

ANS 3500L - Chicken Growth & Development Lab

Fall 2025 (1 credit, lab)

Course Instructor

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Office hours: on demand. I will reply to emails within 48 hours, excluding holidays & weekends.

Teaching Assistants:

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Time & Location

Wednesday | 3:00 PM – 4:55 PM (8th & 9th periods)

ANS 155 & Chicken Pens

Course Description & Objectives

Practical application of the principles of animal growth and development. The chicken will be used as a model to examine how a particular factor (genetics, sex, nutrition, etc.) affects growth and development and to explore broader implications for animals, producers, and consumers.

The student will:

- Apply principles of growth and development to practice
- Evaluate growth parameters of chickens
- Identify chicken anatomy
- Practice handling and management of broiler chickens
- Develop skills to collect, analyze, and interpret scientific data
- Examine broader impacts of animal growth on animals, producers, and consumers by evaluating relationships between animal growth, tissue growth, welfare, costs, and product yield and quality

Prerequisites

To be taken concurrently with (or already taken) ANS 3043 Growth & Dev. of Farm Animals

Supporting texts

There is no assigned textbook. The following textbooks may be helpful (these are also recommended texts for ANS 3043):

- ***Principles of Animal Growth and Development***. Gerrard and Grant; ISBN13:978-0-7575-2986-3; Kendall Hunt Publishing, Dubuque, Iowa 52002.
- ***Growth of Farm Animals*** Lawrence, Fowler, and Novakofski; 3rd ed. (2012); ISBN-13: 978-1-84593-558-0 (paperback); CABI Cambridge, MA

Course Fees

\$121.74

Course website on Canvas & Microsoft Teams

Information and resources will be posted in the course Canvas site (<https://elearning.ufl.edu/>). We will use Microsoft Teams to collaborate and share data collected during class.

Grades and Grading Policy

You will be graded on:

Attendance, participation, and service

- Attendance and participation in weekly lab sessions is expected and required.
- Service: In addition, students will independently check chickens and housing conditions ~1x per week (except Spring Break). This should take ~10-15 minutes; responsibilities include checking chicken health and behavior, and that clean food and water is available (and adding/replacing if necessary). Student will record observations and any actions taken (feed added, water replaced, etc.).
- Three or more unexcused absences for lab will result in a loss of 50% of total points earned for this category.

Journal (tentative: one week after harvest/fabrication lab – due Nov. 5th)

- Record your observations of chickens, includes growth, behavior, health, and anything you find interesting.
- 1 entry per week minimum
- Format can be either handwritten/notebook or typed in MS word or similar program.

Short assignments and quizzes

Examples: collect and summarize information about a topic related to chicken growth (e.g., nutritional needs); group assignment summarizing chicken data periodically through the semester; quizzes on canvas

Final Project (due Tues. Dec. 9th)

- Summarize the progression of our chicks through the semester – this should include presenting growth data, with an explanation and interpretation of the results. Address implications for the animals, producers, and consumers.
The format is up to you - creativity for the final project is encouraged!
- There will also be an essay question due with the final project.

	Weight
Attendance, participation, serv.	25 %
Journal	20 %
Short assignments & quizzes	25 %
Final project & essay	30 %

Grade	% score range
A	90.0 – 100.0
B	80.0 – 89.99
C	70.0 – 79.99
D	60.0 – 69.99
E	≤ 59.99

* For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points:

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

Attendance

Requirements for class attendance, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies. See: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

In general, acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to participate in class include illness; Title IX-related situations; serious accidents or emergencies affecting the student, their roommates, or their family; special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, and professional conferences); military obligation; severe weather conditions that prevent class participation; religious holidays; participation in official university activities (e.g., music performances, athletic competition, debate); and court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena). Other reasons (e.g., a job interview or club activity) may be deemed acceptable if approved by the instructor.

For all planned absences, a student in a situation that allows an excused absence from a class or any required class activity, must inform the instructor as early as possible prior to the class. For all unplanned absences because of accidents or emergency situations, students should contact their instructor as soon as conditions permit.

