



# Insect Research CURE

## ENY 2890

Spring 2024 (3 credits)

This is a **course-based undergraduate research experience (CURE)** that bridges the classroom & the research lab. You will become part of a collaborative research team to investigate how jumping spiders use color cues to make decisions about their prey, shedding light on the evolution of color vision in spiders. Through this immersive, hands-on research experience, students may generate publishable data & contribute new knowledge to the field of entomology. We'll also discuss key issues & practices in research, such as ethics, objectivity / bias, international collaborations, & science communication. This course is a great introduction to research, especially for students interested in entomology, behavioral ecology, sensory biology, and evolution. Committed, hard-working students will leave the course well-prepared to join research teams at UF and beyond.

This course fulfills a curriculum requirement for the International Scholars Program: [internationalcenter.ufl.edu/international-scholars-program](http://internationalcenter.ufl.edu/international-scholars-program)

*Catalog description:* A classroom undergraduate research experience (CURE) which bridges the divide between the classroom and the science laboratory and prepares for advanced opportunities in entomological science. Become part of an entomology research team, collecting publishable data on insect evolution, ecology, and systematics.

## Instructors:

**Dr. Anthony Auletta (he/him)**

**Course Coordinator**

[anthonyauletta@ufl.edu](mailto:anthonyauletta@ufl.edu)

(352) 273-3954

**Office:** 3102 Steinmetz Hall

**Drop-In Hours:** Tue, 3:00 - 4:00pm & Fri, 1:00 - 2:00pm, or by appt: [calendly.com/anthonyauletta](https://calendly.com/anthonyauletta)

**Dr. Lisa Taylor (she/her)**

[lisa.taylor@ufl.edu](mailto:lisa.taylor@ufl.edu)

(352) 273-3937

**Office:** 2211 Steinmetz Hall

**Drop-In Hours:** Thurs, 4:00 - 5:00pm or by email appointment

**Dr. Laurel Lietzenmayer (she/her)**

[lblietzenmayer@ufl.edu](mailto:lblietzenmayer@ufl.edu)

**Office:** 2007 Steinmetz Hall

**Drop-In Hours:** Tues & Thurs, 11:00 - 12:00pm or by email appointment



## Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- 🕷 Explain the scientific method and best practices for conducting scientific research.
- 🕷 Identify key challenges that scientists encounter when conducting research and assess strategies to mitigate them.
- 🕷 Critically read and evaluate primary scientific literature.
- 🕷 Accurately collect, analyze, and interpret scientific data.
- 🕷 Effectively communicate the findings of their research to both the scientific community and general public.
- 🕷 Explain the benefits of international research and strategies for effectively working with scientists from other cultures.
- 🕷 Reflect on their personal career goals and identify resources & opportunities for future research on campus and beyond.
- 🕷 Work productively in small groups towards a common goal.



## Our Research Project

**Jumping spiders** (family **Salticidae**) are a remarkably diverse group of spiders with over 6,500 described species, known for their incredible vision, catlike hunting tactics, and colorful courtship displays. Some members of this group have evolved color vision, while others have not- and the main goal of our research project is to understand why. Using a combination of iNaturalist data collection and hands-on behavioral experiments with live spiders in the classroom, we will investigate how the presence or absence of color vision affects hunting behavior in different species of jumping spiders.



## Teaching Assistants & Collaborators

We are fortunate to have two excellent **teaching assistants** joining us this semester; do not hesitate to contact your TAs if you have any questions about the course:

### **Yichen Li (she/her)**

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Email: [yli10@ufl.edu](mailto:yli10@ufl.edu)

Office Hours: By email appointment

### **Amanda Lichter (she/her)**

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

Email: [alichter@ufl.edu](mailto:alichter@ufl.edu)

Office Hours: By email appointment

For our project, we may also collaborate with other researchers in the UF Entomology & Nematology Department and beyond. At several points during the semester, these collaborators may join our class sessions and share their expertise with us.



## Readings & Course Materials

**Readings & Videos:** There is no textbook for this course; instead, selected articles from the primary literature and other readings will be **posted on Canvas**. Students are expected to complete all required readings before the corresponding class session. You may also be required to watch brief videos before class, which will be posted on Canvas as well.

