

BSC2011 Honors Discussion - Spring 2021 ONLINE

Section 4927 – Wednesdays, Period 5 (11:45-12:35)

Section 4928 – Wednesdays, Period 6 (12:50-1:40)

Contact Information

Instructor: Bob Spielbauer

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Office: 210 Dickinson Hall

Office Hours: Virtual; by appointment

Course Description

Honors Discussion is a fun, intellectually challenging course where students expand their understanding of biological concepts related to plants, animals, and ecology! Students will improve their scientific literacy and expand their critical thinking skills through active learning exercises and discussion of fundamental and current primary literature. This is the honors requirement for BSC 2011 Integrated Principles of Biology 2.

Course Goals and Objectives

Learning Objectives:

1. Learn to locate, read, and interpret primary literature
2. Critically assess primary literature
3. Improve scientific literacy through the application of scientific concepts in debate
4. Gain exposure to real-world scientific research and processes

Grading

This course is weighted as 10% of your total lecture grade.

Course Component	Points
Participation	150
Activities (3 x 30pts)	90
Worksheets (6 x 10pts each)	60
TOTAL	300

Course Components:

1. **Participation.** Your grade for this class is based largely on your attendance and participation. Students are expected to contribute actively to all discussions, speakers, and activities. Much of the material will be new—You are not expected to be an expert

on the topics! Engaging with the materials and your classmates through questions and thoughtful discussion is the goal. This score reflects the completion of questions for guest experts and participation in in-class activities and discussion.

Note: All students will behave respectfully to others in this class. Anyone acting otherwise will be asked to leave for the remainder of that class and will sacrifice 25% of their total participation grade.

2. **Activities.** Three activities will be completed outside of class. These activities are designed to help you critically assess aspects of primary literature, gain exposure to current research in biology, and to allow you to experience the review process of scientific writing.
3. **Worksheets.** As stated, students are expected to arrive prepared to engage with the material each week. Weeks with reading discussions will have an associated worksheet to guide your preparation for class.

It is very unlikely you will understand everything in each paper. It is completely acceptable to include questions that you have on the reading on your worksheets and presented as part of our discussion. The worksheets help you work through the readings; they are not a quiz on how much you know about the topic or paper.

Make-up Policy: Participation *cannot* be made up. Worksheets and Activities *cannot* be made up or completed for credit without attendance except for documented university-excused absences.

Attendance

Attendance is required for success in this course. You cannot participate if you are not present and prepared for class. Requirements for class attendance,, 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>.

If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms ([click here for guidance from the CDC on symptoms of coronavirus](#)), 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](#). 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.

Zoom Meetings. A big part of this course is working with and learning from each other. Our weekly discussion sessions give us an opportunity to do this by problem solving together and helping to build a community of support for each other. There is no dress code for discussion sessions. Be as comfortable as you wish; please also keep in mind the comfort of others with your attire choice. Please turn on your video during discussion and mute your microphone when

not speaking. It is much easier to keep the discussion inclusive and active if we can see each other while we are talking.

Statement on Zoom Sessions

Our class sessions may be audio-visually recorded for students to use as study aides. 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, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voice recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which 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 by students or any other party is prohibited.

Academic Honesty

“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.

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.

Resources Available to Students

Health and Wellness

- U Matter, We Care: umatter@ufl.edu; 392-1575
- Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>; 392-1575
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS): Student Health Care Center; 392-1161
- University Police Department: <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>; 392-1111 (911 for emergencies)

Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support: Learningsupport@ufl.edu; <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>; 352-392-4357 (opt. 2)
- Career Resource Center: Reitz Union; <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>; 392-1601
- Library Support: <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>
- Teaching Center: Broward Hall; 392-2010 or 392-6420
- Writing Studio: 302 Tigert Hall; <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>; 846-1138

Procedure for Conflict Resolution

Any classroom issues, disagreements or grade disputes should be discussed first between the instructor and the student. If the problem cannot be resolved, please contact the (Under)Graduate Coordinator or the Department Chair. Be prepared to provide documentation of the problem, as well as all graded materials for the semester. Issues that cannot be resolved departmentally will be referred to the University Ombuds Office (<http://www.ombuds.ufl.edu>; 392-1308) or the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu>; 392-1261). For further information refer to https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf (for residential classes) or <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaintprocess> (for online classes).

Online Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Schedule - Spring 2021

Readings will be posted on Canvas. This is a tentative schedule. I will notify you as soon as possible regarding any modifications to this schedule.

Meeting	Agenda	Assignments <i>Worksheets/Questions - Due 11:59 pm the <u>night</u> before class</i> <i>Activities - Due 11:59 pm the <u>night</u> of class, unless otherwise noted</i>	Course Section
Jan 13	Discussion - Introduction, Syllabus, etc.	Canvas Introductions	Plants
Jan 20	Reading Discussion	Reading Worksheet (10)	Plants
Jan 27	Reading Discussion	Reading Worksheet (10)	Plants
Feb 3	Guest Speaker*	Questions for Guest Speaker	Plants
Feb 10	NO CLASS - Data Literacy Activity	Data Literacy Activity (30)	Plants
Feb 17	Reading Discussion	Reading Worksheet (10)	Animals
Feb 24	Reading Discussion	Reading Worksheet (10)	Animals
Mar 3	Guest Speaker*	Questions for Guest Speaker	Animals
Mar 10	NO CLASS - Seminar Activity	Seminar Activity (30)	Animals
Mar 17	Reading Discussion	Reading Worksheet (10)	Animals
Mar 24	Reading Discussion	Reading Worksheet (10)	Ecology
Mar 31	Guest Speaker*	Questions for Guest Speaker	Ecology
Apr 7	Final Discussion - Lightning Talks	Lightning Talk	Ecology
Apr 14	NO CLASS - Reviewer Activity	Reviewer Activity (30)	Ecology
Apr 21	NO CLASS - Reading Days	Course Evaluations	
Apr 28	NO CLASS - Finals Week		

**The date of the guest speakers may shift, depending on their availability. If a guest speaker is unavailable, a different in-class activity will take place.*