**Life of a Biologist**

**BSC 2844 (1 credit) Syllabus Fall 2016**

**Fridays 1:00-1:50pm, Rm: SC 119**

Instructor: Dr. Evelyn Frazier

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00am-12pm. 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

Office Phone: 561-297-4472

E-mail: [efrazier@fau.ed](mailto:efrazier@fau.ed) u

Office Hours: Dr. Frazier: Tuesdays and Thursdays from lOam to 12pm

Brian Cooney. By appointment through email (bcooney2@fau.edu).

Pre-requisites: None (a jolly attitude would help!) Co-requisites: None

Undergraduate Teaching Assistants: Brian Cooney [(bcoonev2@fau.ed](mailto:(bcoonev2@fau.ed) u), Sarah

Mitchell and Kent Haizlett

Course Description: An introduction to different aspects of the life of a Biologist. Students will be introduced to several careers in Biology at different levels of professional preparation. We will also discuss careers in research including the research done in the FAU Biology Department, learn how to get involved in research, find undergraduate intership/research opportunities and potential careers in research.

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

1. Understand career options in Biology

2. Understand research ethics and ethical behavior

3. Read, comprehend, and analyze scientific writing

4. Interpret scientific papers including graphs and figures

5. Learn about research/internship/job oppmtunities at FAU and other federal and state 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

Reguired Books/Supplements: None

Course Evaluation Method: Letter grade. Attendance is required to obtain a passing/satisfactory grade. A point system will be used to evaluate in-class assignments and homework. See point distribution below.

MAKE-UP POLICY: No make-up for in class assignments. But a student with an excused absence (documentation required) may turn in missed homework assignments the next class period to Dr. Frazier.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Letter Grade | Percentage | Points | Letter Grade | Percentage | Points |
| A | 90%-100% | 105-120 | C- | 70%-72% | 80-83 |
| B+ | 87%-89% | 100-104· | D+ | 67%-69% | 75-79 |
| B | 83%-86% | 94·-99 | D | 63%-66% | 69-74 |
| B- | 80%-82% | 90-93 | D- | 60%-62% | 65-68 |
| C+ | 77%-79% | 85-89 | F | 0%-59% | > 64 |
| c | 73%-76% | 79-84· |  |  |  |

POINT SYSTEM

50 Points- Participation (Class work)

30 Points- PowerPoint Presentations

40 Points- Homework

120 Points Total

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://bl](http://bl/) ackboard.fau.ed u and follow the procedures to log in. THIS IS WHERE ALL COURSE MATERIALS AND INFORMATION WILL BE LOCATED!

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. You may NEVER submit homework via email to the TA or Professor unless you have an EXCUSED ABSENCE!

E-mail Etiquette: Wait 48 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 and we will ignore them!

Classroom Etiquette: Use of electronics during class is only acceptable when completing related course work. We encourage you to bring your laptops for days we are in the computer lab (May 23 and May 30). If a student is using an electronic device for purposes other than in relation to class work they will be asked to put away the device or leave the classroom.

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---- Students who miss a class and turn in documentation to excuse their absences within one week of the day of the absence, will be allowed to make-up the homework for full points but will not receive in class participation points. Students who fail to provide documentation as described above, will NOT be allowed to make-up any work.

BE ON TIME! Arriving more than 10 minutes late will result in an absence, which means no in class participation points!!!

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 of Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow* all *SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU's campuses- Boca Raton, Davie, and Jupiter, however, disability services are* *available for students on* all *campuses.*

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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 intetferes 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 4.001. <http://www.fau.edu/ctl/4.001> Code of Academic Integrity.pdf

Students caught Plagiarizing will be assigned a grade of "F" in the course and their transcripts will be flagged.

Religious Accommodations: If you will be absent because of a holiday not observed by the University, you must notify me in advance to make arrangements to make up work immediately upon your return to school. Reasonable accommodation will also be made for students participating in a religious observance IF students contact me, one week before the holiday and provide the necessary documentation.

