

BSC2011 Honors Discussion – Fall 2020 ONLINE

Section 24BC – Wednesdays, Period 5 (11:45-12:35)

Section 057B – Wednesdays, Period 6 (12:50-1:40)

Instructor:	Dr. Rebecca A. Koll
Office:	214 Dickinson Hall
Email:	rebecca.koll@ufl.edu
Office Hours:	virtually by appointment

Course Description

Honors Discussion is a fun, intellectually challenging course where students expand their understanding of biological concepts related to microbiology, genetics, and evolution! 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 2010 Integrated Principles of Biology 1.

Learning Objectives

- Learn to locate, read, and interpret primary literature
- Critically assess primary literature, specifically data and figures
- Improve scientific literacy through application of scientific concepts in debate
- Gain exposure to real world scientific processes

Grades

This course is weighted as 10% of your TOTAL Lecture grade.

Course Component	Points
Participation	160
Activities (2 x 35pts each; 1 x 30pts)	100
Worksheets (6 x 10pts each)	60

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 to you, no one expects you 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 completion of questions for guest experts and course survey completion.
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.** Four activities will be completed outside of class. These activities are designed to help you gain experience locating primary literature and critically analyzing different papers. You will also gain a greater exposure to real world science in areas that you enjoy.
- 3) **Worksheets.** As stated, students are expected to arrive prepared to engage with the material each class. Each reading 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.

Course Materials and Schedule

All readings, worksheets, and supplemental materials will be posted to the Canvas Honors Discussion site. Periodically throughout the semester you will be required to complete a short assessment of the course (<5min survey). This will help me gauge effectiveness of the course and make any necessary adjustments to help us reach our learning objectives. Please note, for this reason, readings may be updated prior to beginning the new unit.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is required for success in this course. It is intensive and cumulative – you cannot participate if you are not present and prepared for class. Don't miss class.

Make-up Policy

Participation CANNOT be made up. Worksheets and Activities CANNOT be made up or completed for credit without attendance except for legitimately document university excused absences.

Pandemic Precautions

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. That said, there is often a disproportionate burden of time on some people to feel prepared to be on camera. It's ok if some days it feels like a lot to change out of your jams or move all the way to your desk and it's ok on those days to keep your camera off. We would rather have you attend without video than miss discussion.

Mental Health. College can be stressful under normal times, and these are not normal times. To succeed in Honors Discussion you will need to put in the work to understand and discuss papers and complete the activities. However, I know that all of you are dealing with a lot of stress and chaos outside of class. I do not wish this course to become a source of unmanageable stress for anyone. If you feel you are struggling with the workload please contact Dr. Koll and we can work together to make a plan. *Additional resources available to students:*

UF U Matter We Care:

<https://umatter.ufl.edu/contact/>, umatter@ufl.edu, 352-294-CARE (2273)

- If a student is feeling overwhelmed and would like support
- If a student notices that another student is feeling overwhelmed and would like to request a well-being check-in from a member of the UF Care Team
- If a family member would like to request that a member of the UF Care Team perform a well-being check-in with a student

UF Student Health Care Center:

<https://shcc.ufl.edu/>, (352) 392-1161

COVID-19 message - It is imperative that any individuals who believe they may have been exposed to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) to contact the Alachua County Health Department at (352) 225-4181 during regular business hours or at (352) 334-7900 after hours, prior to traveling to any physician's office, emergency department, hospital, or urgent care center, to ensure proper protective measures are taken to

prevent further risk of spread to others.

GatorWell Health Promotion Services:

<https://gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu/>, (352) 273-4450

General health and well-being coaching, including time management, stress management and relaxation strategies, study and test taking skills, sleep habits, active living, eating habits, social connection

UF Counseling & Wellness Center:

<https://counseling.ufl.edu/>, (352) 392-1575

Counseling services

If anyone is a threat to self or others, contact 911

Academic Honesty

Students should complete all work individually (or as part of assigned groups) and all submitted work should constitute original content. Again, no one expects you to understand everything presented in the papers. The purpose of this course is to improve your existing skills analyzing and applying primary literature. Any indication that you are not completing your work as novel, unique content will earn you a zero in this course.

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.”

If you witness 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>

University grade policies:

For additional important information regarding UF’s grade policies, please see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Disability Accommodation

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Disabilities Resource Center. This office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Course Schedule

I will notify you as soon as possible regarding any modifications to this schedule.

Meeting	Agenda	Activities <i>Due Wednesdays 11:59pm unless otherwise noted</i>	Course Section
Sept 2	Introduction, Syllabus, Tips on reading primary literature	Course Survey – DUE Sept 4, 11:59pm	
Sept 9	Reading Discussion		Plants
Sept 16	Reading Discussion	Questions for guest expert DUE Sept 20, 11:59pm	Plants
Sept 23	Guest Speaker		Plants
Sept 30	Reading Discussion		Plants
Oct 7	Data Literacy Activity	Data Literacy Activity	Animals
Oct 14	Reading Discussion	Course Survey – DUE Oct 19 11:59pm	Animals
Oct 21	Reading Discussion	Questions for guest expert DUE Oct 25, 11:59pm	Animals
Oct 28	Guest Speaker		Animals
Nov 4	Reading Discussion	Election Day!* (<i>Nov 3</i>)	Ecology
Nov 11	NO CLASS – Holiday	Questions for guest expert DUE Nov 15, 11:59pm	
Nov 18	Guest Speaker	Seminar Activity	Ecology
Nov 25	NO CLASS – Thanksgiving		
Dec 2	Guest Speaker		Ecology
Dec 9	NO CLASS – Pop News Assignment	Pop News Activity Survey DUE	Ecology

*Nonpartisan exhortation to vote