

The Department of Biology Sciences wishes to change the course numbering for our Invertebrate Zoology courses listed below:

Invertebrate Zoology (ZOO 2203) 3 credits

Prerequisites: 8 credits in general biology

Corequisite: ZOO 2203L

A survey of the invertebrate phyla from the Protozoa through the lower Chordate stressing comparative aspects of morphology and development as well as phylogenetic aspects and ecology.

Invertebrate Zoology Lab (ZOO 2203L) 2 credits

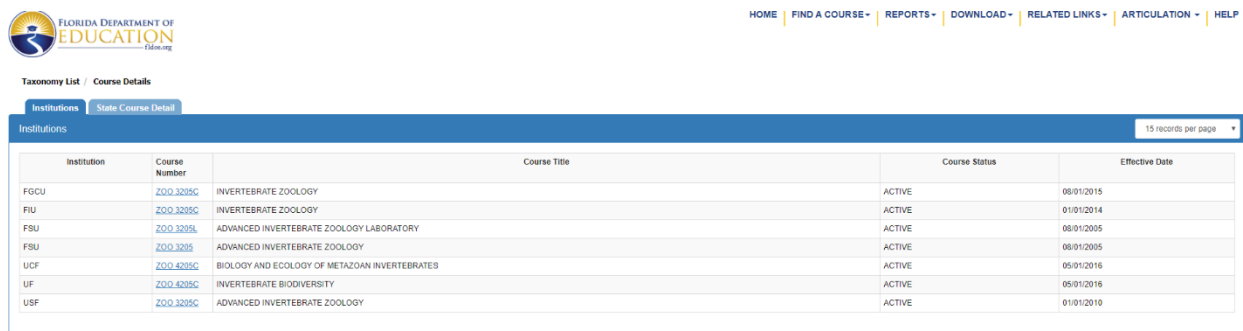
Corequisite: ZOO 2203

Laboratory studies of the structure and diversity of invertebrate organisms.

Specifically, we wish to elevate the course numbers from 2000 to 3000 level, or specifically to ZOO 3205 and ZOO 3205L, respectively.

Our justification is based on several facts.

- 1) This course is one of the more challenging courses in biology (at any institution) as 99% of all animals are invertebrates. As such, even a survey of the species makes it extremely challenging.
- 2) This course was originally taught at FAU at the 3000 level. Attached to this petition is a copy of the course listings for these courses from the 1996-97 FAU catalog. They clearly show these courses were originally ZOO 3203 and ZOO 3203L. Due to updates in the zoology taxonomy, the courses now should be 3205 and 3205L. I recall back around that time many of the lower division colleges (e.g., Broward Community College, Palm Beach Community College) petitioned the state to teach upper division courses. Instead, the state collectively lowered the course number for these (and presumably other courses) to accommodate. Subsequently, many of the lower division colleges expanded their curriculum to 4 year status and the course numbering changes became essentially meaningless, in some cases (such as the current situation).
- 3) Other Florida Institutions have changed their comparable courses back to either 3000 or 4000 levels. See below:



The screenshot shows the Florida Department of Education website with a navigation menu at the top: HOME | FIND A COURSE | REPORTS | DOWNLOAD | RELATED LINKS | ARTICULATION | HELP. Below the navigation is the Florida Department of Education logo and the text 'Taxonomy List / Course Details'. There are two tabs: 'Institutions' (selected) and 'State Course Detail'. The main content is a table with the following columns: Institution, Course Number, Course Title, Course Status, and Effective Date. The table contains 7 rows of data.

Institution	Course Number	Course Title	Course Status	Effective Date
FGCU	ZOO 3205C	INVERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY	ACTIVE	08/01/2015
FIU	ZOO 3205C	INVERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY	ACTIVE	01/01/2014
FSU	ZOO 3205L	ADVANCED INVERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY LABORATORY	ACTIVE	08/01/2005
FSU	ZOO 3205	ADVANCED INVERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY	ACTIVE	08/01/2005
UCF	ZOO 4205C	BIOLOGY AND ECOLOGY OF METAZOAN INVERTEBRATES	ACTIVE	05/01/2016
UF	ZOO 4205C	INVERTEBRATE BIODIVERSITY	ACTIVE	05/01/2016
USF	ZOO 3205C	ADVANCED INVERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY	ACTIVE	01/01/2010



- 4) Finally, our department has suffered as a result of this change. Our own Biology majors cannot use this critical course as an elective for their degree, as it is lower division.

Additionally, I teach Marine Biology which for at least 3 decades has had Invertebrate Zoology as a prerequisite. However, while needing this course for the Marine Biology course, students were at a disadvantage credit-wise as taking Invertebrate Zoology actually increased the potential for extra credits for graduation. As a “fix” I would allow typically about 80% of the students into Marine Biology without the Invertebrate Zoology course with the requirement of doing a review assignment the first week of classes. For such a critical course, this assignment falls woefully short of a proper course on the invertebrates!

So, essentially, we are petitioning to return these two courses back to their original status so that more of our Biology majors will consider taking these vital courses and restore the courses back to their warranted academic levels.