

Graduate Seminar in Animal Sciences

Fall 2025 Syllabus

Instructors

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Office hours: I will be available in the classroom for a 10-minute window both before and after each lecture, and you are welcome to initiate an appointment by sending me an email via Canvas (Inbox). I generally respond to emails within 2-3 working days (Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm).

Meeting Days and Time, and Location

Days: Thursdays

Time: 4:05 – 05:00 pm

Location: Room 102, Animal Sciences Bldg.

- A will be available via Canvas for students registered in the REC section. All other students are expected to attend the seminar sessions in person.

Course Description

This course gives students the opportunity to prepare and deliver a compelling research seminar centered on their research topic. Additionally, students will engage with fellow scientists, participate in meaningful scientific discussions, and develop effective scientific communication skills

Course credits: this is a 1 credit course.

Course prerequisites: None.

Course Objectives

1. Develop the ability to prepare and deliver a seminar effectively, drawing upon students' own research work.
2. Enhance engagement skills by confidently and comprehensively addressing questions from the audience related to the content of their presented seminar.
3. Cultivate scientific rigor and communication skills by actively engaging in seminars, asking questions, and providing informative feedback during other presentations.

Use of E-Learning/Canvas

Canvas is the Learning Management System that we will use for the course. To access Canvas, please visit the [eLearning system](#) and use your GatorLink Username and password for logging in.

All class materials, assignment submissions, and grades will be posted on Canvas. To stay informed about new materials and additional information posted on the platform, please configure your

"Notification Preferences" on Canvas. You can modify your Canvas Notification Preferences by following the instructions available [here](#).

Course Resources

Materials to support the development of the seminar will be available on the course Canvas page.

Evaluation Methods and Criteria

The following evaluation methods and criteria will be used in this class:

Item	Final Grade
Seminar presentation	75
Attendance and participation	25
Total	100

1. Seminar Presentation Guidelines

Presentation Duration:

- Each student is required to prepare and deliver a seminar presentation on their research topic.
- The presentation should last 35 to 40 minutes, followed by a 10 to 15-minute question-and-answer session.

Collaboration and Guidance:

- Students are expected to collaborate with their advisors in developing the seminar content.
- Advisors can assist in refining the seminar content, while the course instructor is available for tips and suggestions on organization and delivery.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Punctuality in submissions (5 points): Submit the announcement slide and a brief personal biography by August 11. Please send them by email.
 - Creating a short bio for a seminar introduction involves highlighting key professional and academic achievements while maintaining brevity. Here's a suggested structure: *Introduction* - Start with your name and current position or academic standing; *Educational Background* - Briefly mention your educational qualifications, including your current degree or any relevant degrees; *Professional Experience* - Highlight key experiences or roles relevant to the seminar topic. Emphasize any work, research, or projects that contribute to your expertise; *Personal Touch* (Optional) - Consider adding a personal touch, such as a hobby or interest related to your field, to make your bio more relatable.
- Quality of visual aids (17.5 points): Effective PowerPoint slides are expected, featuring organization, clarity, and professionalism. Ensure that the axes of the graphics are clearly labeled.

- Quality of oral presentation (17.5 points): Presentations must be rehearsed, engaging, and articulate, with proper grammar usage and avoidance of slang terms.
- Depth of content (17.5 points): Rigorous and objective scientific content is essential. The seminar should present a clear rationale, hypothesis, experimental design, and methodology, allowing the audience to interpret research results. Avoid presenting data without context and ensure that results are understandable to a broad animal science audience.
- Ability to answer questions (17.5 points): Responding to questions is crucial and reflects overall knowledge. Responses should go beyond simple yes or no answers, demonstrating critical thinking and an ability to address differing viewpoints.