**Required Readings and Schedule of Meetings**

Week Date Activity (Participation Points) Homework Due Date

(Pts)

1) Introduction

1 Aug 2) Pre-course assessment Read the

21 s) Ted talk: *the "S.O.L.E.- the hole in the wall'* syllabus

(In class Discussion 5pts)

Come up with a

1) Career options in Biology: *what can I do when I graduate?* list of S careers

Featw·ing: Ryan Ebanks/Anthony Planas in Biology of Sep Iby

2 Aug (Forensic/Biology/Ecology careers) your interest (5pm)

28 (In class discussion 5pts) with one

2) How to submit work through blackboard (BB) paragraph description

(4pts). Submit toBB

s

1) Read the

1) Research, from questions to publications: scientific paper

Sep 4 *E:cpectations, ethics, and* assigned as Sep 11

*intellectual property qf ideas* homework and (5pm) (In class discussion- case studies -5pt) bring a one

paragraph

summary to class (4pts) Submit to BB

1) Dissect

assigned 1) Submit to research paper BB by Sep and complete 15 (5pm)

4 Sep 11 Workshop I: *Dissecting a peer-reviewed article* worksheet.

*Understanding graphs aud tables* (4 pts)

*(In class worksheet- 5 points)* 2) Think of a 2) Bring to research topic class that you are

interested in and bring one scientific paper on the topic to class printed as well as a summary of that paper (1/2 - 1 full page). (4

pts)

\¥rite a one

1) Worl<shop II: *The literature search* - *how to do it, what to look for,* paragraph

*5* Sep *aud some tools to help you along the way* summary on one Sep 22

18 2) Computer Lab SC 118 2pm paper of interest (5pm)

IF YOU HAVE A LAPTOP PLEASE BRING W ITH YOU! to you (4pt) (In class- Lis t *5* references - 5pts) submit to BB

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|  |  |  |  |  |
| 6 | Sep 25 | 1) Group discussion: Your research topic and progress with  finding papers  2) ·workshop III: *Using PowerPoint*  3) Example: *4-minute sumllWIY presentation of a scientific paper*  *4) Computer Lab (draft ofpowerpoiut- spts)* | Prepare a 4-  minute PowerPoint presentation on your paper of interest | Sep 29 (5pm) |
| 7 | Oct 2 | Practice of powerpoint presentations |  |  |
| 8 | Oct 9 | Discussion of scientific papers: *Students present 4- minute PowerPoint smm1wries on their papers of interest* (Presentation Critiques- 5pts) | (sopts total =  Presentation execution  15 pts/ PowerPoint  15pts) |  |
| 9 | Oct 16 | Discussion of scientific papers cont.: *Students present 4-mimtle PowerPoint summaries on their papers of interest* (Presentation Critiques- 5pts) | Presentation =  30pts)  I ) Find and list  two jobs/faculty members you would like to work with Mention two reasons why you would like to work w ith them (4pts) | Sep 20 (5pm) |
| 10 | Oct 23 | 1) Group discussion on chosen faculty members and research topics | I . Read a research paper writ ten by each faculty member and w rite a swnma ry on each paper. Bring printed copy of paper and summary. (4 pts) | Oct 27 (5pm) |

1) Write a draft

11 Oct 30 1) Writing professional emails to potential faculty mentors/job email to two Nov3 opportu nities faculty members (5pm)

that you would

2) Planning your career like to do research with.

Bring printed

2) Workshop IV: *Applyingfor summer intemships and scholarships* copy.

(4 pts)

2) Find a

scholarship or internship you would want to apply for and bring guidelines to class printed out. THIS IS NESSCARY FOR NEXT CLASS!!

1) Workshop V: *TVriting your statement ofp1t1pose and* 1) Use the

12 Nov *6 curriculum vitae* scholarship or

internship you

2) ·write a draft of your personal statement in class and then found and write

exchange papers with a student that will be chosen at random for a statement of Nov 10

you to edit their draft. (In class participation *5* pts) purpose and CV, Submit BB ma ke sure to (5pm) follow the

guidelines. Bring printed versions of bot h to class

and submit to

BB

(4 pts)

13 Nov 1) In class peer review of CV and personal statement Incorporate all

13 ( I n class *5* points) edits to CV and

Nov 17

personal (5pm)

sta tement (1·pts)

Submit to BB

14 Nov 1) Student evaluations and post-course assessment.

Nov 21·

20 (5pm)

15 Dec4· Have a great finals week- no class

(KEEP YOUR GPAs UP! GPA MATIERS!)