

Principles of Graduate Training (ZOO 6927 / BOT 6935)

Time: Wednesday Period 4-5 (10:40-12:35)

Location: Carr 222

Instructor Charles Baer

621 Bartram Hall

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Phone: 352-392-3550

Course Description

General introduction to the process of becoming a professional scientist during the PhD program. Management of graduate program including technical aspects, professional activities such as networking, reviewing papers, submitting manuscripts, and research presentation. Introduction to UF research resources. Discussions, paper writing, project design, performance of analyses.

Course Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, students are expected to be able to:

- Participate in interdisciplinary discussions.
- Synthesize scientific knowledge into review manuscripts.
- Review scientific papers
- Discuss major issues facing early-career scientists and ethical issues in research
- Interact effectively and professionally with scientists from diverse backgrounds and interests.

Required Textbooks

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

Course Schedule

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

Week 1 (Aug 23): Introduction to course; what is a good scientist?

Week 2 (Aug 30): Graduate school timeline; What makes a good paper?

Week 3 (Sep 6): Forming a Thesis Committee / Qualifying Exam

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

Week 4 (Sep 13): Awards & Funding; Collaboration

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

Week 5 (Sep 20): Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR). 1. Overview.

Week 6 (Sep 27): RCR. 2. Plagiarism

Week 7 (Oct 4): Peer Review

Abstract of your Paper due in class!

Week 8 (Oct 11): Social Media – (TBD)

Week 9 (Oct 18): RCR. 3. Reproducibility

Week 10 (Oct 25): RCR. 4. Open Data (and Code)

Week 11 (Nov 1): RCR. 5. Implicit Bias

Week 12 (Nov 8): Diversity in Science

- **Paper due in class!**

Week 13 (Nov 15): Time Management

Week 14 (Nov 29): Open Topics

- **Reviews of Papers due in class!**

Week 15 (Dec 6) Conclusion, ICBR Workshop (tentative).

- **Final Version of Papers Due at midnight on December 6th!**

Course Assignments and Contributions to Your Grade

Your grade will be based on a total of 100 assigned points of credit as follows:

Term Paper (1/3): This will be a paper written as a review of a topic related to your research topic. You will be graded on the first draft of your paper (1/9) and the final revision of your paper (1/9). You will also be graded on the peer review you provide to other student's first draft (1/9).

Participation (1/3): Consistent informed, thoughtful, and considerate class participation is expected and will be evaluated using the rubric below.

***NOTE:** If you have a personal issue that inhibits you from joining freely in class discussion, e.g., a language barrier, speech impediment, impaired hearing, etc., see me as soon as possible to discuss alternative modes of participation.*

Participation Grading Rubric:

	<i>High Quality</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Needs Improvement</i>
Informed: Shows evidence of having read the readings and/or done the assigned work.	Has grasped all the essential material needed for discussions and participation	Has grasped the basic material but shows some important lapses or superficial attention to materials	Shows little to no evidence of having read appropriate materials
Thoughtful: Shows evidence of having understood and considered issues raised.	Has given thought and anticipated how to contribute to the discussions and activities	Is thoughtful of responses to questions and discussions	Shows little interest in the issues raised
Considerate: Takes the perspective others into account.	Engages actively, creatively and respectfully in participating in the class	Is tolerant of the perspectives of others but doesn't show much interest or engagement in other points of view	Is disrespectful of the views of others

Classroom exercises, out of class research and group projects, and presentations (1/6). The particulars of these assignments will be described in class and depend on logistical constraints including which facilities we visit and input from the class.

Attendance at the Departmental Colloquium Seminar (1/6; Tuesdays 3:30-4:30, 211 Bartram). An important part of graduate training is the ability to present a seminar. The best way to learn to present a seminar is to observe others give them; you will quickly learn what to do and what not to do. In addition, you will learn interesting stuff you had no idea you would be interested in. Attendance will be taken (by means of a sign-in sheet at the door); anyone attending fewer than 10 seminars will have their grade docked half a point (e.g., from an A to an A-). You are on your honor not to have your friend sign your name for you, and vice versa.

Grading & Grade scale

For information on how UF assigns grade points, visit:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

A	94 – 100% of possible points		C	74 – 76%
A-	90 – 93%		C-	70 – 73%
B+	87 – 89%		D+	67 – 69%
B	84 – 86%		D	64 – 66%
B-	80 – 83%		D-	60 – 63%
C+	77 – 79%		E	<60

Course Policies

Readings should be done in advance of class; you are expected to come ready

to discuss the topics. 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. These policies may change as conditions change and as University Policy may change.

- ~~• You are expected to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings.~~
- ~~• 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](#).

Zoom Link for class meetings during HiFlex periods

~~Principles of Graduate Training will be available via Zoom for the first 3 weeks of the Fall 2021 semester. Please use this Zoom option if you believe you have been exposed to COVID-19 and you are quarantining, or for reasons up to your own discretion. We will be meeting in person, however, Zoom is available as an additional option for maximum flexibility as we adjust to this new semester. We will remain mindful of the health and safety of ourselves and others.~~

~~<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/95054886387>~~

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 do not use cell phones in class(!)** 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).