Course topics*

Week	Date	Topic
1	8/27	Course introduction & discuss the factor to be investigated
2	9/3	Chickens arrive / basic husbandry
3	9/10	Chicken measurements; development
4	9/17	Chicken measurements; behavior and housing
5	9/24	Chicken measurements; anatomy
6	10/1	Chicken measurements; digestion and nutrition
7	10/8	Chicken measurements; muscle
8	10/15	Chicken measurements; slaughter and fabrication
9	10/22	Chicken fabrication (tentative)
10	10/29	Data summary and analysis / data discussion
11	11/5	Food safety
12	11/12	Panel (tentative)
13	11/19	Products
14	11/26	No class – Thanksgiving Break
15	12/3	Meat processing / chicken nuggets

*Schedule is subject to change - depends on chicken growth and resource availability. Topics are tentative and may change at the instructor's discretion.

Dress code

Keep in mind that for most of the semester we will be working with live birds. This involves handling birds and being in their pens. The facility is covered but not temperature controlled. Appropriate clothing is a protective measure from several environmental hazards, such as manure, insects, and equipment. For your own protection, you are required to wear closed toe shoes, long pants, and a sleeved (short or long) shirt for laboratory sessions.

Risks associated with working with livestock and their tissues

There is some inherent risk with handling and working with chickens and their tissues. The instructor and TAs will work to provide students with the ability to manage chickens with minimal stress, thus lowering the risk of injury to people and chickens. Chickens can carry microorganisms such as *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* that can cause diarrhea and flu-like symptoms in humans. These microorganisms may be present in the chickens' digestive tract and can be shed in the manure and may survive in the chickens' surroundings. It is also possible they could be present in the meat. These pathogens can cause significant illness, especially to someone who is immunocompromised. Students should wash their hands after handling livestock and raw meat.

Other important dates

First class: Wed. Aug. 27th

Last class: Wed. Dec. 3rd

No class: Wed., Nov. 26th (Thanksgiving)

Other important information**Technology requirements**

Computer requirements for this course are consistent with UF policy for student computing requirements, and likely similar to your other classes:

<https://it.ufl.edu/policies/studentcomputing-requirements/>

This course uses Canvas and Teams for providing course content. Please see links below for further information regarding privacy and accessibility of Canvas:

- Canvas (Infrastructure) privacy policy: <https://www.instructure.com/policies/privacy>
- Canvas (Infrastructure) accessibility statement: <https://www.instructure.com/canvas/accessibility>

Canvas Technology Requirements

Computers, Internet, and Web browsers: Canvas runs on Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS, Android, or any other device with a modern web browser. It is recommended to use a computer less than five years old with at least 1GB of RAM. It is recommended to have a minimum Internet speed of 512kbps. It is **strongly recommended** to not use a wireless connection, phone, tablet, or notepad for critical course tasks such as exams and discussions.

Canvas currently supports the following browsers: Chrome, Safari, Firefox, Edge. Canvas supports the last two versions of most browsers. It is **highly recommend** updating to the **newest**

version of whatever browser you are using. Note that your computer's operating system may affect browser function. Failure to use one of these browsers will cause problems.

For more information on approved computers and browsers please visit:

<https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Canvas-Basics-Guide/What-are-the-browser-and-computer-requirements-for-Canvas/ta-p/66> On this web page there is an area titled "Is My Browser up to Date?" Use it to check each computer and browser you may use in this course. There is another important area on "Browser Privacy Settings." Read the section(s) for any browser intended for use. For example, **Note that:** In browsers such as Safari, insecure content will never be displayed in the browser. Return to the page to check for updates on technology issues in Canvas.

If you encounter technical difficulties in this course, **contact the UF Computing Help Desk** right away to troubleshoot. <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/> or (352) 392-HELP. If the problem cannot be fixed immediately, **notify your instructor, and provide them with the Help Desk ticket number.**

Software use

All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Academic Policies and Resources

Academic policies for this course are consistent with university policies. Please see <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/> for further information including:

- Class attendance
- Students with disabilities, learning barriers; and to request academic accommodations
- UF grading policies and grade points
- Course feedback
- University's Honesty Policy regarding cheating, plagiarism, etc.
- In-class recording
- Academic resources, such as e-learning technical support, library resources, etc.

Campus health & wellness resources

Visit <https://one.ufl.edu/whole-gator/topics> for resources that are designed to help you thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally at UF.

Please contact [UMatterWeCare](#) for additional and immediate support.