

## Honors BSC2011 Discussion – Spring 2023

Section 4927- W | Period 5 (11:45 AM - 12:35 PM) – TUR 2346

Section 4928 - W | Period 6 (12:50 PM - 1:40 PM) - ROG 0106

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Office hours by appointment

### Course description:

Honors Discussion is a stimulating, intellectually challenging course that is taught in conjunction with BSC 2011 Integrated Principles of Biology 2. The course is specifically designed to expand students' understanding of biological concepts in three topic areas: plants, animals and ecology. More broadly, the course is designed to improve the scientific literacy and critical thinking skills of students.

Students are encouraged to employ critical thinking and to rely on data and verifiable sources to interrogate all assigned readings and subject matter in this course as a way of determining whether they agree with their classmates and/or their instructor. No lesson is intended to espouse, promote, advance, inculcate, or compel a particular feeling, perception, viewpoint or belief.

### Learning Outcomes:

1. Develop ability to locate, read, and interpret scientific literature
2. Improve scientific literacy through discussion of scientific results and conclusions
3. Better evaluate science underlying current issues in society

### 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 – 13 @ 5 pts each = 65 pts	155
Assignments: 1) Pop Science – 10 pts 2) Seminar Reflection – 10 pts 3) Science Presentation – 20 pts	40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>195</b>

### 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 and activities, and complete all assignments. A large focus of the class will be reading and discussing current scientific papers on topics related to the BSC 2011 lectures. Much of the content of these papers may be new to you, and perhaps challenging to fully understand at times. This is to be expected. Engaging with the readings and your classmates through questions and thoughtful

discussion is the primary goal.

1. **Reading reflections** can be found under the “Assignments” tab in Canvas. These must be completed the night prior to the class period that we discuss the assigned scientific paper.
2. **Exit surveys** can be found under the “Assignments” tab in Canvas. These must be completed after we discuss the assigned 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 contributed regularly to discussion - 5 pts
  - Attended, but did not contribute regularly to discussion - 3 pts
  - Did not attend - 0 pts.

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 and those around us.

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 vaccinated, including options that do not require an appointment: <https://coronavirus.uflhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>. 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. 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 are also located in the classroom.

If you are sick, please 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](mailto: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 campus facilities. Students violating this policy will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.

In-Class Recording. Students are allowed to record video or audio of classroom sessions only for the following purposes: (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.

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/>. Students are asked to share their accommodation letter with the instructor, and discuss any specific needs as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluations. Students are strongly encouraged to provide constructive feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give helpful feedback is available at [gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/](http://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and closes. Evaluations can be completed using the link provided in the email from GatorEvals, using the link to GatorEvals in Canvas, or via [ufl.bluera.com/ufl/](http://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at [gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/](http://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](mailto: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 tech. support:* [Learningsupport@ufl.edu](mailto:Learningsupport@ufl.edu); <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>; 352-392-4357
- *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 first discussed first with the instructor. If the problem cannot be resolved, please contact the Undergraduate Coordinator or the Department Chair. 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](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf) (for residential classes) or (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. The following is a tentative schedule, and subject to change.

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Assignments</b> <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 (except for Science Presentation)</i>
<b>Jan 11</b>	Course introduction	
<b>Jan 18</b>	How To Read Scientific Papers	TBA

<b>Jan 25</b>	Reading discussion 1	Reading reflection 1, Exit survey 1
<b>Feb 1</b>	Reading discussion 2	Reading reflection 2, Exit survey 2
<b>Feb 8</b>	No class – Pop Science Assignment	Pop Science Assignment Due
<b>Feb 15</b>	Guest Speaker/Visiting Scientist	TBA
<b>Feb 22</b>	No class – Seminar Assignment	Seminar Assignment due
<b>Mar 1</b>	Guest Speaker/Visiting Scientist	TBA
<b>Mar 8</b>	Reading discussion 3	Reading reflection 3, Exit survey 3
<b>Mar 15</b>	No class-Spring Break	N/A
<b>Mar 22</b>	Reading discussion 4	Reading reflection 4, Exit survey 4
<b>Mar 29</b>	Reading Discussion 5	Reading reflection 5, Exit survey 5
<b>April 5</b>	Reading Discussion 6	Reading reflection 6, Exit survey 6
<b>April 12</b>	Science presentations day 1	Science Assignment due on 4/11
<b>April 19</b>	Science presentations day 2	N/A
<b>April 26</b>	Synthesis	Last day of class