

**FOS 6915, Section 2663  
Research Planning  
2 Credits, Fall 2017  
2186 McCarty A- Period 3  
Current Syllabus**

**Departmental Course Instructors**

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Office Hours: Tuesday, 1:30-3:30 pm; Wednesday, 9:00-11:00 am; or by appointment

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### Course Hours/Location

Time/Location:

- Tuesdays and Thursdays, period 3 (9:35-10:25am), 2186 McCarty A

### Overall Course Objectives and Description

The overall goals are to provide a comprehensive overview of the research process with a focus on graduate education and to clearly outline faculty expectations for FSHN graduate students' performance. This is generally a required course for all graduate students entering MS or PhD programs of the FSHN department. The format of the course includes team-teaching to utilize the broad expertise of multiple faculty, facilitated discussions, group exercises and structured lectures. Dr. Archer will provide the point of coordination with respect to course mechanics such as assessments and overall organization.

### Communications

We will answer individual student emails promptly during stated office hours, and generally within 24 hrs during the work week. Please denote FOS 6915 in the "Subject" line in your emails, direct them to the email addresses noted above, and utilize your official ufl.edu email account for course correspondence. It's a good idea to keep your email inbox as empty as possible so that messages from instructors are not rejected. If electronic submission of work is requested, please use [dlarcher@ufl.edu](mailto:dlarcher@ufl.edu) and name your files with the course number, your last name, and assignment title.

### Class Rules

Attendance and attention to the full lecture AND full participation is expected; review of the archive material will be insufficient to master the concepts of presented and subsequent discussion. Unexcused (as defined by UF) absences/lateness will result in significant (adverse) impacts to the class participation score.

Other rules for the class are simple and essentially involve common sense and courtesy towards your colleagues and the instructor: no eating or drinking in the classroom; no side conversations; keep cell phones and other communication devices muted and stored away; if you are late, take your seat quietly and unobtrusively. Those that use electronic devices for note taking should not distract other students or instructors by such use (no keyboard noise, please). **MOST IMPORTANT: PARTICIPATE!**

### Texts and References

The required text is available for free on-line as a pdf.

**Required Text: NONE**

**Suggested reading:**

National Academies of Science. 2009. On Being a Scientist: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in Research (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition). National Academies Press. ISBN-13 978-0309119702

- This text is also available as a free .pdf for your own use at: [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12192](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12192)

**Additional Resources:**

1) The current year FSHN Department Graduate Student Handbook (please see Marianne in Front Office for copies)

2) UF Graduate School Website: <http://www.graduateschool.ufl.edu/>

3) FSHN Graduate Program and Departmental Information: <http://fshn.ifas.ufl.edu/index.shtml>

4) Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in Nutritional Sciences: <http://nutritionalsciences.centers.ufl.edu/doctoralGraduateProgram.aspx>

5) Schimel, J. 2012. Writing Science. Oxford University Press, New York. 221 pp.

6) Snieder, R. and Larner, K. 2009. The Art of Being a Scientist. Cambridge University Press, New York. 286 pp.

**Grading**

The grade you earn in this course is heavily dependent on the effort put forth in developing a sound research proposal as described by the instructor, converting that proposal into a 3-minute thesis, presenting your 3-minute thesis (via video) and submitting assignment work for which you've provided thoughtful and organized discussion. **Class participation** and mastery of key concepts are also important. As appropriate to a graduate level course, you will be expected to demonstrate development of oral and written communication competence. There will be several "pop quizzes" to assess critical thinking and writing.

## Assessments

| Title               | Assigned | Due   | Points Available |
|---------------------|----------|-------|------------------|
| 1. Abstract         | 9/8      | 9/16  | 10               |
| 2. Proposal/3-MY    | 9/1      | 11/22 | 50               |
| 3. Quizzes          | Random   |       | 20               |
| 4. Participation    |          |       | 20               |
| <b>TOTAL POINTS</b> |          |       | <b>100</b>       |

## Course Average Grade Equivalents:

90 - 100 A  
88 - 89 B+  
80 - 87 B  
78 - 79 C+  
70 - 77 C  
68 - 69 D+  
60 - 67 D  
< 60 E

This course will not be graded on a curve. Although we are not using minus grades, please consult the updated University website for additional grading information and discussion of GPA calculations: <http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>

To ensure fairness, drafts (structured outline) of all **student 3-minute thesis\*** videos will be due on 11/22/16. Actual presentation dates will be determined by the instructor once the class rolls are finalized, and grades will be tabulated

after the presentations. The **participation\*\* grade** will be a measurement based on attendance, discussion and contribution during class, evidence of preparation for class and classroom conduct. The participation grade will be assigned by the instructor team at the end of the course.

