

**FOS6226C ADVANCED FOOD MICROBIOLOGY
SYLLABUS**

**Spring 2026
In-person, 4 Credits**

SCHEDULE AND CLASS LOCATION/FORMAT

Lectures

Thursday	6-7 Periods	12:50 pm – 2:45 pm	AFPL 101 (Aquatic Products Lab)
Friday	3 Period	9:35 am – 10:25 am	UST 0104 (Ustler Hall) <u>or</u> Labs (FSN310) (Check ‘Critical Dates’ for Fri locations)

Labs

Thursday	2-4 Periods	8:30 am – 11:30 am	FSN 310 <u>or</u> AFPL 208 <u>or</u> Zoom
Friday	3 Period	9:35 am – 10:25 am	UST 0104 (Ustler Hall) <u>or</u> Labs (FSN310) (Check ‘Critical Dates’ for lab locations)

All guest lectures, the zoom lectures, lecture audits, and lab 8 will be delivered via Zoom.

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Boce Zhang

Office: AFPL 216

Office Phone: 352-294-3712

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Office Hours: Fridays 1-3 pm, or by appointment

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Sherry Bansal

Office: AFPL 208

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Office Hours: By appointment

CREDITS & COURSE DESCRIPTION

Selection of laboratory methods, characterization of food-borne pathogens and spoilage organisms.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Develop an advanced understanding of microbiological issues in the food system.
2. Comprehend the physiological mechanisms of pathogen survival against food processing interventions.
3. Practice traditional and advanced microbiology lab techniques.
4. Characterize the etiological agents of foodborne diseases, including, for each, clinical presentations, epidemiology, points of entry into the food supply chain, and preventive control.
5. Summarize and present peer-reviewed articles for contemporary and emerging food safety challenges.

COURSE OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE

Advanced Food Microbiology is intended to provide an advanced understanding of contemporary and emerging issues in controlling pathogenic microorganisms from farm to fork. Focus is placed on linking pathogens with relevant reservoirs and understanding basic mechanisms used by microorganisms to survive mitigation strategies in the production, distribution, and consumption of food. This course integrates lectures and microbiology labs. Students will be assessed by midterm and final exams, lecture and lab sections, guest lecture participation, and seminar presentation.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

FOS 4222/4222L, MCB 4303/4303L and BCH 6415, or permission of instructor.

RELEVANT COURSES

FOS4202/5205 Food Safety and Sanitation
FOS4222/4222L/5225C Food Microbiology
FOS4223/6224 Food and Environmental Virology
FOS6936 Topics in Food Science: Food Toxicology
BSC4434C Introduction to Bioinformatics

TEXTBOOKS. LEARNING MATERIALS. AND SUPPLY FEES

1) Textbook

Doyle, Michael. Buchanan, Robert (2012). Food Microbiology - Fundamentals and Frontiers (4th Edition). American Society for Microbiology:

https://app.knovel.com/web/toc.v/cid:kpFMFFE001/viewerType:toc//root_slug:food-microbiology-fundamentals

Full text is available free of charge to the UF students through Knovel.com (use your UF email address to sign up).

2) Lab materials

a) Lab manual (required):

A lab manual will be provided on Canvas. Please print Lab 1 – Lab 6, and bring it to every lab sessions. Do NOT print Lab 7 & Lab 8 – Bioinformatics!

b) Bioinformatic resource center (required):

Lab 8: access to Bacterial and Viral Bioinformatics Resource Center (PATRIC) is free of charge on: <https://www.bv-brc.org/>

Lab 9: access to NanoGalaxy is free of charge on: <https://nanopore.usegalaxy.eu/>

3) Other materials

Optional Reading:

- Optional Textbook: Food Safety Theory and Practice Author: Paul L. Knechtges
- Optional Textbook: National Environmental Health Association - Professional Food Manager Training Guide (3rd Edition)
- Risk Mitigation Programs in Food Systems
<https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/regulatory-compliance/haccp>
<https://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/HACCP/>
<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/auditing/gap-ghp>
<http://www.fao.org/prods/gap/>

<https://www.fda.gov/food/guidanceregulation/cgmp/>

- Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)
<https://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/ucm253380.htm>
- Food and Drug Administration FDA Federal Food Code 1999
<http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/RetailFoodProtection/FoodCode/ucm2018345.htm>

Optional Software:

- USDA Pathogen Modeling Program (PMP): <https://pmp.errc.ars.usda.gov/default.aspx>
- <http://ars.usda.gov/Services/docs.htm?docid=11550>
- <http://www.ifr.ac.uk/MicroFit/>
- <http://www.combase.cc/>
- http://www.icmsf.iit.edu/main/software_downloads.html

4) Supply Fee

3.0374 Material and Supply Fees. (<https://policy.ufl.edu/regulation/3-0374/>)

(1) Students will be charged a material and supply fee for all courses approved by the University President. A list of approved courses and fees will be published in the Schedule of Courses provided each semester at <https://one.ufl.edu/soc/>.

