

COURSE SYLLABUS & CLASS SCHEDULE
BSC 1920: FYI: BIOLOGY AT UF
SPRING 2015
(SECTION 016F)

Contact information Dr. Karen A. Bjorndal
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352-392-1126
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Class schedule Tuesday, Period 6 (12:50 - 1:40), 222 Carr Hall

Course website <http://tinyurl.com/BSC1920Bjorndal>

Office hours Tuesdays 7th period (1:55–2:45) & Thursdays 5th period (11:45–12:35)
in 320 Carr Hall, or by appointment
If you are experiencing any problems with the class, please see me as soon as possible – before or after class, during office hours, or by appointment.

Objectives

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, botany, or zoology major. To encourage interactions between you and the faculty, the class size is small.

We will have discussions about the following topics:

1. The nature of science (hypothesis testing, peer review, grant funding)
2. Accessing the scientific literature, library resources and databases
3. Independent undergraduate research
4. Facilities on campus
5. Advising and career resources
6. Scientific ethics
7. Laboratory safety and care of biological organisms
8. Faculty/student interactions

Required Readings – pdfs are available on the course website – click on the titles to access

National Research Council. 2009 [*On being a scientist: a guide to responsible conduct in research*](#). The National Academies Press, Washington DC.

Van Noorden, Richard. 2011. [A death in the lab](#). Nature 472:270-271.

Course Assignments – Assignments may be submitted via email or hard copy

See “[Course Assignments & Basis of Grades](#)” on the Course Website for detailed descriptions of the assignments.

- Attendance and participation (40 points): Students are expected to attend all classes and contribute to class discussions.
- List of potential majors from “CHOMP” (7 points)
Due by the beginning of class on **27 January 2015**
- Two annotated bibliographies (7 points each for a total of 14 points)
Due by the beginning of class on **10 February and 17 February 2015**
- Certificate of Completion for “Working with the UF IACUC” (7 points)
Due by the beginning of class on **24 February 2015**
- Academic Plan or Career Plan (7 points): Develop an Academic Plan with a Biology Advisor or a Career Plan with Career Resources.
Due by the beginning of class on **10 March 2015**
- Graph assignment #1: create a graph from data provided (7 points)
Due by the beginning of class on **24 March 2015**
- Graph assignment #2: select a graph and present it in class (18 points)
In-class presentations on either **7, 14 or 21 April 2015**

Grading Scale

As listed above under Course Assignments, a total of 100 points can be earned by successfully completing all assignments. Because this is an S/U class, your performance will be either S (satisfactory) or U (unsatisfactory). Under the UF grading scale <<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>>, the equivalent of a “C” grade (minimum of 73% of class points) is needed to earn an “S” grade; a “C-” grade will yield a “U” grade. Thus, an “S” grade requires 73% – or 73 points – of the possible 100 points available in the class.

If you have any questions about your grade, please see me as soon as possible.

Course Policies

Class discussions

This class cannot be a success if you do not attend. You should contribute to class discussions and be courteous to others in the classroom and respect each other’s viewpoints. You are encouraged to ask either factual or interpretative questions and discuss the assigned reading material. You are expected to have completed reading assignments before class and be prepared to discuss the material.

Class attendance

You are expected to attend all classes and arrive promptly. Please refrain from side discussions and distracting behavior (turn off cell phones). If you miss class due to an

illness, family emergency, or approved University activity, you will need to provide documentation.

Late assignments

Late assignments will be given a lower grade. If there is a valid reason for the delay, please see me as soon as possible, preferably before the due date.

Academic Honesty

Quoted from the UF Website:

“Preamble: In adopting this [Honor Code](#), the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students who enroll at the University commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the Honor Code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action. Student and faculty support are crucial to the success of the Honor Code. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon the community acceptance and enforcement of the Honor Code.

“The Honor Pledge: *We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty 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."*

University Support Services

Resources are available on campus to help students meet academic goals and solve personal problems. Resources include:

1. [UF Counseling and Wellness Center](#), personal counseling (including mental health issues) and career counseling.
2. [Career Resource Center](#), career development assistance and counseling.
3. [CLAS Academic Advising Center](#), provides advice on course selection and course planning to meet graduation requirements

Disability Notice

Students with disabilities enrolled in this course 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.

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Course Schedule – Subject to change

Date	Scheduled Topic
Jan. 6	Introduction to course, other students, professor, and faculty research Description of Annotated Bibliographies and other assignments Discussion topic: What should a college education provide?
Jan. 13	UF resources for career planning Meet at Career Resource Center, CR-100, first floor J. Wayne Reitz Union NOTE different location
Jan. 20	Creating new knowledge I: the Scientific Method
Jan. 27	Library resources & database use: Dr. Tara Cataldo, UF libraries Meet at L308 on the 3 rd floor of the Marston Science Library NOTE different location <i>Turn in List of potential majors from CHOMP</i>
Feb. 3	Creating new knowledge II: getting support and publishing results Review creation of annotated bibliographies
Feb. 10	Professional Ethics: research, publications, and plagiarism Readings: Pages 1-3, 8-18, 29-34 in textbook: <i>On being a scientist</i> <i>Turn in Annotated Bibliography #1</i>
Feb. 17	Professional ethics: use of animals and humans in research Introduction to the UF Teach program; Dr. Kathryn Williams Readings: 1. Pages 24-27 in textbook: <i>On being a scientist</i> The lessons in the “Working with the IACUC: non-VA version” course. See assignment #4 in the Course Assignments and Basis of Grades document on the course website for instructions on how to access this IACUC course. <i>Turn in Annotated Bibliography #2</i>
Feb. 24	Facilities tour: Interdisciplinary Center for Biotechnology Research Meet in lobby of the Genetics Institute, 2033 Mowry Road, Campus For background information, see: www.biotech.ufl.edu/ NOTE different location <i>Turn in IACUC Certificate of Completion</i>
Mar. 3	<i>Spring Break – no class</i>
Mar. 10	Creation and Interpretation of Graphs I; discuss Graph Assignment #1 <i>Turn in Academic Plan or Career Plan</i>
Mar. 17	Creation and Interpretation of Graphs II with example of Graph Assignment #2

Mar. 24	<p>Undergraduate research and mentoring Laboratory and field safety Readings: Pages 4-7 and 28 in textbook: <i>On being a scientist</i> AND “A death in the lab” available as a pdf file on our class website <i>Turn in Graph Assignment #1 – graph created from data</i></p>
Mar. 31	<p>Facilities tour: Natural Area Teaching Laboratory Meet at academic entrance Natural Areas Teaching Pavilion, Building #0796 on west side of Surge Area Drive, south of the Entomology building For background information, see: http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/ NOTE different location</p>
April 7	Present Graph Assignment #2 in class
April 14	Present Graph Assignment #2 in class (continued)
April 21	Present Graph Assignment #2 in class (continued) Course evaluation