VME 6140 Graduate Journal Club: Mucosal Immunology

I. Course information

Number: VME 6140
Course Title: VMS Graduate Journal Club: Mucosal Immunology
Semester: Fall
Course times: Fridays Period 5
Course credits: 1. This course may be repeated up to 4 times for credit, with the permission of the Instructor and the Graduate Coordinator.
Students: Graduate students enrolled in UF CVM or other academic units in UF HSC

II. General information

Course Instructor
Dr. Liang Zhou (Course Coordinator)
Professor
Department of Infectious Diseases & Immunology
V3-151, Veterinary Academic Building
liangzhou497@ufl.edu
Ph: 352-294-8293
Office hours: Friday 10:30 am to 11:30 am

Dr. John Bostick (co-instructor)
Research Assistant Professor
Department of Infectious Diseases & Immunlogy
V3-160, Veterinary Academic Building
jwbostick@ufl.edu
Ph: 352-294-4116
Office hours: Friday 10:30 am to 11:30 am

Course Contact
Taylor Steiner
taylor.steiner@ufl.edu

Maximum enrollment: 10 students (faculty and postdoctoral scientists who participate will take any unused time slots, assisting with demonstration of high-quality presentation skills)

III. Course description

Critical analysis of recently published research reports in the field of mucosal immunology.

Course objective

- To acquire the skills to critically review new peer-reviewed scientific reports in the field of mucosal immunology
- To learn about recent advances in our understanding of mucosal immunology through critical reviews of new scientific reports.

Student learning outcomes

- Students will review recent published research reports in the field of immunology.
- Students will engage in group discussions and critique (identify strengths and weaknesses) published research reports in the field of immunology.

IV. Format

The course is structured in three parts: **(i)** Students will review, before class, published research reports assigned by the course instructor or selected by their fellow graduate students and approved by the course instructor. Research reports will be distributed to students and faculty by the course instructor via email. Students are expected to read and be prepared to discuss each week's topic in order to be able to make meaningful contributions; **(ii)** In each class, a student will serve as the discussion leader. He/she will prepare and deliver a 35-min pptx oral presentation: 2 minutes for an introduction, 30-minute dissection of discussion section, methodology, and results, 3-minutes for critiquing the paper (strengths & weaknesses). In the next 15 minutes, the presenter will serve as a discussion leader and will facilitate a group discussion on the research report. The purpose is to identify strengths and weaknesses of the research report of interest. The discussion should be structured. In his/her last pptx slide, the discussion leader can present an outline with key issues worth discussing. He/she can ask specific questions to peer-students, so they can provide their input; (**iii**) the course instructor or senior faculty are expected to engage in the group discussion when appropriate.

The course can be attended either in-person or via Zoom.

V. Online Instruction (Zoom)

Per University of Florida guidelines, students are highly encouraged to attend this course in person, but can also attend via Zoom. A recurring Zoom meeting link for the course will be sent out at the start of the semester.

For information regarding Zoom set-up, FAQ, and troubleshooting, please visit the UFIT Zoom page. (https://ufl.zoom.us)

For technical assistance, please contact the UF Computing Helpdesk.
(Phone: 352 392-4357 Email: helpdesk@ufl.edu)

VI. Course Materials

There is no textbook associated with this course. Students will select and present published research reports of their choosing from the field of mucosal immunology and microbiome host-interactions in human health & diseases. Students are encouraged to reference a textbook for background knowledge, such as Janeway's Immunobiology. High-impact research articles must

be selected from reputable journals including but not limited to, *Cell, Nature*, *Science* and their affiliated journals.

During the first two weeks of class, the reading material will be finalized by the instructor and/or faculty presenters. Afterwards, graduate student presenters will be required to select the research article they wish to present and lead a discussion on for their assigned presentation date. Students are required to send the course instructor the research article they wish to present at least two weeks before their scheduled presentation date, so the instructor has time to verify the research article is high-impact, relevant to the field of study, and properly distributed to all course participants. The course instructor will circulate read-ahead materials (selected research articles) the week prior to each presentation. Additionally, both presenting and attending students will be advised to consider each of the following points in evaluating the paper they will be discussing:

1) What is the key question this study tries to answer?

2) What are the main conclusions in this article?

3) Is the design of the study appropriate?
   a) Is it adequately controlled?
   b) Does it use adequate information to answer the question?
   c) Are appropriate outcome measures used?
   d) Are important measures missing or inappropriate measures included?

4) Are there any biases in the design?
   a) Selection bias – Lack of randomization
   b) Intervention bias – failure to standardize interventions
   c) Non-respondent bias
   d) Recall bias
   e) Withdrawal bias
   f) Compliance bias

5) What are the strengths of the paper?

6) Are there any important deficiencies in the paper?
   a) Important work by others ignored
   b) Inadequate explanation of method/design
   c) Essential data missing
   d) Poorly written/excessive jargon
   e) Excessive zeal/self-promotion
   f) Are the potential clinical implications recognized and discussed
   g) Economic consequences ignored or exaggerated
   h) Uninteresting

7) Is this article worthy of publication?
   a) Are the results original?
   b) Are they too preliminary?

c) Is the issue current and relevant?
d) Does it have significant clinical implications?

