ANS 4932
Special Topics in Animal Sciences – Chicken Growth & Development
Fall 2023 (1 credit, lab)

Course Instructor

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Office hours: on demand. I will reply to emails within 48 hours, excluding holidays & weekends.

Teaching Assistants:	Khanyma Nelthropp	knelthropp@ufl.edu
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Time & Location

Wednesday | 3:00 PM – 4:55 PM (8th & 9th periods)   ANS 155 & Chicken Pens

Course Description & Objectives

Practical application of the principles of animal growth and development. The chicken will be used as a model to examine how a particular factor (genetics, sex, nutrition, etc.) affects growth and development and to explore broader implications for animals, producers, and consumers.

The student will:
- Apply principles of growth and development to practice
- Evaluate growth parameters of chickens
- Identify chicken anatomy
- Practice handling and management of broiler chickens
- Develop skills to collect, analyze, and interpret scientific data
- Examine broader impacts of animal growth on animals, producers, and consumers by evaluating relationships between animal growth, tissue growth, welfare, costs, and product yield and quality

Prerequisites

To be taken concurrently with (or have previously taken) ANS 3043 Growth and Development of Farm Animals

Supporting texts

There is no assigned textbook. The following textbooks may be helpful (these are also recommended texts for ANS 3043):
- ***Principles of Animal Growth and Development***. Gerrard and Grant; ISBN13:978-0-

7575-2986-3; Kendall Hunt Publishing, Dubuque, Iowa 52002.
- *Growth of Farm Animals* Lawrence, Fowler, and Novakofski; 3rd ed. (2012); ISBN-13: 978-1-84593-558-0 (paperback); CABI Cambridge, MA

Course website on Canvas & Microsoft Teams

Information and resources will be posted in the course Canvas website (login via https://elearning.ufl.edu/). We will use Microsoft Teams to collaborate and share data collected during class.

Grades and Grading Policy

You will be graded on:

Attendance, participation, and service
- Attendance and participation in weekly lab sessions is expected and required.
- Service: In addition, students will independently check chickens and housing conditions ~1x per week. This should take ~10-15 minutes; responsibilities include checking chicken health and behavior, and that clean food and water is available (and adding/replacing if necessary). Student will record observations and any actions taken (feed added, water replaced, etc.).
- More than three unexcused absences for lab will result in a loss of 50% of total points earned for this category

Journal (due Dec. 12th)
- Record your observations of chickens, includes growth, behavior, health, and anything you find interesting.
- 1 entry per week minimum
- Format can be either handwritten/notebook or typed in MS word or similar program.

Short assignments and quizzes

Examples: collect and summarize information about a topic related to chicken growth (e.g., nutritional needs); group assignment summarizing chicken data periodically through the semester; quizzes on canvas

Final Project (due Dec. 12th)
- Summarize the progression of our chicks through the semester – this should include presenting growth data, with an explanation and interpretation of the results. Address implications for the animals, producers, and consumers.
  The format is up to you - creativity for the final project is encouraged!
- There will also be an essay question due with the final project.

	Weight
Attendance, participation, serv.	25 %
Journal	20 %
Short assignments & quizzes	25 %
Final project & essay	30 %

Grade	% score range
A	90.0 – 100.0
B	80.0 – 89.99
C	70.0 – 79.99
D	60.0 – 69.99
E	≤ 59.99

* For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points:
https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/

Attendance

Requirements for class attendance, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at:
https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/

In general, acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to participate in class include illness; Title IX-related situations; serious accidents or emergencies affecting the student, their roommates, or their family; special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, and professional conferences); military obligation; severe weather conditions that prevent class participation; religious holidays; participation in official university activities (e.g., music performances, athletic competition, debate); and court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena). Other reasons (e.g., a job interview or club activity) may be deemed acceptable if approved by the instructor.

For all planned absences, a student in a situation that allows an excused absence from a class or any required class activity, must inform the instructor as early as possible prior to the class. For all unplanned absences because of accidents or emergency situations, students should contact their instructor as soon as conditions permit.