### **General Course Policy on Writing**

All writing for this course should be clear and concise (including emails to instructors and particularly assignments). While this is of course a science-based class, employers and graduate/professional programs seek graduates who can communicate effectively through standard scientific and business writing. Please familiarize yourself with a major journal in your discipline and follow its citation style throughout the course.

### **Proposed Course Outline (may be subject to change)**

#### **Week 1**

- 8/22/17: Welcome to FSHN; Class Introductions; Review of Syllabus: Course Objectives and Expectations for FSHN Graduate Students **(Dr. Archer)**
- 8/24/17: Lecture/Discussion: Departmental and Graduate School Requirements **(Dr. Goodrich-Schneider)**

#### **Week 2**

- 8/29/17: Lecture/Discussion: Graduate requirements, continued. **(Dr. Goodrich-Schneider)**
- 8/31/17: Discussion: Laboratory etiquette and responsibilities – **(Dr. Archer)**

#### **Week 3**

- 9/5/17: Lecture/Discussion: Effective Writing and Elements of a Research Proposal; Assign Assessment 1 (Research Proposal/Intro to 3-MT) **(Dr. Archer)**
- 9/7/17: Time Management – Sara Ryals (GatorWell)

#### **Week 4**

- 9/12/17: Practical and Safety Aspects of Working in the Lab, Field, and Clinic **(K. Gillis)**
- 9/14/17: Lecture: Abstracts for Papers, Posters, and Presentations; Assign Assessment 2 (Abstract Writing) **(Percival)**

#### **Week 5**

- 9/19/17: Lecture: UF Electronic Thesis and Dissertation System (ETD) **A. Pardo**

9/21/17: NO Class – independent work on proposal and assigned videos.

**Week 6**

9/26/17: Scientific Ethics (D. Archer)

9/28/17: Lecture/Demo: On-Line and Library Resources (308 Marston Library)  
(M. Royster)

**Week 7**

10/3/17: Bias, Scientific thinking and the scientific method (D. Archer)

10/5/17: Dealing with Scientific Controversy (K. Folta)

**Week 8**

10/10/17: Lecture: Statistics and Experimental Design (Dr. Schneider)

10/12/17: How to Select, Read and Critically Review Research Papers (Dr. Collins)

**Week 9**

10/17/17: Lecture: IRBs, IACUCs, and Other Approval Processes (Dr. Langkamp-Henken)

10/19/17: Lecture: Research Funding and the Grant Proposal Process (Meri Nantz)

**Week 10**

10/24/17: Work Session: Bring a Draft Presentation of your Proposal and laptop to class

10/26/17: Research and International policy (I. Capua)

**Week 11**

10/31/17: Multimedia Approaches to Presentations (R. Telg)

11/2/17: Class Discussion – Scientific Method

**Week 12**

11/7/17: Research and the Popular Press (A. Christiano)

11/9/17: No class – Assigned Videos and Reading on Scientific Method

**Week 13**

11/14/17: Lecture: Research as a Driver of Public Policy (J. Mastrodicasa)

11/16/17: 3-MY viewing

**Week 14**

11/21/17: 3-MT viewing

11/22/17: **No class:** UF Holiday

**Week 15**

11/28/17: 3-MT viewing

11/30/17: TBA

**Week 16**

12/5/17: Assignment 1 - Proposal Due Today/ Course Review/Last Day of Classes/  
**Take Home Final Distributed**

12/7/17: **No class:** Reading Day

**Week 17**

12/13/16: **Final Exam: Take Home Exam due at 9:30 AM**

**Information for All Students**

**Academic Honesty:**

In the process of enrolling and registering for classes at the University of Florida, every student has signed and presumably understands the following statement: “I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.”

The following information is implicit in all exams and assignments:

*On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this exam/ assignment.*

**Use of Library, Reference Material, Computer Programs, and Electronic Databases:**

These items are university property and should be utilized with other users in mind. Never remove, mark, modify nor deface resources that do not belong to you.

**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.

*We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.*

**Disability Issues:**

Students requesting classroom accommodation should register with the Dean of Students Office, who will then provide necessary documentation to the student. Please provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

**UF Counseling Services:**

We hope to establish an effective and professional class relationship and encourage dialog so that students feel comfortable discussing academic problems directly with me. In addition, resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals that interfere with their academic performance. These resources include:

1. Student Affairs Consultation: Dean of Students Office, 352-392-1261, 352-392-1111 (after hours)
2. Mental Health Consultation or Referral: Counseling and Wellness Center, 352-392-1575, 352-392-1575 (after hours)
3. Office of Victim Services, 352-392-5648 (after hours call UF Police Department at 352-392-1111 and request on call staff person)
4. UF Career Resource Center: Reitz Union, 352-392-1601, career development assistance and counseling, <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>
5. UF Police Department (UFPD): 352-392-1111; call 911 for emergencies where safety is of immediate concern