

Cultivating Equity in STEM, Fall 2021

BOT4935/ZOO4926 – 2 credits

Dr. Christine Davis

Mondays period 9, 4:05-4:55

Meeting place TBA

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Office: Carr 620

Office hours: immediately before class or by appointment

Course description:

Cultivating Equity in STEM is a special edition of the Biology Education Seminar, and is designed to help Learning Assistants in BSC2011 integrate learning theory, effective practices for engaging students, and antiracist, inclusive pedagogy. In this course, LAs will read articles from the education literature, engage in discussions about their experiences with students and how this relates to the literature, complete online teaching reflections, and conduct interview or observation - based investigations into students' current ways of thinking about a topic.

Purpose of the course:

- To support and prepare LAs to interact with students, question students according to class topic, make claims about students' ideas, and take action as a result. Ideally, to help students interact with one another.
- To inspire and motivate LAs to recognize and exercise their capabilities and responsibilities for making the world a better place.
- To provide a community for new LAs to discuss their roles and experiences working with students and faculty.

In this course, LAs will:

- Reflect on their teaching and learning.
- Reflect on and develop their views on teaching and learning.
- Make connections to relevant education theory and literature and share this with the instructor.
- Try out a variety of strategies in their learning teams and revise these strategies according to their experience.
- Listen to their students, make claims about their students' ideas, and take action to address those claims.
- Develop awareness of the intellectual, social, cultural diversity of students and begin thinking about how to differentiate instruction.
- Begin thinking about the ways in which they would like to see change, and begin to see themselves as influencing this process.
- Discuss their roles and experiences working with students and faculty.

Required texts

There is no textbook for this course. Required readings will be posted to the Canvas site.

Components of grade:

Participation – 25%

Reflections – 25%

Project and presentations – 50%

Grading scale

90 – 100% = A;

80 – 89.9% = B;

70 – 79.9% C;

60 – 69.9% D;

below 60 = E

Description of the grade components:

Participation

All class members are expected to contribute to class discussions and activities. The purpose of these discussions is to help us as individuals, and as a group, develop meaningful interpretations of the ideas conveyed by the readings and to make connections to the Learning Assistant experience. Please come prepared each week with (1) a provocative question, (2) something interesting you found in the article, and (3) something you are confused about or want to know more about. You are expected to attend every class session and participate in the discussions and activities each week.

Reflections

Five times during the semester, you will submit a reflection about your LA experiences by responding to prompts posted to the Canvas site. Each reflection will draw from activities led in BSC2010/BSC2011 as well as your readings in this class.

Projects and presentations

This year, we'll collaborate to evaluate the cultivating equity project in BSC2011 and BSC2010. We'll discuss the details of this group project as the semester progresses.

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.ufhealth.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.

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>.

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 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.ua.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.ua.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 and assignment due dates - tentative. Any changes will be discussed as soon as possible.

Week	Topic	Readings due before class meeting	Other assignments due
1	Introductions and preparing to teach		
2	Implicit bias, exploring safe spaces, and cooperative learning	To be posted to Canvas	
3	Questioning and discussion techniques	Blosser, P. (2000). How to Ask the Right Question. <i>National Science Teachers Association</i> . ISBN 13: 978-0-87355-102-1	Reflection 1
4	Learning theory	Lang, J.M. (2018). Want good grades? Ditch that highlighter. Blog post.	
5	Resistance	Smith, G.A. (2008). First Day Questions for the Learner-Centered Classroom. <i>The National Teaching and Learning Forum</i> . 17:1-4.	
6	Asset-based thinking, culturally responsive teaching, and universal design for learning	To be posted to Canvas	Reflection 2
7	Discussion and planning of project	No reading assignment this week	

8	Cooperative learning	Johnson, D.W., Johnson, R.T. (1999), Making cooperative learning work; <i>Theory into Practice</i> , (38) 2.	
9	Metacognition	Tanner, K.D. (2012). <i>Promoting Student Metacognition</i> . CBE Life Science Education 11 (2) 113-120.	Reflection 3
10	Role models, meaningful recognition, and inclusive science	To be posted to Canvas	Reflection 4
11	Becoming an ally in the classroom and beyond	To be posted to Canvas	Reflection 5
12	Project work day	Reading assignments TBA	
13	Presentation of projects		