

**CLASS MEETINGS AND FORMAT**

Immersion semester Session 3: March 23 – April 22, 2026

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 9:35 AM - 12:35 PM. 222 Carr Hall, Lecture room

Thursday, Friday 9:35 AM - 1:40 PM. 109 Carr Hall, Laboratory

Parasites are diverse and ubiquitous across every ecosystem on the planet. This course uses a hands-on approach to the study of parasite biodiversity across different hosts and environments. We will visit field stations, research facilities, biodiversity collections, and state parks in Florida to collect host animals for parasite surveys. Students will practice lab techniques, interact with local experts, familiarize themselves with the primary literature in parasitology, and present their findings individually and in groups.

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION****Course instructor:**

**Nick Keiser, PhD**

Email: [ckeiser@ufl.edu](mailto:ckeiser@ufl.edu)

Phone: 352-273-4981

Office Location: 622 Carr Hall

Office Hours: By appointment.

[www.keiserlab.com](http://www.keiserlab.com)

**COURSE RESOURCES**

**Textbook:** There is no required textbook for this course. Dr. Keiser has a library of textbooks on parasitology that will be available to students as needed. Readings will be provided as PDFs.

**Course Website (e-Learning):**

Class material will be posted on the Canvas e-Learning website (<http://lss.at.ufl.edu>). You are responsible for receiving all Announcements made in lecture and/or posted on the course website for this class. For help with e-Learning, call the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357, or visit the e-Learning support website: <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

## ASSESSMENTS AND GRADING

Assessment will include participation in discussions and class activities, maintenance of a field notebook during the course, completion of a research project, and creation/presentation of an ePortfolio based on the course experience.

Assessment	Points	% of grade
Participation	100	25%
Jigsaw discussions	50	12.5%
Field notebook	50	12.5%
ePortfolio	100	25%
Research presentation	100	25%

Letter grades	
A	90% - 100%
B	80% - 89.9%
C	70% - 79.9%
D	60% - 69.9%
E	< 60%

## DROP/ADD/WITHDRAWAL

A student can drop/add during the drop add period with no penalty. After drop/add, a student who drops will receive a W until the date listed in the academic calendar. After that date, the student may be assigned an "E" (fail). Note: it is the responsibility of the STUDENT to withdraw from a course, not the instructor. Failure to participate/complete the class is NOT a drop.

## ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to check the course Canvas website regularly for announcements, assignment due dates, and other course related information. Students are expected to be on time for class, and attendance in all lectures, labs, and field trips is mandatory. Students with an excused absence for religious, athletic, or other reasons must inform the instructor at least one week in advance in order to receive attendance credit. If a student becomes ill or injured, they are expected to communicate with the instructor as soon as possible.

## COURSE EVALUATION

Anonymous course evaluations will be open via UF's online evaluations system near the end of the semester (<https://evaluations.ufl.edu>). You will receive e-mail notifications of when the evaluations open. Evaluations are stored and reported in a completely anonymous manner. Authentication for evaluation submission is only to ensure that only one evaluation is submitted per student.

## STUDENT ACCOMMODATIONS

Students who require accommodations for a disability must contact the Dean of Students Office of Disability Resources, in Peabody 202 (phone: 352-392-1261). Please see the DRC website (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>) for more information. Students must provide documentation of accommodation requirements to the course professors by the second week of the semester. It is the policy of the University of Florida that the student, not the professor, is responsible for arranging accommodations when needed. Once notification is complete, the Dean of Students Office of Disability Resources will work with the professor to accommodate the student.

## HONESTY POLICY

All students registered at the University of Florida have agreed to comply with the following statement: “I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.”

In addition, on all work submitted for credit the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

If you witness any instances of academic dishonesty in this class, please notify the professor or contact the Student Honor Court (392-1631) or Cheating Hotline (392-6999). For additional information on Academic Honesty, please refer to the University of Florida Academic Honesty Guidelines at: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.html>.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Additional resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or struggling to define academic and/or career goals. These include:

- UF Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Rd, 392-1575, provides psychological and psychiatric services, and can assist with stress & anxiety issues (<http://www.counsel.ufl.edu/>)
- Many students experience test anxiety and other stress related problems. “A Self Help Guide for Students” is available through the Counseling Center (301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575) and at their web site: <http://www.counsel.ufl.edu/>.
- Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career and job search services.

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in this or any other course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support (<https://dso.ufl.edu>). Please also notify the professor if you are comfortable doing so.

UF has a food pantry on campus (located near the HUB) that is available to all students. No proof of need is required; all you need is a UF ID card. Field & Fork Food Pantry: <https://pantry.fieldandfork.ufl.edu/>