(2) Refunds and waivers for any such fees will be made pursuant to University of Florida Regulations 3.0371 and 3.037.

COURSE ANNOUNCEMENTS

All lecture slides will be posted on Canvas prior to the class. All announcements will be made through Canvas (make sure to turn on the notifications in Canvas, available under your profile). It is the student's responsibility to check the announcement. Students can reach out to the instructor and TAs via email.

COURSE EVALUATIONS

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/>.

GRADING POLICY

Course grading is consistent with [UF grading policies](#).

COURSE GRADING STRUCTURE

- **Exams:** There will be two mid-term exams and one final.
- **Labs:** There are 8 labs.

- **Discussion/journal club:** Each student is required to lead 1 journal club discussion (see instructions below).
- **Presentation:** Each student will summarize and present peer-reviewed articles for a contemporary or emerging food safety topic.

FOS6226C Final grade (see below) You cannot drop a test.

Activities	Grade percentage
Lab reports	30%
Presentation	10%
Journal Club & Participation (Discussion)	10%
Mid-term exams	30% (15% each)
Final Exam (non-cumulative)	20%

GRADING SCALE

Grading Scale: A (93 to 100), A- (90 to <93), B+ (87 to <90), B (83 to <87), B- (80 to <83), C+ (77 to <80), C (73 to <77), C- (70 to <73), D+ (67 to <70), D (63 to <67), D- (60 to <63), E (0 to <60).

ACADEMIC POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Academic policies for this course are consistent with university policies. See <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>

- Attendance is required. Please refrain from checking or sending e-mails, texts, etc during class or lab sessions. Students are expected to participate in class discussions. Makeup exams will only be given with the permission of the instructor if adequate notice and documentation (such as doctor's note) is provided in advance. A 10% pt penalty per day will be assigned for late assignments or reports turned in within two days after the due date. No submission will be accepted after two days past the due date.
- There are no make-up labs available. Missing one lab session will result in a 50% pt penalty from the lab report grade of the lab missed, unless due to excuses compliant with university policies.
- Requirements for make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

LAB SAFETY GUIDELINES

All students are required to read the Lab Safety Guidelines in this syllabus. You are required to watch an instructional video highlighting the importance of biosafety and be familiar with the University's Exposure Control policy, Chemical Hygiene Manual, and Accident Report Manual. In addition, you will need to complete a Blood borne Pathogen consent form and the microscope agreement form.

1. You will be working in a BSL-2 lab environment. All students must maintain all these EHS mandatory training as 'current' throughout the course:
 - a. Chemical Hygiene Plan Online course (UF_EHS869_OLT)
 - b. BBP/BMW Training: (General Audience) (UF_EHS850G_OLT)
 - c. Hazardous Waste Management (UF_EHS809_OLT)

2. Students must follow Standard Microbiological Practices and Universal Precautions. Detailed instructions of these laboratory safety rules and procedures shall be provided to the student by the instructor.
3. Lab Cleaning and Sanitation. Surfaces must be cleaned after each lab session. Students will use the 10% bleach for bench surfaces and supply drawer handles (at their benches)-this should be done before the lab begins and when it finishes. Also clean your writing utensils before leaving the lab.
4. The laboratory dress policy is strict and required for personal safety. Proper dress is required and includes long pants covering legs and ankles, tops covering chest and torso, socks and shoes covering feet and toes. Students will not be permitted to participate in lab if they wear the following: shorts, skirts, capris, slippers, sandals, slip-ons, and any open-toed footwear.
5. Personal protective equipment (PPE) consists of a lab coat, mask, and disposable gloves. Students must wear PPE at all times while in the lab. Do NOT share your PPE with others.
6. If the fire alarm sounds or an order is issued for emergency evacuation students shall follow the emergency exit plan and directions outlined by the instructor.
7. Failure to comply with these Lab Safety Guidelines shall result in immediate dismissal from the lab classroom and a zero grade.