**Computer Requirement:** All students must have regular access to a **computer with a reliable internet connection** to access assignments and other course materials on Canvas. A desktop or laptop computer is also required for data analysis; the analysis software cannot be run on tablets or mobile phones. Laptops are recommended so that you may work on your analyses during class.



## Communication & Conduct

**Meeting Policy:** If you need assistance with any aspect of the course, we encourage you to come to our **drop-in office hours** (details on Page 1 of this syllabus). Alternatively, you can **schedule a 1-on-1 meeting** with any of the instructors. You can request a meeting with Dr. Auletta via Calendly

(<http://calendly.com/anthonyauletta>) and with all other instructors via email. Outside of drop-in hours, **email** is our preferred method of contact. We will do our best to respond to messages within 48 hours (not including weekends or holidays). As a courtesy, please check the syllabus and Canvas before reaching out; answers to many of your questions can be found there!

**Canvas:** Important announcements and updates will be regularly posted to the **course Canvas website**, so be sure to check Canvas frequently! To ensure that you do not miss anything, please ensure that your Canvas profile is set to receive notifications.

**Email Accounts:** It is UF policy that you use your **GatorLink account or Canvas** when emailing your instructors; we will not answer emails sent from other accounts (e.g., personal Gmail, etc).

**Professional Conduct:** All members of the class are expected to conduct themselves in a **professional and respectful manner** at all times. Please use appropriate etiquette when interacting with your peers and instructors, including during class, on Canvas, and via email. Students who behave disrespectfully or disruptively will be reported to the Dean of Students Office.



## Projects & Assignments

**Prep Assignments:** There will be several short **online preparatory assignments** throughout the semester (see Canvas for dates). Some of these assignments will review important concepts that we've covered in class, while others will be based on the required readings/videos. These assignments are designed to help you prepare for our in-class discussions and other activities.

**Reflections:** Throughout the semester, you will be asked to submit **brief written reflections** via Canvas. The goal of these assignments is to help you expand on our discussions and think deeply about what it means to be a scientist. For some reflections, you may instead be asked to analyze a scientific paper relating to our research or to write up a short progress report on your project.

**Lab Notebook:** You will be required to maintain a **digital lab notebook** throughout the semester, in which you will record your data/analyses and other notes related to our experiments. Instructions for how to access your lab notebook via Canvas will be discussed in class, as will proper lab notebook protocol and best practices. Your notebook will be graded for completeness and accuracy three times during the semester (two preliminary checks and one final evaluation).

**Research Poster:** As a capstone project, each research group will design a **scientific poster** that highlights their experimental design and preliminary findings. Specific poster guidelines will be discussed in class. Students will present their posters in a symposium at the end of the semester.

**Science Across Borders Assignment:** One of the major themes in this course is the value of global collaborations in science. To explore this topic in more depth, you will conduct an **interview with an international researcher** and use that interview to write a **reflective essay** on the benefits and challenges of conducting research across borders. Detailed information about this assignment will be discussed in class, and the instructors will help connect you with a scientist for the interview.

**Group Agreement & Evaluations:** At the beginning of the semester, each research group will submit a **written agreement** that outlines their shared expectations for group work. Then, three times during the semester, you will **evaluate** your group members (including yourself!) based on how well they are following the agreement and contributing to your group's projects. This will allow the instructors to assess how well each group is functioning and help ensure that each person contributes fairly to all group assignments.

**Extra Credit:** Extra credit opportunities may be posted at the **instructors' discretion only**. Any other extra work submitted in order to raise a grade will not be accepted and requests for additional extra credit will not be considered.

**Submitting assignments:** All assignments must be submitted electronically via Canvas unless otherwise noted. Emailed or paper submissions for Canvas assignments will not be accepted. You are responsible for ensuring that all your work is uploaded correctly and completely by the deadline. Corrupted files will be treated as missing work (= 0 grade) until they are reuploaded correctly and late penalties will apply if your resubmission is past the deadline. So, please always double check your files right after you upload them! If you experience technical problems when submitting your work in Canvas, contact the UF Computing Help Desk for assistance: <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu>.



