ANS 4931 Animal Sciences Senior Seminar

Monday 5th Period 11:45 to 12:35, and
Monday 6th Period 12:50 to 1:40
102 Animal Sciences (Building 459)
In-Person
Instructor: Dr. John Arthington and Dr. Jason Scheffler
Department of Animal Sciences, Building 499; Room 102
Email: jarth@ufl.edu and jmscheff@ufl.edu
Assistant: Shelby Thomas, Manager of Communications and Engagement
Email: soesterreicher@ufl.edu

Course Overview and Objectives

At this point students are now professionals and should be able to communicate effectively about animal industry issues. The Animal Sciences Senior Seminar is designed to bring together several aspects of the undergraduate education. Aspects of speaking, writing, and synthesis of concepts to inform and educate peers about issues in the animal sciences are keys to a seminar class. To that end, students will be required to use facts and empirical evidence to introduce a topic and present an argument for or against an issue that affects the animal sciences. Additionally, students will evaluate the presentation of the argument of their peers to provide constructive feedback.

Course Assignments

Student participation in Senior Seminar will involve several assigned duties. These include, (1) participate in a 2-person team to deliver an oral presentation on an assigned topic, (2) submit a weekly written summary of the presentation, and (3) being present and attentive at each class. Participation will be assessed through the active use of iClicker (free to UF students) responses to questions throughout the class period.

The intent of the class period is to have a Pro-Con/Yes-No style discussion for each topic. The idea is that each topic has potential validity in both a "yes, because…." and a "no, because…." approach. While you may not support a given side of an issue, it is important to be able to objectively assess multiple aspects of the issue of interest. Therefore, the presentation will be evaluated for the effort given in synthesizing an argument. Student are expected to take an active role in the class. Depending on time remaining, instructors will ask leading questions to individual students. Discussion is intended to round out the presentations and reflect on the complexity of the topic and how it affects society.

1. Presentations will be In-Person in the classroom. Presentations will be constructed and delivered in a 2-person team. The Team will research, construct using PowerPoint, and deliver a 30 min oral presentation on a randomly assigned topic during the assigned class period. The presentation should be uploaded on canvas (https://elearning.ufl.edu/) 24 hours prior to the assigned date of the presentation. Each student on the Team must participate in

the presentation; which will involve three aspects, (1) introduction of the topic, (2) a position for (Pro) the issue, and (3) a position against (Con) the issue. If the presentation effort is divided appropriately, each person would speak for approximately 12 to 15 minutes. Citations of supporting facts should be included verbally and in citation within the presentation. At the end of the presentation, the instructors will lead a discussion involving questions to both the Presentation Team and other students. Professional dress is expected. See scoring rubric for further detail on how presentations will be evaluated. **Presentation Teams, topics, and dates will be drawn at random by the instructors in the first week of class.**

2. Students will construct a written summary of each week's topic. At a minimum, the summary will include; (1) a brief overview of the issue, (2) a synopsis of the Pro and Con side of the issue, and (3) an additional contributions that you feel would enhance a better understanding of the issue in the eye of the public (i.e. consumer) and/or producer (i.e. livestock industry). The summary must not exceed 750 words. The written summary will be uploaded on canvas (https://elearning.ufl.edu/) no later than Friday at 5 PM following the Monday presentation. Late submissions will receive a 20% reduction of score every 24-h the submission is late. Summaries will not be accepted from students that are either not present or not participating in the class. See the scoring rubric for further details.

3. Throughout the class period, students will be presented with questions that will engage their input or perception of the topic being presented. In addition, student engagement is encouraged by asking questions to the Presentation Team and responding to questions posed by the Instructors. Responses will be collected using iClicker (free to UF Students).

Make-up Policy

Given the limited opportunity for make-up presentations based on the time in the semester, make-up presentations will only be allowed in EXTREME cases and at the discretion of the instructor. If you know you have a conflict with your assigned dates, find someone to switch with and all students need to inform the instructor via email. For university policy on this topic, see: https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/

Course Grading: Total points for the course is based upon enrollment and number of Teams presenting. The Table below is an example of a 20 students enrolled.

Instructor Evaluation of Team Presentation	30 pts	see scoring rubric
Instructor Evaluation of Individual Presentation	70 pts	see scoring rubric
Written Summary of Weekly Topics	90 pts (9 x 10) [a]	see scoring rubric
Participation	45 pts (9 x 5) [a]	

[a] Based on 10 presentations (you will present once, thus no summary)

Grades will be based on the following rounded point totals:

A	100 – 95%
A-	94.99 – 88%
B+	87.99 – 86%
B	85.99 – 82%
B-	81.99 – 78%

C+	77.99 – 76%
C	75.99 – 70%
C-	69.99 – 68%
D+	67.99 – 66%
D	65.99 – 60%
D-	59.99 – 58%
E	Less than 57.99

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

Course Schedule

Date	Activity
January 10	Course Overview	Topic Assignment
January 17	No Class (MLK Holiday)
January 24	Previous semester students present
January 31	Communicating Science (Shelby Thomas)
February 7	Presentations 1
February 14	Presentations 2
February 21	Presentations 3
February 28	Presentations 4
March 7	No Class (Spring Break)
March 14	Presentations 5
March 21	Presentations 6
March 28	Presentations 7
April 4	Presentations 8
April 11	Presentation 9 (If needed)
April 18	No Class
April 25	No Class (Final Exam Week)

Instructor Evaluation of Team Presentation Scoring Rubric

Category	Point Value
Introduction of Topic	5
'Pro' Stance	5
'Con' Stance	5
Response to questioning	5
Use of supporting citations	5
Quality of PowerPoint slides & Team organization	5
Total	**30**

Instructor Evaluation of Individual Presentation Scoring Rubric

Category	Point Value
Content	30
Speaking clarity, word choice, delivery, etc.	15
Appearance (professional dress, posture, etc)	10

Time allotment	15
Total	**70**

Written Summary Scoring Rubric

Category	Point Value
Overview of Topic	2
Overview of 'Pro' Stance	2
Overview of 'Con' Stance	2
Additional comment/input	4
Total	**10**

Topics

Presentation	Topic
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

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.

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

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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/

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.

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-studentconduct-code/ , and (Online Course) http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process