DISCUSSION/JOURNAL CLUB GUIDELINES

Each student or each group (depending on the enrollment) will be required to select ONE high-quality & high-impact publication (Current 'Journal Impact Factor' must be over 5, but preferably over 7) to give a brief 15-minute overview, followed by critiques, questions, or discussions. This is a practice for critical thinking and scientific philosophy & methodology.

- 1) The paper should be relevant to food microbiology or microbiology (in general). In addition, the paper needs to include at least one of the following areas: DNA/RNA biology, bioinformatics, artificial intelligence, or astromicrobiology.
- 2) The publication must be peer-reviewed article within the past 5 years. It is highly recommended to select from top-tier journal that are high-quality and high-impact.
- 3) The article MUST be an original research article. Review articles are NOT allowed.
- 4) The selected article must be shared with the whole class at least ONE week before the discussion date.
- 5) The lead will give a 15-minute overview of the paper, include:
 - a. High-level overview of the research question that this paper is trying to address
 - b. Background, Introduction, Rationale/Objectives, Methods, Results, Conclusions.
(Tips are available on Canvas)
- 6) After the overview, we will have a 10-minute discussion/critique.
- 7) All students are required to read the selected article before the discussion. Be prepared with questions.

PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

Each student or each group (depending on the enrollment) will be required to select one of the topics below to conduct a literature review, using the state-of-the-art literature. Only use peer reviewed journal articles that were published within the past 5 years. This may be an individual presentation or a group presentation depending on course enrollment and available course time. Each presentation will be 35 minutes followed by a 5 minutes Q&A.

Topics may include:

- 1) Antimicrobial resistance in food system – epidemiology and mitigation strategies
- 2) Microbiology opportunities and challenges in space food programs
- 3) Microbiome and food safety
- 4) Omics and emerging food microbiology platforms
- 5) Artificial intelligence in microbiology (including food microbiology, but can expand the discussions to general microbiology)

Framework of the presentation should include, but not limited to:

- 1) Problems and challenges facing our society
- 2) What solutions have been explored
- 3) Summary of latest scientific evidence
- 4) Critical assessment of the literatures – identify drawbacks & propose next steps

Presentation will be assessed by the instructor, TA(s), and peer students. Check “Grading Rubrics for Presentation” on how presentations are assessed.

Grading Rubrics for Presentation

Name: _____

Topic: _____

Categories	3 pts. (A level)	2 pts. (B level)	1-0 pt. (C-D level)
Identifies and summarizes problem at issue	Identifies not only the basics of the issue, but recognizes nuances of the issue	Identifies the main problem and subsidiary, embedded, or implicit aspect of the problem	Does not identify and summarize the problem, is confused or identifies a different or inappropriate problem
Personal perspective and position	Draws support from experience and information not available from assigned sources	Identifies, appropriately, one’s own position on the issue	Addresses a signal source or view of the argument and fails to clarify presented position relative to the one’s own
Quality of evidence	Observes cause and effect and addresses existing or potential consequences. Clearly distinguishes between fact, opinion, and acknowledges value judgments	Examines the evidence and source of the evidence, questions its accuracy, precision, evidence, and completeness	Merely repeat information provided, taking it as truth or denies evidence without adequate justification
Completeness	A background of the topic and target audience is very clearly outlined and organized.	A background of the topic and target audience is somewhat outlined.	No, or minimal attempt made
Critical thinking & creativity	Identifies and questions the validity of the key assumptions and addresses the fundamental dimensions that underlie the issue	Identifies some of the key assumptions and issues	Does not surface the assumptions and fundamental questions that underlie the issue

Grade: ____ / 15

MINIMUM TECHNICAL SKILLS/REQUIREMENTS

To complete your tasks in this course, you will need a basic understanding of how to operate a computer, how to use Zoom, how to use iClicker, and how to use word processing software. The University of Florida expects students entering an online program to acquire computer hardware and software appropriate to his or her degree program. Most computers are capable of meeting the following general requirements. A student's computer configuration should include:

- Webcam; Microphone; Speakers or headphones; Broadband connection to the Internet and related equipment (Cable/DSL modem).
- Your instructor might request that you obtain the iClicker Cloud (free for students) to respond to polls and in-class quizzes.
- Microsoft Office Suite installed (provided by the university).