## Grading Policies

This course uses a points system for grading. The anticipated maximum that can be earned in the course is **675 points**, distributed as follows:

Prep Assignments: **70 pts (10 pts ea.)**

Reflections: **105 pts (15 pts ea.)**

Lab Notebook: **100 pts**

Research Poster: **200 pts**

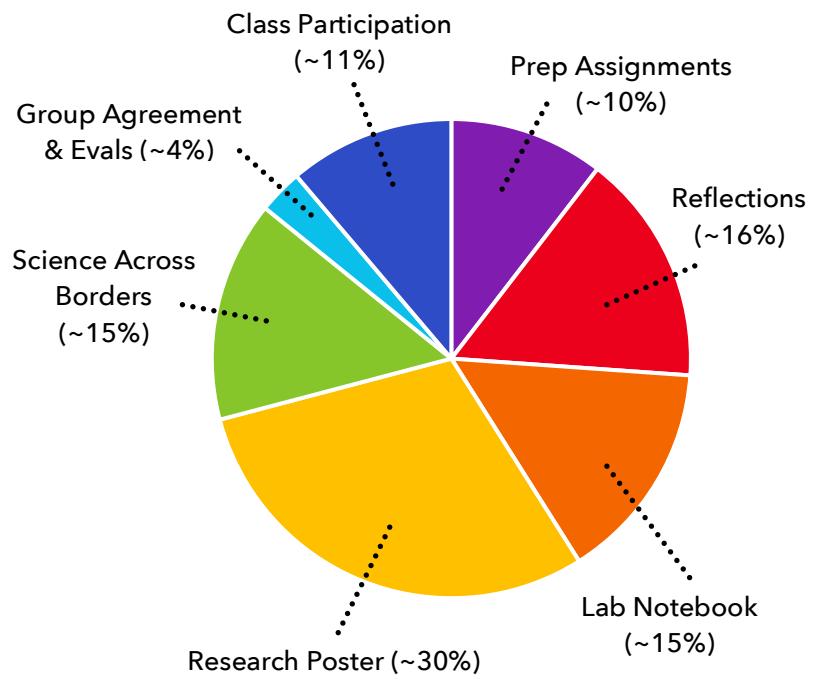
Science Across Borders: **100 pts**

Group Agreement & Eval: **25 pts**

Class Participation: **75 pts**

At the end of the semester, your total course grade will be converted to a letter grade using the scale below:

93 - 100% = <b>A</b>	73 - 76.9% = <b>C</b>
90 - 92.9% = <b>A-</b>	70 - 72.9% = <b>C-</b>
87 - 89.9% = <b>B+</b>	67 - 69.9% = <b>D+</b>
83 - 86.9% = <b>B</b>	63 - 66.9% = <b>D</b>
80 - 82.9% = <b>B-</b>	60 - 62.9% = <b>D-</b>
77 - 79.9% = <b>C+</b>	below 60% = <b>E</b>



Please note that the instructors do not round up grades— requests to do so will not be considered.

For current UF policies on assigning grade points, consult the following policy website:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

**Disputing a grade:** If you wish to dispute a grade for any exam/assignment, you must contact the instructors in writing after the assignment has been returned. In your message, you must include a specific explanation for why you think the grade is incorrect and how you think it should be changed. An instructor will then arrange a meeting with you to discuss the issue and determine whether or not the grade should be changed. The grade assigned following this meeting will be final.

## Attendance & Participation

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies>.

**Expectations for Attendance & Participation:** Due to the hands-on nature of this course, attendance in class is *critically important*. If you are absent, you will not be able to fully work on your research project, collaborate with your teammates, or contribute to class discussions. Thus, everyone is expected to **attend every class session on time and stay for the entire session**. Students who miss more than 30% of class sessions will earn an E (= failing grade) in the course. You are also expected to be **fully prepared for and engaged** in each session— this includes completing all required readings/videos, submitting all assignments on time, paying attention during class, and actively participating in the research project and all other class activities. Participation in our class sessions is worth **75 points ( $\approx 11\%$  of your final course grade)**. Your participation grade will be calculated based on the percentage of class sessions in which you are present for the entire time and complete the assigned in-class activities.

