

Journal Club in Pharmaceutical Research
PHA 7900

Instructor:

Department Graduate Coordinator

Course Description

PHA 7900 is a graduate level course designed to allow students to develop skills in critically reading the current literature and conveying the most important aspects of a study to an audience.

Course Pre-Requisites / Co-Requisites

None

Course Objectives

At the completion of this course, students should be able to demonstrate skill with respect to publications in their area of research interest:

- Understand the background of current research findings
- Critically evaluate methodologies
- Critically evaluate the research findings and conclusions
- Communicate research finding of others

Materials and Supply Fees

None

Required Textbooks and Software

None

Recommended Materials

None

Course Schedule

Course will meet once per week for 50 min.

Attendance Policy, Class Expectations, and Make-Up Policy

Attendance is mandatory. Satisfactory completion of this course will require attendance of a minimum of 8 sessions. Speak to the Course Instructor to discuss any potential schedule conflicts ahead of time.

Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the [Graduate Catalog](#) and require appropriate documentation. Additional information can be found in [Attendance Policies](#).

Course design:

Each week a different student will be responsible for reviewing a recent publication. Students will pick a recent research article from the mainstream literature on a topic of interest. The guidelines for choosing the research paper will be communicated by the faculty coordinator for the course. Review articles, and rapid/short communications are not appropriate for presentation unless approved by the faculty course coordinator. Articles should be chosen from leading, peer-reviewed journals.

A pdf copy of the publication to be reviewed should be distributed to journal club members one week before your presentation.

Students will prepare a PowerPoint presentation to present the key components of the paper including the background, hypothesis, essential methodology, results and conclusions. Presentation of some shorter papers (e.g. Nature, Science) will usually require lengthier background explanations.

Presentations should be approximately 40 min with 10-15 min for questions/discussion (the total time is 50 min).

Registered students must give at least one presentation.

Evaluation and Grades

Students will be asked to present one paper and lead discussion for one class discussion during this course. The presentation will be evaluated based on the explanation of the general findings of the paper and responses to questions pertaining to the paper raised by the audience. Attendees in sessions where another student is presenting a paper are expected to read the assigned article in advance of each class and participate actively and constructively during class discussions by asking questions, making observations, raising ideas and questions, and making any other relevant comments, which will constitute the participation portion of the course.

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:

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

Grading Policy

Course will be graded as S/U. Satisfactory completion of this course includes meeting the attendance requirement, satisfactory participation, and a satisfactory presentation.

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/. [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 or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: 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.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to 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

Journal Club Assessment Sheet

Date:

Presenter:

Reviewer:

Introduction

--Interest/relevance/paper choice

--Background

--Rationale and hypotheses

Materials and Methods

--Experimental protocols

--Design/Statistics

Results & Discussion

--Conclusions

--Alternative hypotheses/ Future directions

Other

--Response to questions asked by audience

--Technical (audiovisual etc)