

BSC 4930 - Research Scholarship Course – Spring 2026

Course Description

A variable topics course designed for undergraduate and graduate students participating in federally-sponsored research scholarship programs in the biomedical and life sciences. Objectives include development of scientific communication skills, research ethics and responsible conduct of research, scientific rigor and reproducibility, and the ability to critically evaluate scientific research. 1 credit. Repeatable for credit.

Prerequisites

Scholar, trainee, or fellow in the MARC GatorSTAR Program, SF2UF Bridge Program, or other federally-funded research training program.

Co-requisites

None

Instructors

Yenisel Cruz-Almeida, PhD, MSPH, Assistant Professor and Associate Director, Pain Research & Intervention Center of Excellence

David Julian, PhD, Associate Professor, Dept. of Biology

Ana Longo, PhD, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Biology

Meeting Time and Location

Class meets Wednesdays 8:30 am – 9:20 am. We will meet in Carr Hall Room 222 (may change over the course of the semester)

Office Hours

By appointment

Course Textbook

There is no required textbook for this course. Weekly reading materials will be accessible online.

Materials and Supplies Fees

There are no additional fees for this course.

Assignments

This class covers a variety of topics about professional development over weekly meetings, and students will be evaluated by participation in discussions, submission of materials and assignments, and presentations. Because this course can change as new topics and needs emerge, and students may be in different career/academic stages, assignments may also change.

Assignments	Points
Student biographies	10
Mentor-mentee agreement	20
RCR assignment	10
Celebration of research interviews	20
Rigor and reproducibility	10
Financial literacy assignment	10
Research group presentations	20
Total	100

Grading

Point Range (%)	Letter Grade	Point Range (%)	Letter Grade
93.33 or higher	A	73.33-76.65	C
90-93.32	A-	70-73.32	C-
86.66-89.99	B+	66.66-69.99	D+
83.33-86.65	B	63.33-66.65	D
80-83.32	B-	60-63.32	D-
76.66-79.99	C+	< 60	E

Information on grades and grading policies is here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>. (Links to an external site.)[Links to an external site.](#)

Class Participation

Your participation in each class session will be assessed and this will be factored in the assignment of points for each session.

Class Policies

Extra Credit

- There will be no opportunities for extra credit.

Time Commitment

- The UF College of Liberal Arts and Sciences assumes that you will devote a total of 45 hours per credit to each course.

Class Attendance, Make-Up, and Late Work

- Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx> (Links to an external site.).
- Class attendance is expected and students are expected to arrive on time. Excused absences are consistent with [university policies](#) and require appropriate documentation. Each *unexcused* absence will result in a 10% reduction of the total possible points in the final grade. If you must miss class, or miss an assignment or exam due to an allowable, scheduled absence (for example, to participate in a sanctioned university function), you must notify the instructor during the first week of classes or immediately after the event is scheduled. If you miss a class or an assignment due to an allowable but *unscheduled* and *unpredictable* absence (e.g., illness), you must contact the instructor as soon as possible.
- Late work will not be accepted unless it is the direct result of an allowable but unscheduled and unpredictable absence, as defined above, at the discretion of the instructor.
- Makeup assignments will be provided for students who miss an assignment or exam as the direct result of an allowable but unscheduled and unpredictable absence, as defined above. The composition and structure of the makeup assignment or exam will be at the discretion of the instructor.
- If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms ([click here for guidance from the CDC on symptoms of coronavirus \(Links to an external site.\)](#)), please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. [Click here for UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms \(Links to an external site.\)](#). Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. Refer to the above link for more information on the university's attendance policy.

Using Electronic Devices in Class

- As a courtesy to your classmates, you are prohibited from making video or audio recordings of class discussions or presentations by fellow students.
- You must be fully engaged in the classroom, and not participate in other activities during the class, such as talking to roommates, running errands, or checking social media or other websites.

Students Requiring Accommodations

- Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, 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. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

- Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. ([Links to an external site.](#))[Links to an external site.](#) Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/> ([Links to an external site.](#))[Links to an external site.](#).

Class Demeanor

- Students are expected to behave in class in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussions. Students whose behavior in a manner that is disrespectful or otherwise disruptive will be asked to leave the class. Multiple occurrences will result in the assignment of failing grade.

Privacy Statement

- Our class sessions may be audio-visually recorded for students in the class to refer back to and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded or to have your voice recorded, notify the instructor in advance. The "chat" feature in Zoom allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

University Honesty Policy

- 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 (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) ([Links to an external site.](#))[Links to an external site.](#) 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.

Health and Wellness Resources

- *U Matter, We Care*: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website \(Links to an external site.\)](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- *Counseling and Wellness Center*: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website \(Links to an external site.\)](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- *Student Health Care Center*: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website \(Links to an external site.\)](#).
- *University Police Department*: [Visit UF Police Department website \(Links to an external site.\)](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center*: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

Academic Resources

- *E-learning technical support*: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk \(Links to an external site.\)](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- *Career Connections Center (Links to an external site.)*: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
- *Library Support (Links to an external site.)*: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- *Teaching Center (Links to an external site.)*: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
- *Writing Studio*: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- *Student Complaints On-Campus*: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information \(Links to an external site.\)](#).
- *On-Line Students Complaints*: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

Schedule

Date	Topic
January 14	Mental wellness resources
January 21	Graduate School interviews
January 28	Introduction to RCR
February 4	Reading scientific papers
February 10	Celebration of Research
February 11	No class, excused to attend Celebration of Research
February 18	Rigor and Reproducibility
February 25	Time management
March 4	Difficult conversations
March 11	Difficult conversations
March 18	<i>Spring break, no classes</i>
March 25	Financial literacy
April 1	Lab round ups
April 8	Research Group Presentations
April 15	Research Group Presentations
April 22	Summer plans