

Principles of Graduate Training

ZOO6927 Section 291D

Time: Tues. 3rd & 4th Periods (9:35-11:30)

Location: Carr Hall 222

Fall 2018

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.
- 5.

Required Textbooks

None. Readings will be assigned from books and journal articles and made available thru Canvas during the semester.

Course Schedule

This is a tentative schedule; dates and coverage of specific topics are subject to change. Weekend Field coming up to Seahorse Key Laboratory

Week 1 (8/28): Introduction to course, Fellowships (e.g., NSF GRFP)

Talk to your advisor about potential topics

Week 2 (9/4): What makes a good paper; details about review paper

Week 3 (9/11): Collaboration, Integrative Research

Topic of Your Paper Due Sept. 11 in class!

Week 4 (9/18): Authorship, Plagiarism

Week 5 (9/25): Publication: Peer Review & Related Topics

Week 6 (10/2): Reproducibility

Abstract of your Paper due Oct. 2 in class!

Week 7 (10/9): Open Data

Week 8 (10/16): Forming a Committee / Qualifying Exams

Week 9 (10/23): Time Management / Mental Health

Week 10 (10/30): Implicit Bias, Diversity in Science

Paper due October 30!

Week 11 (11/6): Presentations, Attending Conferences

Week 12 (11/13): Science Careers, After Graduate School

Reviews of Papers due Nov. 13!

Week 13 (11/20): THANKSGIVING - No class?

Week 14 (11/27): Open Topic

Week 15: (12/4) Conclusions, Revisit Topics?

Final Version of Papers Due Dec. 5 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%).
- Participation (40%) will be assessed during each classroom meeting.
- Classroom exercises, out of class exercises, and presentations (30%).

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, as documented by an accompanying letter, or for official academic activities (in which case I should be contacted in advance via email).

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive

an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/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.

University Honesty Policy

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 (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) 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.

Counseling and Wellness Center

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.