2. Attendance and Participation Guidelines

- Students are expected to attend at least 90% of the seminar sessions. Those not registered in the REC section are required to participate in the seminar in person.
- Each student will be responsible for introducing one of their peers and initiating the Q&A session by asking the first question. A list of assigned introducers will be shared along with the presentation schedule. In addition, students are expected to ask at least three questions to other presenters over the semester.

Tips for Success

Steps to prepare and deliver a polished and effective scientific presentation:

- Start Early: Begin preparing your presentation well in advance to allow ample time for research, design, and practice.
- Know Your Audience: Tailor your presentation to the knowledge level and interests of audience. Remember that our department is very diverse, something that is common knowledge to your area may not be to others.
- Define Your Key Message: Design your presentation with your main message or takeaway in mind. This focus will help you create effective slides and ensure that your audience can easily follow your presentation.
- Structure Your Presentation:
 - Introduction: Start with a brief overview of the topic and its significance.
 - Objectives/Hypothesis: Clearly state the goals of your research or presentation.
 - Methods: Explain the methodology concisely, focusing on key aspects.
 - Results/Discussion: Present your findings clearly with visual aids like charts and graphs. Interpret the results and explain their implications.
 - Conclusion: Summarize the key points and suggest future directions or applications.
- Design Effective Slides:
 - Simplicity: Keep slides simple with minimal text. Use bullet points and avoid overcrowding.
 - Visuals: Use high-quality images, graphs, and diagrams to illustrate your points.
 - Consistency: Maintain a consistent style and layout throughout the presentation.
 - Legibility: Ensure text is large enough to be read from a distance.
 - Proofread: Check for spelling and grammatical errors.

- Clear Transitions: Use clear transitions between sections to help the audience follow your narrative.
- Practice Your Delivery:
 - Rehearse: Practice your presentation multiple times to become familiar with the content and timing.
 - Time Yourself: Ensure your presentation fits within the allotted time.
 - Speak Clearly: Use a clear, audible voice and moderate your pace.
 - Engage with the Audience: Make eye contact and use gestures to emphasize points.
 - Practice with your lab group, friends, and/or family. You will become more comfortable as you practice.
- Prepare for Questions:
 - Anticipate Questions: Think about potential questions your audience might ask and prepare your answers.
 - Stay Calm: If you don't know the answer, it's okay to admit it and offer to follow up later.
- Use Tools and Technology Wisely:
 - Check Equipment: Test any equipment and software you'll be using beforehand to avoid technical issues.
 - Backup Plan: Have a backup copy of your presentation in multiple formats (e.g., USB drive, email).

Grade Scheme

The following grading standards will be used in this class:

Grade	Range	Points
A	90.0 – 100%	90 - 100
B+	85.0 - 89.9%	85 – 89.9
B	80.0 - 84.9%	80 – 84.9
C+	75.0 - 79.9%	75 – 79.9
C	70 - 74.9%	70 – 74.9
D+	65 - 69.9%	65 – 69.9
D	60 - 64.9%	60 – 64.9
E	<59.9%	<59.9

Course Schedule

The schedule of presentations will be shared via email. An Outlook Calendar invite will also be shared.

Attendance Policy and Make-Up Policy

Class attendance is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. Requirements for class attendance, assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>.

Online course evaluation process

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning.

At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. 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 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 Honesty

As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: *"We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity."* You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit 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"*.

It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>.

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.

Services for Students with Disabilities

The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the

Instructor when requesting accommodation 0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/>.

Campus Resources

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general wellbeing are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

- University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575, www.counseling.ufl.edu
 - Counseling Services
 - Groups and Workshops
 - Outreach and Consultation
 - Self-Help Library
 - Wellness Coaching
- U Matter We Care, www.umatter.ufl.edu/
- Career Connections Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, <https://career.ufl.edu/>
- Student Success Initiative, <http://studentsuccess.ufl.edu>
- Student Complaints:
 - Residential Course: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-studentconduct-code/>
 - Online Course: <https://pfs.tnt.aa.ufl.edu/state-authorization-status/#student-complaint>