

JOURNAL COLLOQUY

GMS 7192

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)

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 GMS 7192 primary research papers correlated with the material being covered in GMS 6121 Infectious Diseases or GMS 6108 Bacterial Physiology, Genetics, and Antibiotics will be assigned for reading, analysis, and discussion in a bulletin board-type format. This class may be repeated once as long as the section corresponds to the alternate corresponding course (i.e., once for GMS 6121 and once for GMS 6108).

Prerequisite Knowledge and Skills: Very basic biology and concurrent enrolment in GMS 6121, GMS 6108, or another graduate level introduction to microbiology/infectious diseases course. A basic understanding of statistics would be helpful.

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.

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

- Read primary research publications (papers) in virology, bacteriology, and to lesser extents mycology and parasitology.
- 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.
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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 will be assigned for reading and review by posting the PDF on the course web page every week. A homework assignment with a definite deadline will be 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 will be created for each paper, and all students must participate in the discussion by contributing an original comment. Commenting on the comments of others is encouraged. 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).

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 a 1 point deduction for discussions posted the week after the deadline, 50% for the next week, and 0 credit more than 2 weeks 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 quality/thoughtfulness of the questions/comments that are posted. The default grade for a discussion post is 8. Citing other relevant papers and posting particularly insightful comments will earn 9 or 10 points.

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:

The subjects of the research papers will follow the subject matter being taught in GMS 6121 Infectious Diseases or topical and interesting bacteriology papers for the section that corresponds to GMS 6108. The first half of GMS 6121 is virology, followed by bacteriology, ending with a small section on mycology/parasitology.

A paper will be posted Monday or Tuesday each week. A homework/quiz will be assigned that 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 Monday.

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 feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last 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>.

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.