**Life of a Scientist**

**BSC 4810-001 (1 credit) Syllabus; FALL 2014, Fridays 12:00-12:50pm, Rm: SC 119**

Instructor: Dr. Evelyn Frazier

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:00-1:30pm. Other times by appointment ONLY (e-mail me the course name, your name, and 3 possible times that you can meet and I will fit you in my schedule)

Office: Sanson Building (#1), Rm 212

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Undergraduate Teaching Assistants: Nikolle Lambrinos (nlambrin@fau.edu), Ariel

Zeiger (azeiger@fau.edu), Jessica Huffman, Dana Elhassani

Office Hours: By appointment through email. Contact Nikolle or Ariel.

Pre-requisites: Co-requisites:

None (a jolly attitude would help!) None

Course Description: An introduction to different aspects of the life of a researcher. Students will be introduced to the research done in the FAU Biology Department, learn how to get involved in research, find undergraduate research opportunities and potential careers in research.

Learning Goals: After completion of this course students should be able to:

1. Understand what research is and why we do it

2. Understand research ethics and ethical behavior

3. Read, comprehend and analyze scientific writing

4. Interpret scientific papers including graphs and figures

5. Learn/build critical thinking skills

6. Learn about research/internship opportunities at FAU and other institutions

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes (students should be able to):

1. Apply the scientific method to a research topic

2. Conduct a literature search and navigate important research-related websites

3. Apply for research experiences in research laboratories at FAU and other

Institutions

4. Successfully identify and apply for research opportunities (scholarships and grants) at FAU and other agencies

Required Books/Supplements: None

Blackboard: An online educational program that ALL students enrolled in this class

have FREE access to. All you need to do is go to [http://blackboard.fau.edu](http://blackboard.fau.edu/) and follow the procedures to log in.

E-mail: All students are required to check their FAU e-mails every day once a day. Your instructor and TAs will be communicating with you personally via e-mail. DO NOT have your FAU account forwarded to AOL or other e-mail sites because some messages will NOT make it through.

E-mail Etiquette: Wait 24 hours for a response to your e-mail. Do not expect anyone to reply during a weekend or holiday. When e-mailing your TAs, faculty or staff at FAU, please write e-mails in a professional format. WE ARE NOT YOUR BUDDIES! We have a PROFESSIONAL relationship and you should be trained to correspond in a professional manner. Subject line of the e-mail should include: Course name or number: e.g. Life of a Scientist (BSC 4930); and ALWAYS write your FULL NAME. INAPPROPRIATE e-mail example:"Yo, what is my grade b4 the final?" NEVER USE abbreviations such as those used in text messaging. No one should have to answer such an e-mail!

University Attendance Policy: "Students are expected to attend all of their scheduled university classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grade is determined by the instructor" (University Catalogue). Missing classes---- A student may miss up to 2 classes without documentation. Any missed classes beyond that must be supported with documentation submitted to Dr. Frazier by the next class period or the student will receive a non-satisfactory grade.

BE ON TIME! Arriving more than 10 minutes late will result in an absence!!!

*Religious Accommodations:* Students who wish to be excused from coursework, class activities or examinations must notify the instructor in advance of their intention to participate in religious observation and request an excused absence.

Grading: Pass/Fail. Attendance is required to obtain a passing/satisfactory grade. A point system will be used to evaluate in-class assignments and homework. YOU MUST MAKE-UP ANY MISSED ASSIGNMENTS IF YOU WANT CREDIT FOR THEM!

POINT SYSTEM

65 Points- Attendance (5 points each class)

30 Points- Presentations

55 Points- Homework

150 Points Total

Disability policy statement

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) -- in Boca Raton, SU 133 (561-297-3880); in Davie, LA 240 (954-236-1222); in Jupiter, SR 110 (561-799-8010); or at the Treasure Coast, CO 117 (772-873-3441) -and follow all OSD procedures.

Code of Academic Integrity Policy Statement

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see University Regulation 4.00 l. Students caught Plagiarizing will be assigned a grade of "F" in the course and their transcripts will be flagged. <http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf>

**Schedule of Meetings**

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| Week | Date | Activity | Homework | Due  Date |
| 1 | Aug. 22,  2014 | 1) Introduction  2) Pre-course assessment  S) Ted talk: *the "S.O.L.E.- the hole in the wall'*  1) Research, from questions to publications: | Read the syllabus |  |
| 2 | Aug.  29,  201 (Dr.  Frazier) | *Expectations, ethics, and intellectual property of ideas*  ) Career options in research: *what can I do when graduate?*  Featuring: Anthony Planas  (Biology/Ecology careers) | *I* |  |
| *3* | Sept. 5,  2014 (Nikolle/  Ariel) | Workshop I: *Dissecting a peer-reviewed article*  (with worksheet) | 1) Dissect  assigned research papers (10 pts)  2) Think of a  research topic that you are | Sept  12, 2011 |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | interested in |  |
| 4 | Sept 12,  2014  (Jessica) | Workshop II: *The literature search- how to do i what to look for, and some tools to help you along the way* | Write a one  paragraph summary on a paper of interest ***(5* pts)** | Sept  19  2014 |
| *5* | Sept.  19,2014  (Nikolle) | 1)Group discussion: Your research topic and  progress with finding papers  2)Workshop III: *Using PowerPoint*  S) Example: *4-minute summary presentation of a scientific paper* | Prepare a 4-  minute  PowerPoint presentation on  your paper of interest. (ao **pts)** | Oct. s, Oct. 10, Oct. 17,  2014 |
| 6 | Sept 26,  2014  (Dana/  Ariel) | Field visit: *The FAU Ecological Preserve with Dr.*  *Frazier and her lab team*  **MEET IN PARKING LOT *5* AT THE TORTUGA TRAIL HEAD (behind the stadium)** |  |  |
| **7** | Oct S  2014 | Discussion of scientific papers: *Students present 4- minute PowerPoint summaries on their papers of interest* |  |  |
| 8 | Oct.  10,2014 | Discussion of scientific papers cont.: *Students present 4-minute PowerPoint summaries on their*  *papers of interest* | **1)** Find and list  two faculty members you would like to work with, and mention two reasons  why you would like to work with them **(10 pts)** | Oct.  24,  2014 |
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| 9 | Oct.  17,  2014  (Jessica) | 1) Group discussion on chosen faculty members and research topics  2)Writing professional emails to potential faculty mentors | Write draft of emails to two faculty members (10pts) | Oct.  24,2014 |
| 11 | Oct.  24,  2014  (All) | Undergraduate and Graduate Research  Presentations with student critiques |  |  |
| 12 | Oct. S1,  2014 | Undergraduate Research Symposium  (MANDATORY ATTENDANCE!!) Student critiques. |  |  |
| 13 | Nov.  7,  2014  (Ariel) | Workshop IV: *Applyingfor summer internships and scholarships* |  |  |
| 14 | Nov.  14,2014  (Ariel) | Workshop V: *Writing your personal statement and curriculum vitae* | 1)Write your statement of purpose (10pts)  2)Write your  cv  (10pts) | Nov  21,  2014 |
| 15 | Nov.  21,  2014  (Dana) | 1)Lab tours/faculty panel TBA  2)Student evaluations and post-course  assessment. |  |  |
| 16 | Nov.  28,  2014 | THANKSGIVING BREAK- Have a great finals week- no class  (KEEP YOUR GPAs UP! GPA MATTERS!) |  |  |