

# 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.edu](mailto:efrazier@fau.edu)

**Office Hours:** Dr. Frazier: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 12pm  
Brian Cooney. By appointment through email ([bcooney2@fau.edu](mailto:bcooney2@fau.edu)).

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

**Co-requisites:** None

**Undergraduate Teaching Assistants:** Brian Cooney ([bcooney2@fau.edu](mailto:bcooney2@fau.edu)), 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 internship/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 opportunities 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

**Required 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.

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

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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://blackboard.fau.edu> 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 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 4.001. [http://www.fau.edu/ctl/4.001 Code of Academic Integrity.pdf](http://www.fau.edu/ctl/4.001%20Code%20of%20Academic%20Integrity.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 (Pts)	Due Date
1	Aug 21	1) Introduction 2) Pre-course assessment 3) Ted talk: <i>the "S.O.L.E. – the hole in the wall"</i> (In class Discussion 5pts)	Read the syllabus	
2	Aug 28	1) Career options in Biology: <i>what can I do when I graduate?</i> <b>Featuring: Ryan Ebanks/Anthony Planas</b> <b>(Forensic/Biology/Ecology careers)</b> (In class discussion 5pts) 2) How to submit work through blackboard (BB)	Come up with a list of 3 careers in Biology of your interest with one paragraph description (4pts). Submit to BB	Sep 1 by (5pm)
3	Sep 4	1) Research, from questions to publications: <i>Expectations, ethics, and intellectual property of ideas</i> (In class discussion - case studies -5pt)	1) Read the scientific paper assigned as homework and bring a one paragraph summary to class (4pts) Submit to BB	Sep 11 (5pm)
4	Sep 11	Workshop I: <i>Dissecting a peer-reviewed article</i> <i>Understanding graphs and tables</i> (In class worksheet – 5 points)	1) Dissect assigned research paper and complete worksheet. (4 pts) 2) Think of a research topic 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)	1) Submit to BB by Sep 15 (5pm)  2) Bring to class
5	Sep 18	1) Workshop II: <i>The literature search - how to do it, what to look for, and some tools to help you along the way</i> 2) <b>Computer Lab SC 118 2pm</b> <b>IF YOU HAVE A LAPTOP PLEASE BRING WITH YOU!</b> (In class – List 5 references – 5pts)	Write a one paragraph summary on one paper of interest to you (4pt) submit to BB	Sep 22 (5pm)

6	Sep 25	1) Group discussion: Your research topic and progress with finding papers 2) Workshop III: <i>Using PowerPoint</i> 3) Example: <i>4-minute summary presentation of a scientific paper</i> 4) <i>Computer Lab (draft of powerpoint - 5pts)</i>	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: <i>Students present 4- minute PowerPoint summaries on their papers of interest</i> (Presentation Critiques – 5pts)	(30pts total = Presentation execution 15 pts/ PowerPoint 15pts)	
9	Oct 16	Discussion of scientific papers cont.: <i>Students present 4-minute PowerPoint summaries on their papers of interest</i> (Presentation Critiques – 5pts)	Presentation = 30pts) 1) Find and list two jobs/faculty members you would like to work with Mention two reasons why you would like to work with them (4pts)	Sep 20 (5pm)
10	Oct 23	1) Group discussion on chosen faculty members and research topics	1. Read a research paper written by each faculty member and write a summary on each paper. Bring printed copy of paper and summary. (4 pts)	Oct 27 (5pm)

11	Oct 30	<p>1) Writing professional emails to potential faculty mentors/job opportunities</p> <p>2) Planning your career</p> <p>2) Workshop IV: <i>Applying for summer internships and scholarships</i></p>	<p>1) Write a draft email to two faculty members that you would like to do research with. Bring printed copy. (4 pts)</p> <p>2) Find a scholarship or internship you would want to apply for and bring guidelines to class printed out. <b>THIS IS NECESSARY FOR NEXT CLASS!!</b></p>	Nov 3 (5pm)
12	Nov 6	<p>1) Workshop V: <i>Writing your statement of purpose and curriculum vitae</i></p> <p>2) Write a draft of your personal statement in class and then exchange papers with a student that will be chosen at random for you to edit their draft. (In class participation 5 pts)</p>	<p>1) Use the scholarship or internship you found and write a statement of purpose and CV, make sure to follow the guidelines. <b>Bring printed versions of both to class and submit to BB</b> (4 pts)</p>	Nov 10 Submit BB (5pm)
13	Nov 13	<p>1) In class peer review of CV and personal statement (In class 5 points)</p>	<p>Incorporate all edits to CV and personal statement (4pts) Submit to BB</p>	Nov 17 (5pm)
14	Nov 20	<p>1) Student evaluations and post-course assessment.</p>		Nov 24 (5pm)
15	Dec 4	<p>Have a great finals week – <b>no class</b> (KEEP YOUR GPAs UP! GPA MATTERS!)</p>		