8) How does the article's information relate to what you already know?

9) Did it stimulate further inquiry?

10) What one or two major questions that remain?

VII. Evaluation: Student performance in the course will be evaluated by the Instructor according to the following rubric.

5 Accomplished	4 Developing	3 Acceptable, but Needs Development	2 Needs Significant Development	1 Unacceptable
○ Requires no prompting ○ Detailed discussion and in-depth understanding ○ Highest level of achievement ○ Organized, proficient delivery	○ Clarification needed with minor prompt ○ Above average detail and understanding ○ Mostly organized & clear delivery	○ Clarification needed on several prompts ○ Average detail and understanding ○ Average delivery	○ Requires directed questioning to prompt information ○ Detail with some understanding ○ Delivery below average	○ Extensive clarification needed ○ Limited detail and minimal understanding ○ Instructor has to intervene for accuracy of information ○ Delivery entirely inappropriate

Outcome	Points	Factor x	Total	Comment
Description of Relevance: • Appropriately lists article citation • Provides sufficient background information • Identifies purpose/importance of research • Identifies study question/objective(s)	1 2 3 4 5	3		
Complete Overview & Explanation of Methods: • Appropriately explains: ○ Study design ○ Exclusion/inclusion criteria ○ Endpoints ○ Study groups (if applicable) ○ Baseline characteristics ○ Additional information as needed	1 2 3 4 5	4		
Complete Explanation of Discussion & Analysis: • Appropriately explains: ○ Data and Statistical Analysis ○ Results ○ Discussion ○ Conclusions	1 2 3 4 5	4		
Evaluation & Practice Application • Critique of: ○ Strengths ○ Limitations ○ Statistics • Addressed author's conclusion, but formulates own conclusion as well • Explains impact and/ or application to current research • Identifies further studies needed	1 2 3 4 5	4		
Ability to Answer Questions • Answers logically and accurately • Ability to think under pressure • May attempt to answer if unsure, but clearly specifies uncertainty if necessary	1 2 3 4 5	2		
Overall Presentation Delivery: • Organization and Preparedness ○ Information delivered logically	1 2 3 4 5	3		

• Communication and Presentation ○ Pronunciation ○ Confidence ○ Eye contact & Rate of speech ○ Transitions				
Total: Multiply the points earned (1-5) in each section by the factor to calculate the total points per outcome. Add the total for each outcome to determine the total points.				**Total Points:** **_____/100**

Grading Scale

Percentage	Grade
90.0-100	A
87.0-89.9	A-
84.0-86.9	B+
81.0-83.9	B
78.0-80.9	B-
75.0-77.9	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-
0-59.9	E

For more information on grade points and UF grading policies, see https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

VIII. Administrative Policies: see Student Handbook @
http://www.graduateschool.ufl.edu/media/graduate-school/pdf-files/handbook.pdf

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 that 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/.

Make up and attendance policy: Please contact Dr. Liang Zhou (Course instructor) at liangzhou497@ufl.edu directly regarding any serious illnesses, family emergencies, or prolonged absences that result in missed work. Any absences will require written verification. https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/

Disability Resource Center
http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/
Students in need of accommodations should directly contact the DRC to begin the approval and implementation process. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) is located on the main UF

campus and is available for students who request accommodations. OSI on the CVM campus works closely with the DRC to ensure student accommodations are met as articulated by the DRC. The DRC is able to assist students in receiving accommodations such as extended time for exams, low distraction environment, test reader or scribe and note-taking services. Please contact the DRC for more information on their processes and requirements (352-392-8565).
Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at https://evaluations.ufl.edu on the final day of the clerkship. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/.

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 (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/) 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.
Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center:
http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx, 392-1575

Contact information for the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies. Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

X. Office hours
Please contact the course instructor liangzhou497@ufl.edu for an appointment.

XI. Course Schedule and Presenters
Location: CVM Academic Building VMAB V3-114 or V3-108 (see table)
Time: 11:45am to 12:35pm (Friday).

Date	Location	Topic	Presenter	Instructional Unit
8/22	V3-114	Drop/Add Period: Course overview, distribution of published research articles if available for review, assignment of discussion leader for each session.	Liang Zhou	NA

8/29	V3-114	TBD	TBD	1
9/5	V3-114	TBD	TBD	2
9/12	V3-114	TBD	TBD	3
9/19	V3-114	TBD	TBD	4
9/26	V3-114	TBD	TBD	5
10/3	V3-114	TBD	TBD	6
10/10	V3-114	TBD	TBD	7
10/17		Holiday (Homecoming) – No Class		
10/24	V3-114	TBD	TBD	8
10/31	V3-114	TBD	TBD	9
11/7	V3-114	TBD	TBD	10
11/14	V3-114	TBD	TBD	11
11/21	V3-114	TBD	TBD	12
11/28		Holiday (Thanksgiving) – No Class		

XII. Communication with instructor: The preferred method of communication with the Instructor is via email or Zoom. For assistance with technical issues related to online aspects of this course the student should contact the UF Computing Helpdesk (helpdesk.ufl.edu; 352-392-4357).

XIII. 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 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 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 shcc.ufl.edu/.

University Police Department: Visit 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; ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center.