

Topics in Aquatic Animal Health

VEM 5931 (*vet students*) & VME 6938 (*graduate students*)

SEMESTER: SPRING 2021
CREDIT HOURS: 1 CREDIT HOUR
GRADING SYSTEM: PASS/FAIL (*VET STUDENTS*)
A-E GRADING (*GRADUATE STUDENTS*)

Course Coordinator

Name: Dr. Iske Larkin, PhD
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Office Hours: By appointment, please e-mail.

Course Instructor

Name: Dr. Jonathan Cowart, PhD
Email: jrc8462@ufl.edu
Office Hours: By appointment, please e-mail.

Course Description

This course covers multiple aspects surrounding aquatic animal health research with a central focus on the appraisal of current research quality, validity, and applicability within aquatic veterinary medicine. Throughout the semester, students will be required to review at least **two** current, peer-reviewed articles within the subject area, present an oral review of each selected article, and facilitate an active and productive critical evaluation of the selected article with their course peers. Students will also be introduced to additional topics including: (1) authorship and contribution, (2) peer review, (3) ethical use of animals in research, and (4) current issues in aquatic veterinary medicine.

Student Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Critically evaluate peer-reviewed studies within the field of aquatic animal health.
2. Effectively facilitate active and productive discussion of current literature.
3. Explain the components of peer-review and research publication and apply this knowledge in real-world situations.

4. Appreciate the roles of veterinarians, biologists, and governmental personnel in the field of aquatic animal health.

Course Schedule

This weekly schedule contains topics and assignments. Please refer to Canvas for updates and announcements to any changes to this schedule.

Class meetings will be held online via Zoom to accommodate students completing externships or other scholarly activities for fulfillment of their DVM degree. Weekly Zoom class meetings can be accessed through Canvas by selecting the “Zoom Conferences” tab. In-person class meetings will be reconsidered as the semester progresses.

<i>Date and Time</i>	<i>Topic/Module/Unit</i>	<i>Faculty</i>	<i>SLO # Above</i>	<i>Instructional Hours</i>
26 Aug 2021 4-5PM	Class 1: Course overview, introduction to evaluating peer-reviewed literature, presentation sign-up	Cowart	1	1.0
02 Sep 2021 4-5PM	Class 2: Paper 1	Cowart	1,2,4	1.0
09 Sep 2021 4-5PM	Class 3: Selecting a scientific journal for publishing; Authorship and contribution	Norton	3	1.0
16 Sep 2021 4-5PM	Class 4: Paper 2	Cowart	1,2,4	1.0
23 Sep 2021 4-5PM	Class 5: Paper 3	Cowart	3	1.0
30 Sep 2021 4-5PM	Class 6: Paper 4	Cowart	1,2,4	1.0
07 Oct 2021 4-5PM	Class 7: Peer review	Cowart	3	1.0
14 Oct 2021 4-5PM	Class 8: Paper 5	Cowart	1,2,4	1.0
21 Oct 2021 4-5PM	Class 9: Ethical use of animals in research; Issues in aquatic veterinary medicine	AAH intern / resident	3,4	1.0
28 Oct 2021 4-5PM	Class 10: Paper 6	Cowart	1,2,4	1.0
04 Nov 2021	Class 11: Paper 7	Cowart	4	1.0

4-5PM				
18 Nov 2021	Class 12: Paper 8	Cowart	1,2,4	1.0
4-5PM				
02 Dec 2021	Class 13: AAH Intern/Resident discussion	Cowart	4	1.0
4-5PM				
				13.0

Required Textbooks and/or Course Materials

All course materials are available on Canvas and can be accessed through: <https://elearning.ufl.edu/> and signing in using your gatorlink username and password. Students will post their selected journal articles and submit critical thinking questions and journal article reviews/critiques in the respective sections on Canvas. Information for selecting journal articles, completing critical thinking questions, and presenting your journal articles can be found in Appendix B.

Recommended Textbooks and/or Course Materials

None

Methods of Evaluation

Grades will be calculated based on the following:

Item	Weight
Critical Thinking Questions	50 %
Journal Article Presentation 1	25 %
Journal Article Presentation 2	25 %
Total	100 %

Note: Late assignments will have 10% removed from the final score each day it is late. You have until the Sunday after class at 11:59PM to submit any late assignments. After that, the assignment locks and you will receive a zero for it.

Grading Scheme

Grades will be based on attendance, submission of critical thinking questions for each article, active participation in discussions, preparation of oral review/critique, and ability to facilitate productive discussions regarding selected articles. Graduate students (VME 6938) will receive a letter grade (*see grading scale below*). Veterinary students (VEM 5931) will receive Pass/Fail (*C or better = Pass*) with credit counting towards the Aquatic Animal Medicine Certificate. Course grades will be assigned based on the following grading scheme. This grading scale is **final**.

