

JOURNAL COLLOQUY

GMS 7192

Fall 2023

1 credit hour

Instructor:

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Professor

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Office Hours: By email or phone (email is best because I read it all through the day, night, and weekends - but **use Gatorlink email, not clunky Canvas email**)

Course Website: <https://ufl.instructure.com/>

Course Communications: Specific questions are best asked by email.

Required Text: There is no assigned text book. Assigned research publications will be posted on the course web page.

Course Description: In this section of GMS 7192 primary research papers correlated with the material being covered in GMS 6121 Infectious Diseases will be assigned for reading, analysis, and discussion in a bulletin board-type format. GMS 7192 may be repeated once as long as the section corresponds to a different section (i.e., content).

Purpose of Course: The purpose of this course is to teach students how to read and analyze the primary research literature in microbiology/infectious diseases. Learning to follow instructions for discussions is critical.

Course Goals and/or Objectives: By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- **Read primary research publications (papers) in bacteriology.**
- Understand the methods used in study, either by having learned the methods as part of assigned papers or by using relevant web-based tools to learn new techniques.
- Comprehend data presented in figures, tables, and text within research papers.
- Constructively criticize the quality of presentation of figures and tables in research papers.
- Determine if experiments have been conducted with appropriate controls.

- Determine if appropriate statistics have been applied and interpreted.
- Determine if research conclusions for specific experiments and the paper overall are justified by the presented data.
- Participate in discussion about research papers in an informed, thoughtful, and thorough manner.
- **Examine the current literature for related papers and discuss those papers.**
- **Understand the difference between a primary research paper and a review or news piece.**
- **Follow instructions in formatting discussions with appropriate citation style and content.**

Teaching Philosophy: My teaching philosophy for graduate students is that we are a team moving forward in education. I will do my best to teach the relevant material in the most effective manner. I expect students to participate in their own education by studying assigned material, completing assignments, and asking for help in a timely manner having exhausted their resources and abilities.

Instructional Methods: A research paper is assigned for reading and review by posting the PDF on the course web page. A homework assignment with a definite deadline is posted for each paper. The homework is aimed at enforcing the timely reading of the paper and directing thoughtful analysis of certain aspects of the paper. A bulletin board discussion page is posted for each paper, and all students must participate in the discussion by contributing an original comment.

Higher grades for the discussion are earned by citing related literature in the discussion to varying degrees.

The instructor will provide prepared material on how to read, critique, and discuss the scientific literature.

Course Policies:

Attendance Policy: As an online course, there is no attendance per se. However, students are expected to read the assigned research papers, complete assigned homework for each paper, and participate in the bulletin board discussions for each paper. If a student cannot complete an assignment, he/she must contact the instructor ahead of time (see Make-up policy below). I am going to be strict with enforcing timely submissions. One week late will receive half credit. After that, no credit.

Make-up Policy: If a student misses an assignment such as a homework or discussion contribution, it may be made up according to University of Florida policy for allowable excused absences (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>).

Assignment Policy: Every assigned research paper will have an accompanying homework and discussion. Students must complete the homework before the discussion begins. Failure to complete homework by the assigned deadline or failure to participate in discussions will result in

grade penalties. The default penalties are half credit deduction for discussions posted the week after the deadline and no more than 1 week late.

The homework is open book. Students may submit the homework twice, and the highest score will be used.

Quiz/Exam Policy:

There are no quizzes or exams.

Netiquette: Communication Courtesy: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. <http://teach.ufl.edu/docs/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

Grading Policies:

The final grade will be calculated as follows:

Homework 50%. Homework will be graded as percent correct for questions asked.

Discussions 50%. Discussions will be graded on participation and the use of other publications. **The default grade for a discussion post is 8. Appropriately citing other relevant PRIMARY research papers will earn 9, and discussing a primary paper in enough detail to show that you read it (i.e., citing figures and tables) will earn 10 points. If you mistakenly claim that a review article is a primary paper, you will get a 7. Learning the difference between a primary research paper and a review is a major goal of this course.**

Note - the assigned paper cannot be used as a primary research paper for additional points. Do not label it as a primary paper. I already know that it is.

Discussions must be posted with the following format.

1. General comments on the assigned paper and/or subject. **Note that you are free to use one of the discussion prompts or make your own.** Remember, a multiplication of words gets you nothing.

2. Comments from related literature. If you choose to cite and/or discuss other related papers to get a higher grade, place those comments separately in this section. **If you cite a review, then state that it is a review. If it is a primary research paper, then state that.** If you want 10 points, cite figures or tables. You don't have to include them in your comment, and **please do not attach files. I will not open them.**

3. Literature cited. Place your appropriately formatted references here. Pay attention to my instructions to get full credit. Label your ONE representative primary paper as such. You can use more than one, but you must label only one as your designated primary paper.