Individual colleges may have additional requirements or recommendations, which students should review prior to the start of their program.

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>.

NETIQUETTE AND COMMUNICATION COURTESY

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy during, before, and after class, in all email messages, threaded discussions, and chats.

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, <https://disability.ufl.edu/>

GETTING HELP

Technical Support

UF Computing Help Desk & Ticket Number: All technical issues require a UF Helpdesk Ticket Number. The UF Helpdesk is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/> | 352-392-4357.

PRIVACY AND ACCESSIBILITY POLICIES

- Instructure (Canvas)
 - [Instructure Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Instructure Accessibility](#)
- Zoom
 - [Zoom Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Zoom Accessibility](#)

CAMPUS HEALTH AND WELLNESS RESOURCES

Visit <https://one.ufl.edu/whole-gator/topics> for resources that are designed to help you thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally at UF.

Please contact [UMatterWeCare](#) for additional and immediate support.

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/cwc/
- Counseling Services, Groups and Workshops, Outreach and Consultation, Self-Help Library, Wellness Coaching
- U Matter We Care, www.umatter.ufl.edu/
- Career Resource Center, First Floor JWRU, 352-392-1601, <https://career.ufl.edu/>
- Student Success Initiative, <http://studentsuccess.ufl.edu>
- Complaints: https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf & <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-studentconduct-code/>
- Online Course: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>

- Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask
- Teaching Center: 352-392-2010 General study skills and tutoring: teachingcenter.ufl.edu/
- Writing Studio: 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers: writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/

SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Weeks of	Thursday, morning 8:30 am – 11:30 am FSN 310, AFPL 208, or Zoom	Thursday, afternoon 12:50 pm – 2:45 pm AFPL 101	Friday 9:35 am – 10:25 am UST 0104 (Ustler Hall) - Lectures or FSN 310 - Labs
W1, 01/12		1. Syllabus & Overview 2. Lab Intro AFPL 101	Journal club UST 0104
W2, 01/19	3. Micro growth FSN 310	4. Persistence, AMR, & Biofilm AFPL 101	4. AMR & Biofilm (Journal Club Sign-up Due) UST 0104
W3, 01/26	Lab 1 – MPN FSN 310	6. Detection AFPL 101	Lab 1 – continued FSN 310
W4, 02/02	Lab 2 – HGT FSN 310	7. Genetics-1 AFPL 101	Lab 2 – continued FSN 310
W5, 02/09	Lab 3 – DNA extraction AFPL 208	Midterm 1 (Lecture 1-6) AFPL 101	7. Genetics-2 UST 0104
W6, 02/16	Lab 4 – PCR AFPL 208	8. Pathogenesis AFPL 101	5. Injury UST 0104
W7, 02/23	Journal club FSN 310	9. NGS & Sequencing AFPL 101	10. NGS & Sequencing UST 0104
W8, 03/02	Journal club FSN 310	10. Bioinformatics AFPL 101	11. Bioinformatics UST 0104
W9, 03/09	Lab 5 – GE AFPL 208	Midterm 2 (Lecture 7-10) AFPL 101	
03/16	Spring Break		
W10, 03/23	Lab 6 – AMR FSN 310	12. Omics AFPL 101	Lab 6 – continued FSN 310
W11, 03/30	Lab 7 – PATRIC WGS & Phylogenetic Analysis Zoom*	13. ML & AI-PCA AFPL 101	Seminar UST 0104
W12, 04/06	Lab 8 – NanoGalaxy Microbiome Analysis Zoom*	14. ML & AI-Neural Network AFPL 101	Seminar UST 0104
W13, 04/13		Final (Lecture 11-14) AFPL 101	Seminar UST 0104
Color codes			
Lectures	Labs	Journal clubs	Seminar
			Exams

* Guest lectures, Lab 7 and Lab 8 will be delivered via Zoom:
<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/3522943712>.

UF CLASS MEET TIMES SCHEDULE

<https://registrar.ufl.edu/courses/class-times>

Period	Time
1	7:25 - 8:15am
2	8:30 - 9:20am
3	9:35 - 10:25am
4	10:40 - 11:30am
5	11:45 - 12:35pm
6	12:50 - 1:40pm
7	1:55 - 2:45pm
8	3:00 - 3:50pm
9	4:05 - 4:55pm
10	5:10 - 6:00pm
11	6:15 - 7:05pm