

MCB7922 Journal Club Environmental Microbiology **Fall, Spring, Summer – 1 credit**

Course structure: This journal club is very informal. At the beginning of each week, we will select a scientific paper. Everybody will read the paper during the week and Fridays we will meet via zoom to critically discuss the paper, find strength and weaknesses, and see if and how it can advance our research. We will record the session and post it on Canvas for participants that could not join the discussion in person on Friday.

Zoom link for the semester

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/3369932424>

Canvas page for the semester

<https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/508729>

Instructor and Contact Information:

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Journal Club Description:

Environmental microbiology has become a vast field that is driven by technological advances and the recognition of the vast microbial diversity that surrounds us. In this journal club each week we select and read a recent paper that constitutes an important contribution to understanding of microbial functions either through technical advancement or novel microorganisms, or innovative approach. As a group we discuss approach, results, and implications of the research, as well as its strength and weaknesses. The journal club should hone students' critical reading skills and broaden the exposure to state-of-the-art scientific research methods.

Prerequisites: Although we do not have any formal prerequisites, the Environmental Microbiology course MCB6656 is highly complementary and recommended.

Learning Objectives for Journal Club:

By the end of this course students should be able to:

- 1) Quickly identify the structure of a scientific paper and develop an in-depth comprehension of primary scientific research methods and literature.
- 2) Quickly identify strength and weaknesses of research approaches and methods in environmental microbiology.
- 3) Verbally communicate scientific research questions, methods, results, and impacts.

Required Texts: No text is required for this course. All reading material will be derived from the primary literature.

Grading: The overall course is based on 100 points as described below.

Attendance and Make-Up Work: If you cannot participate in the paper discussion via zoom, you can participate by writing a 400-word summary of the paper and post it on Canvas in the group discussion of the week.

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/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Grading:

For more details of the University of Florida grading policy please visit:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

93 – 100	points 93% - 100%	A
90 – 92	points 90% - 92.9%	A-
87 – 89	points 87% - 89.9%	B+
83 – 86	points 83% - 86.9%	B
80 – 82	points 80% - 82.9%	B-
77 – 79	points 77% - 79.9%	C+
73 – 76	points 73% - 76.9%	C
70 – 72	points 70% - 72.9%	C-
67 – 69	points 67% - 69.9%	D+
63 – 66	points 63% - 66.9%	D
60 – 62	points 60% - 62.9%	D-
Less than 60 points	<60%	E

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. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open for students to complete during the last two or three weeks of the semester; students will be notified of the specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/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, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/

Campus Helping Resources

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being 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 Complaints:

- Residential Course: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>.
- Online Course: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>