

**JOURNAL COLLOQUY**  
MCB 7922  
**Class Periods:** Asynchronous  
**Location:** e-Learning Canvas  
**Academic Term:** Fall, Spring, Summer

**Instructor:**

Jamie Foster, Ph.D.

[jfoster@ufl.edu](mailto:jfoster@ufl.edu)

321-525-1047

Office Hours: available by appointment via Zoom

**Course Description - 1 credit:**

This course is an online forum where students will be required to present a primary literature paper to a group where fellow students will comment and ask questions regarding the paper content. The principal goals of this blog-based Journal Club are to: (a) enhance graduate students' understanding of the current state of knowledge regarding the field of astrobiology; and (b) provide experience in reviewing and critiquing research articles. Each week a different student will lead the discussion by posing several questions to the rest of the group that critically evaluates peer-reviewed science articles for subsequent group discussion threads that reinforces the principles of various research approaches and analytical methods. This course will also help students to develop their scientific inquiry and written skill sets.

**Prerequisites:** No prerequisites are required

**Required Texts:** No texts are required

**Synopsis: How will this online journal club work?**

Each week a different student will write a series of scientific questions about a current research paper for the class to discuss in the discussion board of the UF course management system Canvas. The questions will target the major findings and potential contributions of the paper to the advancement of the scientific field. Every student will have an opportunity to lead one discussion over the course of the semester.

The rest of the class will be required to read the paper and respond to the blogger's questions and discussion threads. The rest of the class has the opportunity to respond with their own questions regarding the assigned paper.

Every week a new research paper will be presented. The discussion window for that paper will continue until the end of that week. Students have the entire week to contribute to the discussion about the blog. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST DAY TO PARTICIPATE OR THAT WILL NEGATIVELY IMPACT YOUR GRADE.**

## Grading:

**Discussion Leadership/Questions** (10% of grade) - You will pick one week to lead a discussion. You will post three questions about that week's paper and monitor and respond to questions from the group.

**Discussion participation** (90% of your final grade)

### Post, Post, Post....

Your grade for this section of the course will be assessed based on whether you are posting to the discussion board with relevant threads or questions about that week's material.

I will be moderating the week's discussions and will be keeping track of who has and who has not participated.

Each week your posts will be assessed, and points will be assigned. **Note:** everyone will be allowed a bye-week, where they get a free pass and don't have to post. So, choose your bye-week carefully.

**Rubric:** I am looking for quality over quantity, however, one post is not enough. A single posting (no matter how long will only be eligible for a score of 7 points max; multiple postings that discuss the material and other student's comments is required for the full points. Please avoid posting a few hours before the window closes as your team leader will not likely be able to reply. The objective is to engage with the other students. No will be able to respond to your discussion points or comments 15 min before the deadline and that defeats the point of a discussion. **So last-minute points are not encouraged may affect your grade. The goal of this course is to facilitate quality discussions.**

**Total Points: 100 points (Note there are 110 possible points, but final grade will be calculated out of 100 points so think about that when looking at your grade in Canvas as it won't be accurate – final grades will be posted at end of course)**

<b>Percent</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Grade Points</b>
93 - 100	A	93 - 100
90 - 92	A-	90 - 92
87 - 89	B+	87 - 89
83 - 86	B	83 - 86
80 - 82	B-	80 - 82
77 - 79	C+	77 - 79
73 - 76	C	73 - 76
70 - 72	C-	70 - 72
67 - 69	D+	67 - 69
63 - 66	D	63 - 66
60 - 62	D-	60 - 62
< 60	E	< 60

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:

[UF Graduate Catalog](#)  
[Grades and Grading Policies](#)

### ***Students Requiring Accommodations***

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the [Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

### ***Course Evaluation***

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner.](#) 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 [ufl.bluera.com/ufl/](http://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/). [Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here.](#)

### ***University Honesty Policy***

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students 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.” [The Honor Code](#) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

### ***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. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

### ***Student Privacy***

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see the [Notification to Students of FERPA Rights](#).

**Campus Resources:**

Health and Wellness

**U Matter, We Care:**

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

**Counseling and Wellness Center:** [counseling.ufl.edu/cwc](http://counseling.ufl.edu/cwc), and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

**Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)**

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

**University Police Department** at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or [police.ufl.edu](http://police.ufl.edu).

Academic Resources

**E-learning technical support**, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu).

**Career Resource Center**, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling.

**Library Support**, Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

**Teaching Center**, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

**Writing Studio**, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

**Student Complaints Campus**

**On-Line Students Complaints**