

Principles of Graduate Training

ZOO6927 Section 291D

Time: Tues. 5th & 6th Periods (11:45-1:40)

Location: McCarty C Auditorium

Spring 2021

Instructor

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Teaching Assistant

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Course Description

This course is designed to introduce first year students in the Botany and Zoology graduate programs to basics of scientific inference, how to write a scientific paper, ethical conduct in research, and other major issues facing early-career scientists. Students will participate in class discussions, write papers, design projects, and perform analyses.

Course Objectives

Students will learn the basics of scientific inference, how to write and review scientific papers, how to interact with scientists from diverse fields, and ethical conduct of research.

These objectives will be accomplished through:

1. Participating in interdisciplinary discussions in class.
2. Writing a synthetic review paper and revising it based on peer reviews.
3. Reviewing a paper.
4. Discussion of major issues facing early-career scientists and ethical issues in research.

Required Textbooks

There is no required text in this course. Readings will be assigned from books and journal articles; these will be made available from our web page during the semester.

Course Schedule

This is a tentative schedule; the dates and coverage of specific topics are subject to change.

Week 1 (1/12): Introduction to course; what is a good scientist?

Week 2 (1/19): Graduate school timeline; What makes a good paper?

Week 3 (1/26): Forming a Committee / Qualifying Exams

- **Talk to your advisor about potential paper topics**

Week 4 (2/2): Awards & Funding; Collaboration

- **Topic of Your Paper Due February 9 in class!**

Week 5 (2/9): Authorship

Week 6 (2/16): Plagiarism

Week 7 (2/23): Reproducibility

Abstract of your Paper due March 2 in class!

Week 8 (3/2): Open Data

Week 9 (3/9): Peer Review

Week 10 (3/16): Implicit Bias

Week 11 (3/23): Diversity in Science

Week 12 (3/30): Social Media

- **Paper due April 6!**

Week 13 (4/6): Time Management

Week 14 (4/13): Open Topics

Reviews of Papers due April 20!

Week 15: (4/20) Conclusion

- **Final Version of Papers Due Dec. 13 at midnight!**

Course Assignments and Contributions to Your Grade

Your Paper, your review of another student's paper, and your revisions of your paper (30%). We will discuss details of the paper starting on week 3.

Participation (30%) will be assessed during each classroom meeting.

Classroom exercises, out of class research and group projects, and presentations, (40%).

Grading & Grade scale

An A will be assigned in the event that the student is an active participant in the class and completes the assigned work with good effort. Lack of participation, low effort, or missed assignments will reduce your grade. Consistent and/or unexcused absences reduce your grade further. I will alert you at midterm if I have concerns that your trajectory in the course will not result in top marks.

Course Policies

Readings should be done in advance of class; you are expected to come ready to discuss the topics (and this typically requires a detailed reading of the material; sometimes also requiring some background material if the reading is outside of your training). Excuses will be considered only in cases of medical and/or family emergencies (see text about COVID-19 below), as documented by an accompanying letter, or for official academic activities (in which case I should be contacted in advance via email).

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.

COVID-19 Precautions

We will have face-to-face instructional sessions for this course. In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions.

- You are required to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings. Following and enforcing these policies and requirements are all of our responsibility. Failure to do so will lead to a report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.
- This course has been assigned a physical classroom with enough capacity to maintain physical distancing (6 feet between individuals) requirements. Please utilize designated seats and maintain appropriate spacing between students. Please do not move desks or stations.
- 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.
- Follow your instructor's guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom. Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom.
- 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. [Find more information in the university attendance policies](#).

Students Requiring 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 Evaluation

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/.

Class Demeanor

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion.

Materials and Supplies Fees

There are no additional fees for this course.

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).