

GMS 6121: Infectious Diseases

3 credit hours

Online

Course director:

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INSTRUCTORS:

Stephanie Karst, Ph.D.

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Bacteriology, Mycology, Parasitology

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OFFICE HOURS: By email appointment

COURSE WEBSITE: <https://ufl.instructure.com/>

Course Communications: General course announcements will be posted as an “Announcement” in Canvas or will be emailed to all students via Gatorlink email. Students are expected to view Announcements and check their UF email daily to keep informed of communication from the faculty. Failure to view an Announcement will not be a valid excuse for missing important updates or adverse consequences as a result. Specific questions for the course director or instructors are best asked during class or by email,

either directly or through the Canvas system. **DO NOT USE CANVAS EMAIL. USE GATORLINK (UFL.EDU) EMAIL FOR COMMUNICATION WITH PROFESSORS.**

Required Text: General course materials and required reading are available on the Canvas course website in the Modules section. We highly recommend that you use the following textbooks as study aids:

- Schaechter's Mechanisms of Microbial Diseases. 6th ed 2021 (Lippincott William & Wilkins) V Dirita, NC Englebert, and MJ Imperiale.
- Fundamentals of Molecular Virology, 2nd NH Acheson. (John Wiley & Sons)

Course Description: GMS 6121 is an entry level graduate course to prepare students for advanced courses such as GMS 6108 Bacterial Physiology, Genetics, and Antibiotics, GMS 6132 Gene and Immunotherapy, and GMS 7133 Advanced Molecular Virology. The goal of this course is to provide an overview of infectious pathogens that cause human disease, with a particular emphasis on viral and bacterial pathogens and some mycology and parasitology. Students will gain a fundamental understanding of the principles and mechanisms of microbial pathogenesis. In general, individual lectures cover (a) general classification and common molecular features of a family of pathogens, and (b) specific mechanisms by which a representative pathogen or pathogens within the family cause disease. Rather than covering most of the important microorganisms, select representative model organisms are taught in detail with the goal that students will be able to apply knowledge and concepts in self-study moving forward in their education and careers.

Prerequisite Knowledge and Skills: General biology, biochemistry, and cell biology.

Instructional Methods: Everything that is required is posted in the Modules section of the Canvas course. Lecture videos are assigned "due dates" for purposes of scheduling; however, the videos may be watched at any time during the assigned week. The lecture videos are divided into 2 to 3 segments for ease of watching. A single PDF version of the video PowerPoint is posted for each lecture. Each lecture has an open note/open book multiple choice question homework/quiz that has a definite due date – by default 11:59 pm of the Sunday after the lectures are assigned. Homework quizzes are not collaborative - they must be completed individually. Sharing of questions and answers in any format will be considered cheating. The homework/quiz reviews key points from the lecture, and the questions and are similar in format and content to the multiple choice exam questions. Some lectures are devoted to current infectious disease "hot" topics and associated scientific papers. In these cases, it is expected that students read the appropriate papers and participate in online discussions as indicated for the specific lecture.

COURSE POLICIES

Quiz/Exam Policy:

- **Homework/Quizzes:** Online multiple choice homework/quizzes are aimed at encouraging timely mastery of assigned course material, and therefore may be done during self-study using online resources and/or the text. They are open note/open book, but students may not collaborate on completing them.
- **Exams:** There are four exams – one for each five-week section of the course. There is a 3 day window for scheduling each exam. The exams are closed book, closed note, multiple choice, with questions similar to the quizzes. **Exams will be administered via Honorlock. Students are expected to be familiar with the procedures for having all of the necessary hardware and software to take the exams via Honorlock. You must use an external side-viewing webcam when taking the exams. There is an example of what the side camera should show. If you do not use a side camera or if your camera view is not in compliance, you are subject to a 50 point penalty for the exam.**

Make-up Policy: If a student misses an assignment such as a homework or quiz, 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> [Links to an external site.](#)).

If you encounter medical, personal, or professional matters that interfere with your success in this course, please contact Dr. Tibbetts for modules 1 and 2 or Dr. Boddicker for modules 3 and 4 right away. However, once a crisis has resulted in failure, there is little that we can do. There are no make-up exams or extra credit.

GRADING POLICIES

Grading: Students will take 4 closed-note exams, each covering approximately one quarter of the course material. Together, exams will account for 70% of the final grade. In addition, students will take open-book homework/quizzes over online material after to each class period. Homework/quizzes will cumulatively account for 30% of the final grade. **Quizzes submitted late will be subject to up to a 50% penalty. There is no make-up or extra credit.**

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 66.9. 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> [Links to an external site.](#)

UF POLICIES

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 <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/> [Links to an external site.](#) 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/Links to an external site.](https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/Links%20to%20an%20external%20site..) Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at [https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/Links to an external site.](https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/Links%20to%20an%20external%20site..)”

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>.

Netiquette/Communication Courtesy: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats https://www.cise.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/CISE_Netiquette_Guide.pdf[Links to an external site.](#)

Getting help

For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Canvas, 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