Letter	Scale
A	100.00 – 94.00
A-	93.99 – 90.00
B+	89.99 – 87.00

Letter	Scale
B	86.99 – 84.00
B-	83.99 – 80.00
C+	79.99 – 77.00
C	76.99 – 74.00
C-	73.99 – 70.00
D+	69.99 – 67.00
D	66.99 – 64.00
D-	63.99 – 61.00
E	60.99 – 0

Course Policies

Attendance to all class meetings is required. If you should miss a class day due to research or illness, you may make up the missed work by writing a 1pg review of another article of your choosing. Be sure to send me your review as well as a PDF copy of the article. If you expect to miss more than 4 classes, it will impact your grade and you may want to consider registering another semester.

Curriculum Policies

DVM curriculum policies are consistently held and reinforced across all DVM courses. Please visit the DVM webpage and review the curriculum policies listed within the [Online Student Handbook](#).

Students with Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center by visiting www.disability.ufl.edu/students/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. **Students in UF Health Sciences programs should be mindful that unique course accommodations may not be applicable in a clinical, fieldwork or practicum setting. Thus, planning a semester in advance with the DRC Health Sciences Learning Specialist, Lisa Diekow ldiekow@ufsa.ufl.edu , is highly encouraged.**

The DRC is located on the main UF campus. ASA (Office for Academic and Student Affairs) works closely with the DRC to ensure student accommodations are met in the classroom and during exams. Melissa Pett in ASA assists in coordinating exams and meeting recommended disability-related requirements for students with accommodations (melissacox@ufl.edu).

Course and Instructor 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 on the [GatorEvals Webpage](#). 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 the [Online Platform](#). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at the [GatorEvals Public Results Webpage](#).

Appendix A: Faculty Lecturers

Dr. Iske Larkin, PhD

Email: ivlarkin@ufl.edu

Dr. Jonathan Cowart, PhD

Email: jrc8462@ufl.edu

Appendix B: Assignment Details

What kind of journal article are you looking for and where should you look?

Students should seek current, peer-reviewed research published in reputable scientific journals. The selected article should have an Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion/Conclusion section. You can conduct searches through the electronic databases (BIOSYS, Web of Science, Pub Med...) on the UF library system (contact Hannah Norton: nortonh@ufl.edu for any questions related to best literature search practices). Articles to avoid include review papers or those on non-peer reviewed web sites (e.x – governmental reports).

Journal Article Presentations 1 & 2

Each student will be required to review **two** current, peer-reviewed articles within the subject area. One article will be pre-selected by the instructor and one article will be selected by the student. For each journal article presentation, students are asked to present a 5-10 min oral summary of each selected article. In addition to the oral presentation, the student will act as the primary facilitator of discussion and critical evaluation of the article. The assigned critical thinking questions can be used to facilitate peer discussion of the article. The journal article presentation and critical thinking questions should be handed in through the Canvas/e-learning site **prior** to class when the paper is covered. The rubric used to assess your presentation is included within the assignment. Please look this over to be sure you cover all the major points.

***Please look through your schedules and think of two dates that you would like to present. The first day of class I will provide a list of instructor-selected articles that you can choose from. On the Canvas/e-learning site, please indicate your article of choice and presentation date preferences (first come, first serve).**

For the one article you select to present, please add a PDF of the article and article presentation date to the course Canvas/ e-learning site, under the Discussion link – ‘Articles’ folder. Please make sure to add this before class on **September 2nd**, so they can be available to all within the course web site. You may choose any article related to an aquatic animal species ranging from invertebrates to megavertebrates. Please include your name and the date you will be presenting the article on the title of your discussion post when you attach it to the Discussion board link in the class.

You are encouraged to invite someone (faculty, post doc, resident...) here at UF with expertise in the area covered within your paper to come the day of your presentation. **You will receive extra credit should you be successful in bringing someone to class (2 additional points towards that presentation grade).** This is not a requirement, but it should facilitate addressing questions beyond the scope of the paper that may provide perspective rather than leave the group with unanswered questions.

Critical Thinking Questions

There will be 5-10 critical thinking questions for each selected article that are designed to help guide students through critical evaluation of the article. The set of assigned critical thinking questions will likely

change week-to-week depending on the research article. *You are all asked to review the article and address and submit all of the questions before each journal article review class.* This will be set up as an assignment on the Canvas and are due no later than 3PM on the day of each journal article review class. **Late submissions will have 10% removed for each day they are late.**

Seminars

Seminars will be scheduled periodically throughout the semester and students will be notified of these at the earliest possible time. Attendance to seminars is required; however, as seminar dates/times are not finalized, students who are unable to attend in person will not be penalized. For students who are unable to attend in person, you are required to submit a 0.5 pg review of the seminar (12pt font, single space, 1" margins). At the end of each seminar review, please include questions you would have asked had you attended in person. For students who are able to attend in person, you are **required** to ask at least one question in order to receive full credit for the seminar assignment.