**Absence Policy:** All students are allowed **2 free absences** during the semester- no questions asked and no notification required. If there is an assignment due on the day of your absence, you must still submit that assignment by the deadline, and you will still be responsible for all of the content that you missed. Note that you *cannot* use a free absence to miss the poster symposium at the end of the course; everyone is expected to attend that session.

If you need to miss additional classes (beyond your 2 free absences), you must let the instructors know **as far in advance as possible**. In the case of an unforeseen emergency, you should contact the instructors as soon as you can afterwards. If your absence is excused (as defined here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies>), the instructors will then discuss arrangements for you to make up any missed work. The instructors may require you to submit **appropriate documentation** of your absence before you are allowed to make up missed work; you can submit the documentation via the Dean of Students' **Instructor Notification portal**: <https://care.dso.ufl.edu/instructor-notifications>.

If your absence is unexcused or you fail to notify the instructors of your absence in a timely manner, you will earn a 0 for any work that you missed and make-up work will not be accepted. Please note that personal travel (e.g., a vacation) is *not* considered an excusable absence, and thus students will earn a 0 for any work missed due to personal travel during the course.

Since this is a **face-to-face course**, students will *not* have the option to join remotely via Zoom under any circumstances. The instructors will also *not* record the class sessions. If you do miss a class meeting, it will be your responsibility to contact a classmate for notes from that session; the instructors will not provide notes. If the content is still unclear after you review your classmate's notes (and the required readings/other materials on Canvas), please don't hesitate to come to office hours or schedule a meeting with an instructor. We ask that you please come to that meeting prepared to discuss the specific questions you have.

**Work Outside of Class:** In addition to working on the research project in class, you will be expected to allocate adequate time outside of class to work on data analysis and other aspects of the project. The exact amount of time will depend on how much progress you make during our class sessions, but most students should expect to spend several hours per week working on their project outside of class.



## Late Work & Make-Up Assignments

**Policy on Late Work:** All assignments are due **by the date and time indicated on the assignment page in Canvas**. If you submit an assignment after this deadline, 20% of its total point value will be deducted for every day that it is late. We understand that sometimes unexpected situations arise, and so every student will have **2 late work passes** that they can use to submit an assignment up to 24 hours after the deadline with no penalty and no questions asked. These passes will be applied to the first two assignments that you turn in late during the course. Please note that credit cannot be earned for any assignment after it has been graded and returned to the rest of the class. Late work will also not be accepted after the last day of classes.

Please note that the **final research poster** will not be accepted late; you cannot use a late work pass on the final poster and will earn a 0 if it is not submitted by the deadline. This is because we need sufficient time to print the posters for our end-of-semester symposium. Late submissions for **prep assignments** will only be accepted up until the start of the associated class session; this is because these assignments are intended to prepare you for our in-class activities, and in many cases we will go over the answers during class.

**Extensions:** Extensions for assignments are reserved for extenuating circumstances (such as unforeseen emergencies) and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If you have a situation that you believe warrants an extension, it is your responsibility to contact the instructors as soon as possible to discuss your situation and options. The instructors may ask for **valid documentation** of your situation before granting an extension.

**A note about deadlines:** Remember, the due date doesn't have to be the "do" date! In other words, we encourage you to work on your assignments in advance- don't wait until right before the deadline to submit your work! Last-minute computer problems or other non-emergency situations that arise right before the deadline are not valid reasons for requesting an extension. Such requests will not be considered- late penalties will still be applied to your work if it is not submitted before the deadline (unless you have a late work pass remaining).

**Make-Up Assignments:** If you miss class due to an excusable absence, it is your responsibility to contact the instructors as soon as possible to discuss options for making up the work that you missed. As noted above, the instructors may ask for **valid documentation** of your absence before allowing make-up work to be submitted. Make-up assignments will *not* be provided for students who miss class for unexcused absences or who fail to make arrangements with the instructors in a reasonable time frame.



## Course Schedule

Below is a tentative\* schedule of topics & assignments for the semester. Readings and other materials for each session will be posted on Canvas and must be completed before the start of class. All assignments must be submitted via Canvas by 11:59pm on the due date listed below, unless otherwise noted- see Canvas for the most up-to-date deadlines for assignments!