The **related literature must be cited in the discussion text** (either numbered or author/year) and **appropriately referenced** at the end of the discussion. **The reference list must include: The first author, year, title, journal name, volume, page numbers. Do not include extraneous detail such as the DOI and web address.** If you cite an e-preprint, there is still a volume assigned and another number. If you're in doubt, in PubMed there is a "cite" button that will give you the necessary info.

Here is a detailed description of a primary research paper (as opposed to review or news item). A primary research paper is where someone actually did some real bench science and experiments. They will have tables and figures of **new data from their study (not data from other studies that they are commenting on)**. There will be a **materials and methods section** of the paper. There will be a results section and a discussion section. PubMed will also usually tell you if it is a review (but not always).

You do not get any credit for review articles, news articles, Wikipedia, CDC web pages, etc., but you must still cite them to avoid plagiarism.

I am not looking for nor giving extra credit for lengthy posts. I'm looking for **thoughtful** posts. So please do not write more to get more. **You don't have to answer more than one discussion prompt, and you are always welcome to write your own subject.** Of course, if you feel passionately about a paper, then write away! The whole purpose of this journal club is to enable a critical reading of the literature, promote critical thinking, teach some microbiology via the literature, and stimulate interest in science.

You don't get extra credit for discussing numerous related papers to less detail. I would much rather that you discuss one relevant primary paper in enough detail to get a 10. This doesn't mean writing volumes. It means describing some experiments in more detail than would be put in the abstract. **You must cite a figure or table and summarize what it says. DO NOT QUOTE FROM THE PAPER** (even if properly cited). **THIS IS INTELLECTUALLY LAZY.** If I cannot tell that you read the paper, I am not going to check the abstract. I don't have time to do that. I am going to give you a 9.

Please do not place attachments in your discussion. If you want to show a table or figure, include it in your post. But you don't have to do that if you cite it and state the results.

VPN to access full articles: Accessing and reading other papers is important for this class if you want to earn more than a B. You can access e-journals that UF has subscriptions to by using VPN. Without this, you can only see abstracts. VPN essentially makes your computer act as if it was on campus while you are connected. The install VPN, go to this web page: <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/login/vpn.html>. It has the instructions. You have to install the VPN software (free), then configure it to connect to UF (instructions provided on the page). When you want to access journals, you open the VPN program, login to Gatorlink VPN with your UF credentials, then it is as if your computer was on campus. You'll automatically have access to all of the e-journals that UF has subscriptions to when you open the full text/pdf from PubMed or Google Scholar. You must run VPN every time you boot your computer or after it sleeps from inactivity.

This is perhaps the easiest class in which to earn an A. Read the assigned papers, complete the assignments on time, and include some reviews/primary papers in your discussions. Cite them correctly. **Because of this, I am very hard on not following the rules.** If your citation is not appropriate, you lose a point. I consider this career development. **When you submit a grant, job application, or other important paperwork, if you don't follow the rules, you lose.**

Plagiarism: When writing your discussion, if you use Ctrl-C from someone else's writing, you are asking for trouble. If you change every other word from someone else's comments, you will get caught. **I use Turnitin.com to check for plagiarism.** There is an exercise on plagiarism during the first week, so no one has any excuse at all for plagiarizing. **If you plagiarize, I will give you the harshest grade penalty and file an academic honesty report with the Dean of Students.** This happens on too frequent of a basis. If I discover on your last submission that you plagiarized, I will examine every previous post, and if there is plagiarism on them they will be penalized as well. This will cause you to fail the course.

Grading Scale: The default grading scale for the class is: A \geq 90, A- 87-89.9, B+ 84-86.9, B 80-83.9, B- 77-79.9, C+ 74-76.9, C 70-73.99, C- 67-69.9, D+ 64-66.9, D 60-63.99, D- 57-59.9, E \leq 56.9. This scale has been shifted downward in the past, but it will never be shifted upwards. See the UF policy on grades at:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Course Schedule:

One paper is assigned each week. A MCQ homework/quiz guides students through the paper. A discussion page with suggested topics will also be posted. Completing the homework/quiz and posting in the Discussion are due by the following Sunday.

UF Policies:

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

University Policy on Academic Misconduct: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php>.

COURSE/FACULTY 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 <https://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 <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Getting Help:

For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Sakai, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- Learning-support@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints> to submit a complaint.