

**FOS/HUN6936**  
**Special Topics: Introduction to Intestinal Permeability**  
**Thursdays Period 4 (10:40-11:30) In Class (101AFPL) and via Zoom**  
**Spring 2022**

**Instructor**

Douglas Archer

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Email (preferred contact method): [dlarcher@ufl.edu](mailto:dlarcher@ufl.edu)

Virtual Office Hours:

- “Drop in” hour is from 8:30-10:00am on Tuesdays and Wednesdays
- Appointments can be made for various times, (email for an appointment).

**Course Location & Meeting Times**

Thursday, 10:40-11:30 (4<sup>th</sup> period)

Location: 101AFPL and online via Zoom

**\*\*Note that our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. The instructor will inform the class of the intent to record prior to that class. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.**

**Course Description**

This course, “Intestinal Permeability” is an introductory level course intended to give students an overview of the workings of the gastrointestinal tract, including its basic anatomy and physiology, its function as an immune system organ, a nervous system, and an ecosystem housing the intestinal (gut) microbiota/microbiome. Focus is on the single cell thick epithelial layer that keeps out the trillions of gut microbiota from the body compartments. Factors that effect the integrity of that epithelial barrier, as well as consequences of breaches of the barrier are covered. Sufficient basic information about microbiology, immunology, physiology, and anatomy will be provided such that prerequisites are not required or necessary. The course has no exams/quizzes, but attendance and participation is required. The course is not one in which full period lectures are presented by instructor, but discussions are encouraged.

Students may be asked to *lead one discussion* per term (15 minutes) on a current published paper on a topic of relevance and interest.

Credits: 1 (graded)

### Course Schedule

At this time, no lectures/topics are assigned to specific dates. In general, topics will be discussed as follows:

- General microbiology
- Gut microbiota/microbiome
- GI tract anatomy
- GI tract immune system
- The epithelial barrier
- Factors affecting integrity of the barrier
- Consequences of loss of barrier integrity

### Required Materials

- Computer with reliable internet access, webcam, and microphone
- Access to PubMed or equivalent medical database
- Access to e-Learning (Canvas): <https://elearning.ufl.edu/>
- Access to Zoom: <https://ufl.zoom.us>
- Google Chrome browser
  - Chrome can be downloaded here: <https://www.google.com/chrome>
- Access to MS Word, MS PowerPoint, and PDF reader software

### Course Goals

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Comprehend the macroscopic and microscopic structure of components of the GI tract.
2. Understand the interrelationship between elements of the immune system and nervous system to intestinal integrity and/or disease processes.
3. Understand the interactions between specific gut microbiota and the human host.
4. Be better able to understand the relationship(s) between diet and GI functions and health.

### Student Evaluation

This course has 100 possible points. Evaluation is based on the following performance indicators:

Attendance (see Attendance Policy, below)	50
Participation (includes 1 presentation)	50
Total	100

## Absences

Requirements for class attendance is consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Attendance Policy: Attendance is required . Students who miss class due to illness or family emergency are expected to email the course instructor prior to the absence if possible. Failure to do this will result in a deduction of **5 points** from the Attendance grade for each absence.

## 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 by abiding by the Student Honor Code."* 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: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-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.

## 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.

Service	Phone	Web site	Services provided
University Counseling and Wellness Center	352-392-1575	<a href="https://counseling.ufl.edu/">https://counseling.ufl.edu/</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Counseling Services</li><li>• Groups and Workshops</li></ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outreach and Consultation</li> <li>• Self-Help Library</li> <li>• Wellness Coaching</li> </ul>
U Matter We Care	<a href="mailto:umatter@ufl.edu">umatter@ufl.edu</a> 352-392-1575	<a href="http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/">http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/</a>	Support for students in distress
Career Connections Center	352-392-1601	<a href="https://career.ufl.edu/">https://career.ufl.edu/</a>	Career development assistance and counseling

### Services for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DRC coordinates needed accommodations, including accommodations within the classroom, adaptive computer equipment, interpretation services, and mediation for faculty-student disability related issues. Here is the link to get started with the DRC: <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructors and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester.

### Online Course Evaluation Process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner](#). 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 [ufl.bluera.com/ufl/](http://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/). [Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here](#).

### Writing Studio

The Writing Studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Individual assistance is provided and students of all levels and disciplines are welcome (<https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>). Their office phone is (352) 846-1138.

### Course Material Copyright and Confidentiality

All course material is the property of the University of Florida and the course instructor, and **may not** be posted online for any commercial or non-commercial purpose. Students found in violation may be subject to disciplinary action under the University's Student Conduct Code. Only students formally registered for the course are permitted to attend lectures unless given permission by the course instructor.

### Filing a Complaint

The University of Florida believes strongly in the ability of students to express concerns regarding their experiences at the University. The University encourages its students who wish to file a written complaint to submit that complaint directly to the department that manages that policy.

A student who is unsure as to the official responsible for handling his or her particular complaint may contact the Ombuds office or the Dean of Students Office. For complaints that are not satisfactorily resolved at the department level or which seem to be broader than one department, students are encouraged to submit those complaints to one of the following offices:

Ombuds: <http://www.ombuds.ufl.edu/>  
352-392-1308

The purpose of the Ombuds office is to assist students in resolving problems and conflicts that arise in the course of interacting with the University of Florida. By considering problems in an unbiased way, the Ombuds works to achieve a fair resolution and works to protect the rights of all parties involved.

Dean of Students Office: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/>  
352-392-1261

The Dean of Students Office works with students, faculty, and families to address a broad range of complaints either through directly assisting the student involved to resolve the issue, working with the student to contact the appropriate personnel, or referring the student to resources or offices that can directly address the issue. Follow up is provided to the student until the situation is resolved.

Additionally, the University of Florida regulations provide a procedure for filing a formal grievance in Regulation 4.012: <http://regulations.ufl.edu/regulations/uf-4-student-affairs/>

#### **Email**

Students are required to check their email account(s) daily (at least Monday through Friday) and respond to course/program related requests, inquiries, etc. in a timely manner.