Week	Dates	Topics	Assignments Due
1	Jan. 9 (Tu)	Introduction to the Course & CUREs	Reflection 1 (F)
	Jan. 11 (Th)	The Scientific Method	
2	Jan. 16 (Tu)	Overview of Jumping Spider Biology	Prep Assignment 1 (M)
	Jan. 18 (Th)	Our Study System & Research Questions	
3	Jan. 23 (Tu)	Introduction to Data Collection and Analysis	Prep Assignment 2 (W) Reflection 2 (F)
	Jan. 25 (Th)	Data Collection Practice Paper Discussion #1	
4	Jan. 30 (Tu)	Science Across Borders	Group Agreement (Tu)
	Feb. 1 (Th)	Data Collection & Analysis	
5	Feb. 6 (Tu)	Data Collection & Analysis	Science Across Borders Interview Questions (Tu) Prep Assignment 3 (W) Reflection 3 (F)
	Feb. 8 (Th)	Data Collection & Analysis Paper Discussion #2	
6	Feb. 13 (Tu)	Objectivity & Bias in Research	Prep Assignment 4 (M) Reflection 4 (F)
	Feb. 15 (Th)	Data Collection & Analysis	
7	Feb. 20 (Tu)	Science Communication: How to Make an Effective Research Poster	
	Feb. 22 (Th)	Data Collection & Analysis	

	<b>Feb. 27 (Tu)</b>	<b>Data Collection &amp; Analysis</b>	Poster Abstract (Tu)
8	<b>Feb. 29 (Th)</b>	<b>Data Collection &amp; Analysis</b>	Group Evaluation 1 (Th) Reflection 5 (F)
9	<b>Mar. 5 (Tu)</b>	<b>Research Ethics</b>	Prep Assignment 5 (M)
	<b>Mar. 7 (Th)</b>	<b>Data Collection &amp; Analysis</b>	Reflection 6 (F)
10	<b>Mar. 12 (Tu)</b>	<b>Spring Break- NO CLASS!</b>	
	<b>Mar. 14 (Th)</b>		
11	<b>Mar. 19 (Tu)</b>	<b>Data Collection &amp; Analysis</b>	Prep Assignment 6 (M)
		<b>Paper Discussion #3</b>	Science Across Borders
	<b>Mar. 21 (Th)</b>	<b>Data Collection &amp; Analysis</b>	Interview Transcript (Th)
12	<b>Mar. 26 (Tu)</b>	<b>Data Collection &amp; Analysis</b>	Poster Draft (Tu)
	<b>Mar. 28 (Th)</b>	<b>Data Collection &amp; Analysis</b>	Group Evaluation 2 (Th)
13	<b>Apr. 2 (Tu)</b>	<b>Data Collection &amp; Analysis</b>	Optional Poster Draft
	<b>Apr. 4 (Th)</b>	<b>Data Collection &amp; Analysis</b>	Revisions (F)
14	<b>Apr. 9 (Tu)</b>	<b>Data Collection &amp; Analysis</b>	Science Across Borders
	<b>Apr. 11 (Th)</b>	<b>Data Collection &amp; Analysis</b>	Final Essay (Tu)
15	<b>Apr. 16 (Tu)</b>	<b>Panel Discussion with Visiting Grad Students</b>	Prep Assignment 7 (M)
	<b>Apr. 18 (Th)</b>	<b>Reflecting on our Research Experience</b>	Final Poster (Tu, 12:00pm)
		<b>Practice Poster Presentations</b>	Reflection 7 (W)
16	<b>Apr. 23 (Tu)</b>	<b>Poster Symposium</b>	Lab Notebook Final Evaluation (Tu) Group Evaluation 3 (Tu)

\* Although we will do our best to adhere to this schedule, it may be adjusted during the semester to accommodate opportunities, disruptions, and other circumstances. These changes will be communicated clearly via Canvas.



## List of Important Dates

Key dates to remember are below— be sure to add them to your calendar now! Due dates for other assignments are listed in the Course Schedule above and/or on Canvas.

