MCB 7922 FINAL ASSESSMENT - LITERATURE REVIEW (1 credit)

Course Description
This course will help students prepare for the capstone project of the MS program, which is to generate a literature review in the field of Microbiology and Cell Science. Students must be in their final semester of coursework. This course will enable students to present, discuss, and synthesize recent original articles in the microbiological literature with emphasis in the microbiome in health and disease.

Course Learning Objectives
After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1) enhance their understanding of the current state of knowledge regarding the fields of microbiology and cell science
2) critically analyze primary literature and synthesize it and into a literature review that will be used as the student's programmatic final assessment.

Instructor: Dr. Graciela L Lorca

Office: Genetics Institute, Room 307

Webpage: Canvas (https://ufl.instructure.com/). Please select MCB7922

Online help with classroom technology: http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/

Pre-requisite: Students must be in their final semester of coursework.

Communication: for questions regarding class and textbook content use the Course questions forum, for issues on Homework Assignments, class organization check first the syllabus, the announcements and calendar on Canvas, then post your questions on the discussion forum. For all other issues contact Dr. Graciela Lorca.

Office hours: By appointment. Send an e-mail with three suggested times and I will choose one for us to meet.
Contact Information: Use emails through Canvas ONLY (personal emails should only be used in a case of real emergency)
      Dr. Graciela L Lorca:
            Email (the most efficient): ONLY use Canvas e-mail (If you do not have access to the e-learning platform and need to contact me for an **emergency**, use glorca@ufl.edu)
            Phone: 273 8090 (please leave a message).

- **Course questions forum:** It is available in Canvas. It is very useful, please post and answer your questions on class content and organization there. Postings and answers are monitored by the instructor to make sure no mistakes get propagated.

Material
- **Textbook:** textbook is NOT required.
This course requires extensive searches and reading of the primary literature on the topic you choose to write about in this capstone literature review. It is anticipated you will need to read and synthesize ~50 peer-reviewed, primary literature articles when researching your chosen topic.

For your research into your selected topic, use PUBMED (https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/). Do not use BLOGS or non-peer reviewed papers for final paper. Remember to connect to UF through VPN (if outside campus) before accessing the journals (https://connect.ufl.edu/it/wiki/pages/glvpn.aspx).

Course Schedule
Please follow specific dates in the Canvas course page

Week 1 & 2:   Select a topic for literature review and begin to accumulate references. Complete tutorials on science writing and plagiarism.
Week 3:   Complete science writing and plagiarism learning module quiz.
Week 4 & 5:   Complete outline of proposed review paper and include list of references.
Week 6 &7:   Submit a first draft of the literature review paper.
Week 8 - end: Revise the first draft and complete as many iterations as needed for passing of final draft of literature review before the final deadline.

Critical Dates
Outline of Capstone Literature Review   Due: September 29th, 2025
First Draft of Capstone Literature Review   Due: October 13th, 2025
Final Draft of Capstone Literature Review   due: November 3rd, 2025

Evaluation of Grades

Assignment	Total Points	Percentage of Final Grade
Science Writing & Plagiarism Quiz	10	10%
Outline of Review Paper	10	10%
First Draft of Review paper	10	10%
Final Draft of Review paper	70	70%
Total Points	100	100%

Attendance Policy, Class Expectations, and Make-Up Policy
As this course is online and asynchronous there is no required attendance. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at:
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx.

Grading Policy
The course will be evaluated on a straight scale. Those grades with a B or higher are considered a passing grade for the final programmatic assessment. Those students who do not receive a grade of B or higher would have to re-take the course again to pass the final assessment.

Grades and Grade Points
For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Grading: Straight scale

Grading Scale
A	90.0 or above
A-	86.0-89.9
B+	83.0-85.9
B	79.0-82.9
B-	75.0-78.9
C+	72.0-74.9
C	69.0-71.9
C-	66.0-68.9
D+	63.0-65.9
D	60.0-62.9
D-	57.0-59.9
E	56.0 or below

University of Florida Policies

Grades and Grade Points
For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/

Attendance and Make-Up Work
Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/

Services for Students with Disabilities
Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center (https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/). 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.

Campus Helping Resources
Health and Wellness
- U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website (https://umatter.ufl.edu/) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

- Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website (https://counseling.ufl.edu/) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

-
  Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website (https://shcc.ufl.edu/).

- University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website (https://police.ufl.edu/) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies). UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website (https://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center).

- GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website (https://gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu/) or call 352-273-4450.

Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services (https://career.ufl.edu/).
- Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources (https://uflib.ufl.edu/).
- Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring (https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/).
- Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers (https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/).
- Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information (https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-%20code-student-conduct-code/).
  On-Line Students Complaints: View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process (https://distance.ufl.edu/state-authorization-status/#student-complaint).

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. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. 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 https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

Class demeanor
Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.

Netiquette guide for online courses
It is important to recognize that the online classroom is in fact a classroom, and certain behaviors are expected when you communicate with both your peers and your instructors. These guidelines for online behavior and interaction are known as netiquette.
http://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf

Academic Honesty

As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: *"We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity."* You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit 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*."

It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code.

Additional comments regarding academic integrity:
Students are encouraged to discuss material with each other from the course, help each other understand concepts, study together, and even discuss assessment questions with each other once the quiz window is closed. However, the following is considered academic dishonesty, and I expect that no student will ever do any of the following:

- Have another person complete a quiz in this course
- Copy another student's quiz in this course
- Collaborate with anyone during a quiz in this course
- Discuss the questions and answers of a quiz with other students while the quiz window is still open
- Manipulate and/or distribute any materials provided in this course for any purpose (including course lecture slides).
- Use any materials provided by a previous student in the course

Use of Artificial Intelligence In academic work

AI-powered tools, such as language generators and citation managers, may be useful for creating outlines for literature reviews. However, AI should be used as a supplement to, not a replacement for, human critical thinking and analysis. ***Make sure you always cite and acknowledge AI-generated content properly.***

Prohibited Use Cases:
· 	Using AI to complete assignments or projects without human critical analysis.
· 	Relying solely on AI-generated content for research or analysis.
· 	Presenting AI-generated content as original work without proper citation.

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.

Microsoft Office 365 Software is free for UF students
http://www.it.ufl.edu/gatorcloud/free-office-365-downloads/
Other free software is available at:
http://www.software.ufl.edu/
To check for availability of the media and technical requirements, contact the UF Computing Help Desk at (352)392-HELP(4357).

University of Florida Complaints Policy and Student Complaint Process
Most problems, questions and concerns about the course will be resolved by professionally communicating with the instructors.

The University of Florida believes strongly in the ability of students to express concerns regarding their experiences at the University. The University encourages its students who wish to file a written complaint to submit that complaint directly to the department that manages that policy.
If a problem really cannot be resolved by communicating with the instructor or the TAs you can contact
- Residential Course: https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/.

- Online Course: http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process.

This said, professionalism is a two-way-street. Unprofessional behavior of students includes, among other things: lack of communication, blaming other people or external factors, lying, affecting others negatively in a group or in the class, not accepting criticism and not being proactive in solving problems or seeking help. Furthermore, faculty often have family and other obligations to tend to. Over the weekend, replies to your inquiries or questions maybe delayed.
If a student is lacking professionalism repeatedly, the instructor has the rights to file formal complaint against the student through the Dean of Student office.