

Honors BSC2010 Discussion – Fall 2022

Class 22267 - F | Period 4 (10:40 AM - 11:30 AM) - TUR L005

Class 22268 - F | Period 7 (1:55 PM - 2:45 PM) - TUR L007

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409 Carr Hall

Office hours by appointment

Course description:

Honors Discussion is a stimulating and challenging course that is taught in conjunction with BSC 2010 Integrated Principles of Biology 1. The course is specifically designed to expand students' understanding of biological concepts in three topic areas: microbiology, genetics, and evolution. More broadly, the course is designed to improve the scientific literacy and critical thinking skills of students.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Develop the 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 – 10 @ 5 pts each = 50 pts	140
Assignments: 1) Pop Science – 10 pts 2) Seminar Reflection – 10 pts 3) Data Presentation – 20 pts	40
TOTAL	180

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 2010 lectures. Much of the content of these papers may be new to you, and some papers may be challenging to fully understand. 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 also 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, 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 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/. 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/. 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 tech. support: 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 (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/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Course schedule:

Readings will be posted on Canvas. The following is a tentative schedule, and subject to change.

Meeting	Agenda	Assignments <i>Reading reflections - Due 11:59 pm the <u>night</u> before class</i> <i>Exit surveys - Due 11:59 pm the <u>same night as</u> class</i> <i>Assignments – Due 11:59 pm on the due date</i>
Aug 26	Course introduction	
Sept 2	Reading discussion 1: Cells and Molecules	Reading reflection 1, Exit survey 1
Sept 9	Reading discussion 2: Cells and Molecules	Reading reflection 2, Exit survey 2
Sept 16	No class – Pop Science Assignment	Pop Science Assignment due
Sept 23	Guest Speaker/Visiting Scientist	TBA
Sept 30	No class – Seminar Assignment	Seminar Assignment due
Oct 7	Guest Speaker/Visiting Scientist	TBA
Oct 14	Reading discussion 3: Genetics	Reading reflection 3, Exit survey 3
Oct 21	Reading discussion 4: Genetics	Reading reflection 4, Exit survey 4
Oct 28	Reading Discussion 5: Evolution	Reading reflection 5, Exit survey 5
Nov 4	Reading Discussion 6: Evolution	Reading reflection 6, Exit survey 6
Nov 11	No class-holiday	
Nov 18	Data presentations day 1	Data Presentation Assignment due
Nov 25	No class-holiday	
Dec 2	Data presentations day 2	Last day of class