- **February 27:** Research Poster Abstract due
- **November 9 – 16:** Spring Break (no class)
- **March 21:** Science Across Borders Interview Transcript due
- **March 26:** Research Poster Draft due
- **April 9:** Science Across Borders Final Essay due
- **April 16:** Final Research Poster due (by 12:00pm for printing)
- **April 23:** Research Poster Symposium; Final Lab Notebook Evaluation



## Laboratory Guidelines

Everyone is required to follow all **lab safety procedures** and other **lab guidelines** provided by the instructors. These procedures will be clearly communicated via Canvas and/or during class. While in the laboratory, all students must wear closed-toed shoes. Also note that food and beverages are not permitted in the lab. During the course, you may handle specimens and use microscopes or other lab equipment; please treat these specimens and instruments with care! Always ask an instructor if you are unsure about how to use an instrument. Students who do not adhere to these guidelines will be dismissed from the lab and considered absent for that day, and may also be reported to the Dean of Students Office for misconduct. You may also be liable for any damages to lab equipment that result from your negligence or misuse.



## Policy on Academic Honesty & Integrity

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>.

**Instructors' notes:** Any action that subverts the learning goals of the course (or a particular course activity) will be treated as academic misconduct and reported to the Dean of Students Office. This includes- but is not limited to- cheating or assisting others in cheating, plagiarism (i.e., misrepresenting someone else's work as your own, whether it is copied directly or paraphrased), self-plagiarism (i.e., copying/reusing work that you have submitted previously), using ChatGPT or other AI tools for assignments without instructor permission, collaborating with others when it is not permitted, fabricating data, lying to an instructor, and bad faith attempts to undermine the intent of a learning activity. In addition to being reported to the Dean of Students Office, a student will earn a grade of 0 on any assignment that is plagiarized or that otherwise violates these academic honesty policies. This 0 grade is irreversible- it cannot be dropped and the assignment cannot be resubmitted for a different grade. After the first offense, any subsequent incidents of

*plagiarism or academic dishonesty will result in an automatic E (= failing grade) in the course.*

*Every assignment that you submit should consist entirely of your own original work, created by you for this class. It is expected that all students will be able to explain / defend their work at any time if asked by an instructor. If you cannot adequately explain or defend your work, you may not earn credit for that assignment and will be subject to the same penalties for academic misconduct described above.*

*Please see the **Guide to Academic Honesty & Integrity** on Canvas for more information.*



## Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

When used properly, **generative artificial intelligence (AI)** programs (such as ChatGPT and other large language models) can be helpful tools to enhance your learning. However, *improper* use of these tools can impede your learning and/or be considered academic dishonesty. Furthermore, many scientific journals now have strict rules about AI use and require all authors to disclose if and how they used AI. This means that misuse of AI tools in this course could prevent our research from being publishable! Thus, it is critically important to learn how to use these tools responsibly and ethically.

For this course, you are not permitted to use AI-generated content in any assignment (unless otherwise indicated by an instructor). This includes- but is not limited to- submitting AI-generated content as your own work, submitting content that was paraphrased or edited from an AI output, quoting text generated by an AI (even if properly cited), and using AI to generate false sources. All of your assignments should consist entirely of your own original work, created by you for this class. We are interested in assessing *your* understanding of the material and *your* ability to think critically and synthesize information- not that of a machine! Unauthorized use of AI in an assignment will be considered **academic dishonesty** and be subject to the same disciplinary actions described above.

You are allowed to use AI tools in the following ways. Note that these are the *only* acceptable uses of AI in this course- all other uses are not permitted:

- Outside of graded assignments, e.g., to help you study or review class material.
- To brainstorm ideas before starting an assignment. *In this case, you must acknowledge in your submission how you used AI, including the names of the specific AI tools and the exact prompts that you used. You must also confirm that your assignment is written entirely in your own words, i.e., without an AI-generated content (including paraphrased content).*
- To proofread or provide feedback on your original work before submitting it. *In this case, you must acknowledge in your submission how you used AI, including the names of the specific AI tools and the exact prompts that you used. You must also confirm that your assignment is written entirely in your own words, i.e., without an AI-generated content (including paraphrased content).*

All students should also be aware of the **limitations** of AI. The material generated by these tools can often be inaccurate, incomplete, misleading, or biased. Thus, if you use AI as a brainstorming or study tool, you should always fact-check the outputs using credible sources. Also note that relying too heavily on these tools may stifle the development of your own critical thinking skills and creativity, which may make it more difficult to succeed in other aspects of the course.