Course topics

Week	Date	Topic
1	8/23	Course introduction & discuss the factor to be investigated
2	8/30	Data management
3	9/6	Anatomy, Chick development in the egg
4	9/13	Chicks arrive! Identification and initial measurements
5	9/20	Chicken measurements, health and management
6	9/26	Chicken measurements, genetics
7	10/4	Chicken measurements, nutrition
8	10/11	Chicken measurements, behavior
9	10/18	Chicken measurements; muscle, bone, and adipose
10	10/25	Chicken measurements, chicken slaughter, meat quality, & food safety
11	11/1	Chicken measurements, food safety
12	11/8	Chicken measurements, harvest / sample collection date 1 (tentative)
13	11/15	Chicken measurements, harvest / sample collection date 2 (tentative)
14	11/22	No class – Thanksgiving Break
15	11/29	Data summary and analysis, discussion
16	12/6	Meat processing / Chicken nuggets

Schedule is subject to change - depends on chicken growth and resource availability. Topics are tentative and may change at the instructor's discretion.

Dress code

Keep in mind that for most of the semester we will be working with live birds. This involves handling birds and being in their pens. The facility is covered but <u>not</u> temperature controlled. Appropriate clothing is a protective measure from several environmental hazards, such as manure, insects, and equipment. For your own protection, you are required to wear closed toe shoes, long pants, and a sleeved (short or long) shirt for laboratory sessions.

Risks associated with working with livestock and their tissues

There is some inherent risk with handling and working with chickens and their tissues. The instructor and TAs will work to provide students with the ability to manage chickens with minimal stress, thus lowering the risk of injury to people and chickens. Chickens can carry microorganisms such as *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* that can cause diarrhea and flu-like symptoms in humans. These microorganisms may be present in the chickens' digestive tract and can be shed in the manure and may survive in the chickens' surroundings. It is also possible they could be present in the meat. These pathogens can cause significant illness, especially to someone who is immunocompromised. Students should wash their hands after handling livestock and raw meat.

Other important dates

<u>First class</u>: Wed. Aug. 23rd <u>Last class:</u> Wed. Dec. 6th
<u>No class:</u> Wed. Nov. 22nd (Thanksgiving)

Other important information

Technology requirements

Computer requirements for this course are consistent with UF policy for student computing requirements, and likely similar to your other classes:
https://it.ufl.edu/policies/studentcomputing-requirements/

This course uses Canvas for providing course content. Please see links below for further information regarding privacy and accessibility of Canvas:
- Canvas (Infrastructure) privacy policy: https://www.instructure.com/policies/privacy
- Canvas (Infrastructure) accessibility statement: https://www.instructure.com/canvas/accessibility

Canvas Technology Requirements

Computers, Internet, and Web browsers: Canvas runs on Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS, Android, or any other device with a modern web browser. It is recommended to use a computer less than five years old with at least 1GB of RAM. It is recommended to have a minimum Internet speed of 512kbps. It is **<u>strongly recommended</u>** to not use a wireless connection, phone, tablet, or notepad for critical course tasks such as exams and discussions.
Canvas currently supports the following browsers: Chrome, Safari, Firefox, Edge. Canvas supports the last two versions of most browsers. It is **<u>highly recommend</u>** updating to the **newest**

version of whatever browser you are using. Note that your computer's operating system may affect browser function. Failure to use one of these browsers will cause problems. For more information on approved computers and browsers please visit: https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Canvas-Basics-Guide/What-are-the-browser-and-computer-requirements-for-Canvas/ta-p/66   On this web page there is an area titled "Is My Browser up to Date?" Use it to check each computer and browser you may use in this course. There is another important area on "Browser Privacy Settings." Read the section(s) for any browser intended for use. For example, **Note that**: In browsers such as Safari, insecure content will never be displayed in the browser. Return to the page to check for updates on technology issues in Canvas.

If you encounter technical difficulties in this course, **contact the UF Computing Help Desk** right away to troubleshoot. https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/ or (352) 392-HELP. If the problem cannot be fixed immediately, **notify your instructor, and provide them with the Help Desk ticket number.**

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. Students should share their accommodation letter with the instructors and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester.
      0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/

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. 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 ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/

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.

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. [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information](#).

In-Class Recording

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 consent of the instructors.

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 the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructors 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.

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness

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.

➢ *Counseling and Wellness Center:* Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services. Includes counseling services, groups and workshops, outreach and consultation, self-help library, and wellness coaching.

➢ *U Matter, We Care:* If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

➢ *Student Health Care Center:* Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website.

➢ *University Police Department:* Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

➢ *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:* For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.

Academic Resources

➢ *E-learning technical support*: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

➢ *Career Connections Center*: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

➢ *Library Support*: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

➢ *Teaching Center*: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

➢ Student Success Initiative, https://studentsuccess.ufl.edu/

➢ Student Complaints On-Campus: https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/