

Exploring Biology with Natural History – BSC2930 (1 credit) – Summer 2022

Meeting times: Mondays

Period 2 - 3 (9:30 AM - 12:15 PM)

Bartram 211

Instructor:

Dr. Christine Davis (she/her)

Email: christine.davis@ufl.edu

Office hours: By appointment

Description:

Exploring Biology with Natural History is an introduction to the cool research happening in the Department of Biology, and the folks who are doing it. You'll observe and interact with faculty and grad students in their natural habitats - the environments and organisms that inspire and get them excited about their research! You'll learn that scientists are regular people, just like you, and that your own passions can drive your science, too. It is designed to introduce early students to Biology faculty and graduate students to learn about their research in a casual setting, while simultaneously enjoying an inspirational natural location nearby.

Learning outcomes: by the end of this course, you will be able to:

- 1) Describe some of the research being done by faculty and graduate students in Biology
- 2) Connect what you learn about research in Biology with everyday life
- 3) Explain how to find an undergraduate research position
- 4) Answer the question, "Who is a scientist/biologist at UF?"

Your course grades will be determined based on:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| 1) Questions for the scientist | 30 pts |
| 2) Reflections | 30 pts |
| 3) Attendance | 40 pts |

Description of the components of your grade:

- 1) **Questions for the scientist.** Prior to our meeting with the scientists, you will submit three questions you'd like to ask them during class. These questions can be about their work, their career pathway, their connection to science and the natural world, or about the site or organisms we may see while we are exploring with them. These questions will be due the Friday before class (except for our first meeting, when they are due the Sunday night before class) and will be submitted on Canvas.
- 2) **Reflections.** After class, you'll write a reflection about your experience in the field with the scientist. The reflection will be based upon a prompt. The reflection questions are due on the Thursday night after class and will be submitted on Canvas.
- 3) **Attendance.** I will record attendance each week.

Field trips:

We will take field trips to visit several different types of nearby natural places (see the schedule below) as we talk with the scientists. Summer in Florida can be a little uncomfortable. Although we will be meeting early in the day, it will get hot and may possibly rain during class.

*Bring to the field trips: water and/or sports drinks, snacks/lunch, insect spray, sunblock, and a hat.
Dress appropriately. Wear long lightweight pants and old shoes you don't mind getting dirty and wet.*

Make up policy:

Due to the unique constraints of a field course, field trips **cannot** be made up, but alternative arrangements to earn course credit are possible in instances of legitimately documented excused absences.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES

COVID

In response to COVID-19, the following recommendations 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 and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit one.ufl.edu for screening / testing and vaccination opportunities.
- If you are sick, stay home. 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 to be evaluated.
- 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.

Attendance and make-ups

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, 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>.

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 Student

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

Meeting	Scientist and location	Homework assigned:
27-Jun	Arik Hartman – graduate student advised by Dr. Ana Longo. Lab website: https://thelongolab.com/ Herpetology, Disease Ecology, Conservation Biology Ordway-Swisher Biological Station	Questions due by 11:59 pm on 6/26. Reflections due by 11:59 pm on 6/30.
11-Jul	Maria Beatriz de Souza Cortez – graduate student advised by Dr. Pam Soltis Lab website: https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/soltis-lab/ Population genetics, phylogenetics and phylogeography Location TBA	Questions due by 11:59 pm on 7/8. Reflections due by 11:59 pm on 7/14.
18-Jul	Tyler Bowling – graduate student advised by Dr. Gavin Naylor Lab website: https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/sharks/ Shark movement and behavior in relation to bites on humans AND Travis Klee – graduate student advised by Dr. Colette St. Mary Behavioral Ecology, Evolution, and the influence of Predator-Prey Interactions in fishes Natural Areas Teaching Laboratory	Questions due by 11:59 pm on 7/15. Reflections due by 11:59 pm on 7/21.
25-Jul	Dr. David Blackburn – Museum Faculty, Preeminent Scholar, Associate Curator of Amphibians and Reptiles Lab website: https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/blackburn-lab/ Herpetology, Systematics, Africa San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park	Questions due by 11:59 pm on 7/22. Reflections due by 11:59 pm on 7/28.
1-Aug	Dr. José Miguel Ponciano – Professor, Biology Lab website: https://www.josemiponciano.net/ Stochastic processes in ecology, evolution and population genetics Location TBA	Questions due by 11:59 pm on 7/29. Reflections due by 11:59 pm on 8/4.