## Data Use & Management

In this course, you will collect and analyze data that may be used in a future publication. It is crucial that you **handle these data responsibly and ethically!** This includes keeping detailed, complete, and accurate records throughout the duration of your project. Your data and other work relating to our project must be kept in a permanent and retrievable form (such as in your lab notebook). You must be able to show your data and analyses to an instructor when asked, and will be required to submit all of your data / records to the instructors by the end of the course. Remember that you do not own the data that you produce through this course; research data is institutional property, which means that they are owned by the University of Florida. All data from our project must also be kept confidential until published- you are not permitted to share unpublished data / findings from our project with anyone outside of the course unless you have prior written permission from the instructor. Finally, you may not modify, erase, falsify, or fabricate any of your data under any circumstances!

Violation of any of these policies could prevent us from publishing our research. *By remaining enrolled in this course, you agree that you will adhere to these rules as well as any additional guidance on data use/management provided by the instructors.* Students who violate these policies will earn an automatic E (= failing grade) in the course and will be reported to the Dean of Students office for academic misconduct.



## Accommodations 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.

### Disability Resource Center

001 Reid Hall

(352) 392-8565 ♦ <https://disability.ufl.edu>

**Instructors' note:** We want you to succeed in this course! To ensure your accommodations are in place when you need them, please be sure to have your DRC accommodation letter sent to us as early as possible- ideally at the beginning of the semester.



## Campus Helping 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**

Counseling Services, Groups and Workshops, Outreach and Consultation, Self-Help Library, Wellness Coaching

3190 Radio Road ♦ (352) 392-1575 ♦ <https://counseling.ufl.edu>

Other UF campus resources include:

**U Matter, We Care:** <http://umatter.ufl.edu>

**Academic Resources** (includes tutoring services, study skills workshops, 1-on-1 consultations, and more): <https://academicresources.clas.ufl.edu>

**Career Connections Center:** Reitz Student Union- First Floor; (352) 392-1601;  
<http://career.ufl.edu>

**Student Success Initiative:** <http://studentsuccess.ufl.edu>

**Student Complaints:** Complaints regarding on-campus courses may be filed at <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-studentconduct-code>. For online courses, please see <https://distance.ufl.edu/getting-help/student-complaint-process>.



## Policy on Recording Class Sessions

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are: (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest

instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and an instructor during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.



## Use of Electronic Devices

You may use personal electronic devices such as laptops or tablets in class, unless otherwise noted by the instructors. However, it is your responsibility to make sure that you use your devices in a **professional and courteous manner**. This includes:

- Limiting device use only to activities that are **directly related to your learning of course material**, such as taking notes or working on your analyses. Using your devices for any other purpose is not allowed in the classroom; doing so is disrespectful to the instructors, distracting to your fellow students, and robs you of a quality learning experience.
- Keeping your devices **muted at all times** to prevent disrupting others around you.
- Quietly stepping out into the hall if you must take a call or contact someone. We understand that emergencies can happen and will not prevent you from attending to them, but we also ask that you try to minimize disruptions to your peers.

If your device use is disruptive or inappropriate, you will be asked to put away your device. Students who repeatedly violate this policy will no longer be allowed to use devices in class and may be reported to the Dean of Students Office.



## 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.



## Course Evaluations

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 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>.

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*It is your responsibility to ensure that you fully understand the policies outlined in this syllabus as well as the policies of the university as they relate to this course. By remaining enrolled in this course, you agree that you have read and understood all of these policies and that you will be held accountable to them.*

*At their discretion, the instructors may change aspects of the course during the semester to accommodate new opportunities, unforeseen disruptions, or other circumstances. These changes will be communicated clearly in class and through Canvas. The current version of the syllabus will always be available on our course's Canvas website. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are following the most recent version of the syllabus.*

*If you have any questions, please contact the instructors as soon as possible (preferably at the beginning of the course)!*

Cover Photo: Adult male *Habronattus americanus*  
by Patrick Zephyr ([patrickzephyrphoto.com](http://patrickzephyrphoto.com))