

Honors BSC2011 Discussion – Spring 2022

Sections 4928, 492B - W | Period 6 (12:50 PM - 1:40 PM) - MCCB 2102

Sections 4927, 492A - W | Period 5 (11:45 AM - 12:35 PM) - TUR 2346

Dr. Christine Davis

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Carr 620

Office hours 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 scientific literature. This is the honors requirement for BSC 2010 Integrated Principles of Biology 1.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Locate, read, and interpret scientific literature with skill
2. Become more scientifically literate through discussion and interpretation of real scientific data
3. Evaluate real-world scientific research and processes

Grading:

This course is weighted as 10% of your total grade for BSC2010.

Course Component	Points
Participation: 1) Reading reflections – 6 @ 10 pts each = 60 pts 2) Exit surveys – 6 @ 5 pts each = 30 pts 3) Attendance – 10 @ 5 pts each = 50 pts	120
Assignments: 1) Pop Science Article – 10 pts 2) Seminar Reflection – 10 pts 3) Data Presentation – 20 pts	40
TOTAL	160

Course Components:

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.

1. **Reading reflections** can be found under the “Assignments” tab in Canvas. These should be completed before coming to class on the day we will discuss a paper.
2. **Exit surveys** can be found under the “Assignments” tab in Canvas. These should be completed after we discuss a paper.
3. **Attendance** will be recorded at each regular course meeting outlined on the schedule below. Attendance scores will be recorded at the end of the semester in the Canvas grade book and scored as such for each meeting:
 - Attended and participated by frequently contributing to discussion (more than 3 times) - 5 pts

- Attended and participated and contributed at least once to discussion - 4 pts
- Attended but did not participate - 3 pts
- Did not attend - 0 pts

Assignments. Three assignments will be completed outside of class. These activities are designed to help you gain experience locating scientific literature, gain exposure to current research in biology, and to practice communicating scientific information in the form of a short presentation. The assignments can be found under the “Assignments” tab in Canvas.

Make-up Policy: Reading reflections can be made up in case of a university-excused absence. Attendance and exit surveys *cannot* be made up.

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>.

University policies and resources:

COVID. In response to COVID-19, the following practices are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment: <https://coronavirus.uflhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>. Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.

You are expected to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings even if you are vaccinated. Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing. Following these practices is our responsibility as Gators.

Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.

Hand sanitizing stations will be located in every classroom.

If you are sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email covid@shcc.ufl.edu) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website for more information.

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.

If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.

Continue to regularly visit coronavirus.UFHealth.org and coronavirus.ufl.edu for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.

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.

In-Class Recording. Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040.

Accommodations. 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.

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 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 ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

Academic Integrity. “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.

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 Undergraduate 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).

University grade policies. For additional important information regarding UF’s grade policies, please see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Course schedule:

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. *On days with guest speakers, we may have to rearrange depending upon their availability.

Meeting	Agenda	Assignments <i>Reading reflections - Due 11:59 pm the night before class</i> <i>Exit surveys - Due 11:59 pm the same night as class</i> <i>Assignments – Due 11:59 pm on the due date</i>
Jan 5	Course introduction	
Jan 12	No class or assignment	
Jan 19	Reading discussion	Reading reflection 1, Exit survey 1
Jan 26	Guest speaker*	
Feb 2	No class – Pop Science Article Assignment	Pop Science Article Assignment due
Feb 9	Reading discussion 2	Reading reflection 2, Exit survey 2
Feb 16	Reading discussion 3	Reading reflection 3, Exit survey 3
Feb 23	No class – Seminar Assignment	Seminar Assignment due
Mar 2	Reading discussion 4	Reading reflection 4, Exit survey 4
Mar 9	No class – spring break	
Mar 16	Reading discussion 5	Reading reflection 5, Exit survey 5
Mar 23	Guest Speaker*	Reading reflection 6, Exit survey 6
Mar 30	No class – Data Presentation Assignment	Data Presentation Assignment due
Apr 6	Data Presentations day 1	
Apr 20	Data presentations day 2	Have a wonderful summer break!