

Phylogenetic Systematics Seminar – BOT6935/ZOO6927 - Fall 2025

Credits: 1

Schedule: Mondays, 9:35-10:25

Location: Carr Hall 222

Instructors

Nico Cellinese (ncellinese@flmnh.ufl.edu)

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Office hours: by appointment

Course description

In this seminar, we will be reading and discussing recently published papers on a variety of topics within the field of phylogenetic systematics. Discussions will be led by students, with assistance from a faculty mentor.

Objectives and basis for grading

- 1) You are strongly encouraged to consult with your mentor in advance of the date you will lead the discussion. When you do so, you should have selected two or three possible papers. We are looking for papers that will be of broad interest to the group of students assembled. While not every paper can and should be from *Systematic Biology* or *PNAS*, please pick more "exemplar group" paper options with care.
- 2) The meeting with your mentor should occur at least a week before the next class so that you can get the feedback you need and the paper out to the class in a reasonable time frame.
- 3) Feel free to share your ppt presentation with your faculty mentor for feedback well before class. We recommend Friday before the Monday class, but we know you may have accommodating mentors who are ok with weekend missives. Please don't wait until the very last second.
- 4) Everybody not presenting will be tasked with asking questions of interest about the paper in a supplied Google Doc before class. Providing a written question is a requirement.

5) Your mentors are willing to help you evaluate possible papers for selection. Mentors are also willing to answer questions and meet during the week you are working on presentations. Take advantage (in a good way) of this offer for help.

Grading

Activity	% of final grade
Class participation	25
Presentation	75

94.0-100%	A
90.0-93.9%	A-
87.0-89.9%	B+
84.0-86.9%	B
80.0-83.9 %	B-
77.0-79.9%	C+
74.0-76.9%	C
70.0-73.9%	C-
67.0-69.9%	D+
64.0-66.9%	D
60.0-63.9%	D-
<60%	E

Assignments and attendance policy: attendance at class is mandatory, and students should be prepared to justify absences.

Course textbooks: no textbook required

Course outline: see schedule of presentations in Canvas

Attendance and make-ups:

Requirements for class attendance 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>.

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 Graduate

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).