

MCB4091 Innovation Project Management for Life Sciences

Spring 2026

Online Asynchronous 1 Credit, Co-taught Undergraduate/Graduate

Instructor

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Office hours: Appointments available upon request. Recurring dates/times set through student poll.

Course Description

Empowers students with practical tools to manage innovation projects typical of life science research & development. Challenges and methodologies associated with developing objectives, preparing project plans, establishing metrics, defining responsibilities, as well as mitigating risks and dealing with uncertainties will be discussed. Skills for strategic prioritization, time management, meeting facilitation, and communication will be strengthened to promote an innovative culture.

Course Learning Objectives

After this course, the student will be able to:

- Set objectives and priorities for a strategic project
- Distinguish between different types of innovations and project management methodologies
- Select and apply appropriate tools to manage innovation projects with structure and flexibility
- Design a simple project plan and tracking dashboard
- Explain an innovation project to inspire technical and non-technical audiences
- Conduct engaging and productive meetings to drive decisions and create an innovation culture

Course Prerequisites

Undergraduates must have completed BCS2010 Integrated Principles of Biology 1 or equivalent.

Textbooks, Learning Materials, and Supply Fees

Instructional materials for this course consist of only those materials specifically reviewed, selected, and assigned by the instructor. The instructor is only responsible for these instructional materials.

Project management software with some options available free through UF or others with optional purchase or free short-term trials (e.g., Smartsheet, Microsoft Project, Monday, Jira, ClickUp).

Free textbook access through the [UF Library Knovel platform](#) with login through UF email address.

Kerzner, Harold. [*Innovation Project Management - Methods, Case Studies, and Tools for Managing Innovation Projects*](#). John Wiley & Sons, 2019.

Technical Skills

A basic understanding of operating a computer and using word processing software is required, along with access and application of the Canvas learning platform.

Technical Support

UF Computing Help Desk & Ticket Number: All technical issues require a UF Helpdesk Ticket Number. The UF Helpdesk is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/> | 352-392-4357

Weekly Course Schedule

Module	Dates	Topic	Assessment	Due Dates
0	Jan. 12-14	Orientation		
1	Jan. 12-20	SMART Start	Syllabus Review and Course Objectives Intro/Objectives Discussion	Jan. 20
2	Jan. 22-26	Innovations in Your Life	Innovation Identification	Jan. 26
3	Jan. 27-Feb. 2	Focus on the BIG Picture	Project Strategy	Feb. 2
4	Feb. 3-9	Project Planning Toolbox	PM SW Exercise	Feb. 9
5	Feb. 10-16	Project Management Software	Baseline Project Plan Synchronous PM SW Workshop	Feb. 16
6	Feb. 17-23	Are We There Yet?	Dashboard with Metrics	Feb. 23
7	Feb. 24-Mar. 2	Breakthroughs & Barriers	Midterm Quiz Disruptive Innovation Discussion	Mar. 2
8	Mar. 3-9	Communicating Ideas	Project Brand & Pitch Communication Showcase	Mar. 9
9	Mar. 10-16	Innovative Culture		
	Mar. 14-21	Spring Break		
10	Mar. 24-30	Success or Failure?	Risk Assessment	Mar. 30
11	Mar. 31-Apr. 6	Who is Doing What?	Roles & Responsibilities Matrix	Apr. 6
12	Apr. 7-13	Bright Ideas for Fun Meetings	Meeting Facilitation	Apr. 13
13	Apr. 14-20	Go Out and Change the World!	Final Quiz Case Studies	Apr. 20

Grading Policy

Course grading is consistent with [UF grading policies](#).

The instructor will make every effort to have each assignment graded and posted within one week of the due date. Discussion boards will not be graded until the end of the discussion period to encourage ongoing engagement and may not be submitted after the discussion period has closed.

Excused assignment extensions must be consistent with university policies and require appropriate documentation. Lectures and Assignments will receive a deduction of 10% per each week overdue (not prorated by day/hour). The top three out of five Collaborative Forum grades will be counted, and the initial post date must be met to participate.

Course Grading Structure

Assignment Type	Point Value	Percent of Final Grade
Innovation Strategy	120	25%
Project Management	120	20%
Communication	80	15%
Knowledge Assessments	80	15%
Collaborative Forums	90	15%
Interactive Lectures	60	10%

Grading Scale

Grade	Points	Percentage
A	94.0 to 100	94.0% to 100%
A-	90.0 to <94.0	90.0% to <94.0%
B+	87.0 to <90.0	87.0% to <90.0%
B	84.0 to <87.0	84.0% to <87.0%
B-	80.0 to <84.0	80.0% to <84.0%
C+	77.0 to <80.0	77.0% to <80.0%
C	74.0 to <77.0	74.0% to <77.0%
C-	70.0 to <74.0	70.0% to <74.0%
D+	67.0 to <70.0	67.0 to <70.0%
D	64.0 to <67.0	64.0% to <67.0%
D-	60.0 to <64.0	60.0% to <64.0%
E	0 to <60.0	0% to <60.0%

Academic Policies and Resources

Academic policies for this course are consistent with university policies. See

<https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>

Campus Health and Wellness Resources

Visit <https://one.uf.edu/whole-gator/topics> for resources that are designed to help you thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally at UF.

Please contact [UMatterWeCare](#) for additional and immediate support.

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.

Privacy and Accessibility Policies

- Instructure (Canvas): [Instructure Privacy Policy](#) and [Instructure Accessibility](#)
- Zoom: [Zoom Privacy Policy](#) and [Zoom Accessibility](#)
- Vimeo: [Vimeo Privacy Policy](#) and [Vimeo Accessibility](#)
- Sonic Foundry (Mediasite): [Mediasite Privacy Policy](#) and [Mediasite Accessibility](#)
- YouTube: [YouTube Privacy Policy](#) and [YouTube Accessibility](#)
- Elsevier (Knovel): [Knovel Privacy Policy](#) and [Knovel Accessibility](#)

Additional Information

Netiquette and Communication Courtesy

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. Disrespectful interactions will not be tolerated. Additional guidelines are included on the Canvas site

Appropriate Use of Artificial Intelligence

Students are encouraged to explore and utilize a variety of AI tools and libraries to enhance their understanding and practical skills. Students should consider the potential biases and implications of AI and make efforts to mitigate any discriminatory or harmful effects. When using AI tools, students should ensure that they comply with the respective licenses and terms of use set by the tool developers. Students should properly attribute any code or resources used from external sources, including AI libraries, frameworks, or pre-trained models.

In this course, AI-generated work may be used collaboratively and must be clearly acknowledged. AI programs are not a replacement for human creativity and critical thinking. It is the student's responsibility to review and ensure the appropriateness and accuracy of assignment submissions. Failure to cite and correctly edit work will result in a reduced grade and could be referred to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution in consistent or severe cases.

Tips for Success in this Course

Here are some tips to get the most of this course while taking full advantage of the online format:

- Schedule "class times" for yourself. It is important to do the coursework on time each week. You will receive a reduction in points for work that is submitted late.
- Read the materials on Canvas carefully. There is helpful information that can save you time and help you meet the objectives of the course.
- Check off the items in the course summary located in the course syllabus as you progress.
- Take full advantage of the online discussion boards. Ask for help or clarification if you need it.
- Do not wait to ask questions! Waiting to ask a question might cause you to miss a due date.
- Do your work well before the due dates. Sometimes things happen. If your computer goes down when you are trying to submit an assignment, you will need time to troubleshoot the problem.
- To be extra safe, back up your work to an external hard drive, thumb drive, or through a cloud service.