Use of electronic devices in class to take notes or otherwise participate in classroom activities is approved. Other uses of these devices or the use of unapproved devices will be considered disruptive. Students who use unapproved devices in class will be considered disruptive.

### D. Computing Requirements

As a student at UF, it is your responsibility to either maintain a reliable Internet connection or access computer resources on campus. Computing/internet connectivity issues will NOT be acceptable excuses for missed deadlines unless they are brought to the attention of the instructor at least 24 hours prior to the deadline. Do not leave your assignments to the last minute!

### E. Late Work

Unless otherwise specified, all assignments should be submitted via eLearning and will be due by 11:59 p.m. on the Monday *before* class of the week listed on the Lecture Schedule. Late work will be penalized 0.5 points per day up to 7 days; late work will *not* be accepted beyond one week after the deadline.

## VII. UF Policies

### A. Academic Honesty

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 have knowledge of 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>.

#### **B. 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, and accommodations are not retroactive. 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.

#### **C. 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.

## **VIII. Getting Help**

#### **A. Computing Problems**

For issues with technical difficulties for eLearning in Sakai, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- Learning-support@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

#### **B. University Support Services**

College can be a very stressful time in a person’s life. Resources are available on campus to help students meet academic goals and solve personal problems, which may interfere with their academic performance. If you find that you are having difficulty emotionally or academically, there is substantial support available. See “[A Self Help Guide for Students](#)” or contact on of the following services:

1. [UF Counseling and Wellness Center](#), Radio Rd Facility, 392-1575
2. [Dean of Students Office](#), 202 Peabody Hall, 392-1261
3. [Career Resource Center](#), Reitz Union, 392-1601
4. [CLAS Academic Advising Center](#), Farrior Hall, 100 Fletcher Drive, 392-1521

## IX. Assessments and Grading

### A. Course Assignments

The course will involve 8 submitted assignments worth 5 points each, as well as 10 points for attendance and class participation. Points will be given for good-effort completion of assignments *by the due date*. (See “Late Work”, Section VI.E above.)

1. **Create a Bibliography for a topic in Evolutionary Medicine:** 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)
2. **Annotate 1 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 primary literature source. (5 pts)
3. **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)
4. **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)
5. **Develop an Academic Plan:** Meet with a Biology Advisor and plan 2 years of coursework in your major. (5 pts) *Note: Development of a Career Plan is an alternative to this assignment for senior students.*
6. **Write a 1200 word (5-page) paper** on a topic of your choice in Evolutionary Medicine; individual topics will be approved by the instructor. First submissions will be reviewed by a classmate and revisions will be required for the final submission. This is a REQUIRED ASSIGNMENT (5 pts, each submission = 10 pts total).
7. **Review a classmate’s paper.** Provide an anonymous, constructive review of a peer’s first paper submission. This is a REQUIRED ASSIGNMENT (5 pts).
8. **Class Participation.** Participation in class discussions is key to your success of this course, attendance and participation will be documented. (10 pts total, each missed class is a deduction of 1 participation point).

### B. Grading scale

This is a S/U course, so your performance will be either S (satisfactory) or U (unsatisfactory). To earn an “S” in the course, you must earn a minimum of 37 points via participation in the course *and* the completion of assignments (including all the required assignments, i.e., paper, review, and paper revision). Please plan ahead to earn the points you will need to earn an “S” in the course; final grades will not be adjusted for any reason.

Note that the current UF policy for assigning grade points is available at the following undergraduate catalog web page: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

- C. **Incomplete(“I”):** If a student has completed the majority of the course work and particular DOCUMENTED circumstances prevent completion of the course in the time allotted, the student may, with the agreement of the instructor, be assigned an “I” pending resolution of the grade. All incompletes MUST be resolved by the end of the following term or the student will receive a grade of “E” (failing).

## X. Disclaimer

This syllabus represents the current plans and objectives; however, schedules, requirements, and assignments may change throughout the semester as the need arises. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.

## XI. Lecture Schedule

NOTE: The following schedule is tentative; lecture topics and coverage may change. Updated schedule and specific reading assignments will be posted on eLearning throughout the semester.

Week	Class Date	Topic	Due this week (at 11:59 p.m. the day before class)
1	Tues 07 Jan	Introduction to the Course / Introduction to Evolutionary Theory	
2	Tues 14 Jan	Introduction to Evolutionary Medicine / Where does the stuff in your textbook come from?	
3	Tues 21 Jan	Library resources at UF <b>Note: Different Location – Meet at Room L308, Marston Science Library</b>	
4	Tues 28 Jan	Reading a scientific paper	Bibliography
5	Tues 04 Feb	Ethics 1: Plagiarism and Citation	Annotated Reference
6	Tues 11 Feb	Testing the role of evolution in medicine	
7	Tues 18 Feb	Career Services at UF <b>Note: Different Location – Meet at the CRC classroom at the Reitz Union</b>	Paper Draft 1
8	Tues 25 Feb	Survival skills for large intro classes	CHOMP
	Tues 04 Mar	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	
9	Tues 11 Mar	Ethics 2: Animal and Human Research	IACUC Training
10	Tues 18 Mar	Advising resources at UF <b>Note: NO CLASS MEETING this week. Instead, use this time to meet with your advisor and develop an academic plan.</b>	
11	Tues 25 Mar	The publishing process and peer review	Academic Plan
12	Tues 01 Apr	Undergraduate research at UF	Peer Review
13	Tues 08 Apr	Dogma in Science	
14	Tues 15 Apr	Being Well: Counseling resources at UF	Final Paper
15	Tues 22 Apr	Science and the Media	