

**Instructors**

Ken Fedorka, PhD  
Professor  
Department of Biology  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday 10-12, Thursday 10-12, and by appointment.  
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Ken Teter, PhD  
Professor  
Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences  
**Office Hours:** Monday 1:00pm-3:00pm, Tuesday 11:00am – 1:00pm, Thursday 1:00pm-3:00pm, and by Appointment  
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Graduate Teaching Assistant  
Ian Biazzo  
Ph.D. Candidate, Biology  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday 11:30am-12:30pm, Thursday 8:30am-12:30pm & 1:30pm-4:30pm  
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**WebCourses:** Used for class communications, distribution of class materials, and homework submissions

**Class Schedule:** See separate document in WebCourses

**Email Communications:** All course communications should come through WebCourses

**Course Description (1 Credit Hour):** This course will introduce Life Science students to academic research and will prepare them to engage in research at UCF and beyond.

**Course Requirements:** Class attendance is mandatory. Both attendance and participation contribute to the final grade. A grade of C or higher in this course is required for continued enrollment in TRIP.

**Course Objectives:** At the end of this course, students will:

- Be aware of various Life Science career paths and how to prepare for them
- Be aware of the research opportunities at UCF and beyond
- Know of the basic expectations and requirements of the undergraduate researcher when conducting research with a faculty mentor
- Know the venues for science communication and how to find information on a research topic of interest
- Understand academic research and how science is conducted in an academic setting

**Grades:** The final grade will be based on the total number of points obtained out of 200. The standard 90/80/70 percentage scale for As, Bs, and Cs will be used.

200 points total

10 points each for the following assignments:

[Conducting a Literature Review online module](#)

[Avoiding Plagiarism online module](#)

[Online EH&S biological safety class](#)

[EH&S biological safety practical](#)

20 points for all remaining assignments (8)

**Attendance policy:** Students are allowed one unexcused absence. Thereafter, each unexcused absence will result in the loss of 10 points from the final grade. Students with three unexcused class absences will receive an F for the course. Please submit valid documentation for possible excused absences.

**Students with Special Need:** A student requiring special accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (Ferrell Commons 7F Room 185; 407-823-2371) in the first week of the semester and complete appropriate documents. The student should then contact a course professor to discuss needed accommodations.

**Ethics Statement:** As reflected in the UCF creed, integrity and scholarship are core values that should guide our conduct and decisions as members of the UCF community. Plagiarism and cheating contradict these values and are very serious academic offenses. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, or suspension or expulsion from the university. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the University's Rules of Conduct (see <http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu/>).

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## Course Schedule

- Aug. 24 CAT test (room TBD)  
Additional orientation information provided the Sunday before classes start
- Aug 31 [What is Science?](#)
- Sept 7 Faculty Research Projects  
Presentations on career paths and research interests. Optional lab tours during the week

### Careers in Research

- Sept 14 Career Paths  
[Economic Value of STEM Degrees](#), [General Career Paths](#), and [IDPs](#)  
HOMEWORK: COMPLETE AN IDP (Due 10/5)
- Sept 21 [How to be a Good Mentee](#)  
HOMEWORK: COMPLETE ONLINE SAFETY CLASSES (Due 12/3)
- Sept 28 [Planning for Post-TRIP Success](#) (HPA II room 247)  
[Summer research, internships, prestigious awards, graduate school, and professional school](#)  
HOMEWORK: Describe a summer program or internship of interest to you (Due 10/26)

HOMEWORK: Complete an application for that position (submission not necessary; Due 11/16)

- Oct 5      **Creating a Portfolio**  
The resume, job search, and job interview (Career Services guest lecture)  
HOMEWORK: PREPARE A RESUME (Due 11/9)  
HOMEWORK: FIND ONE LIFE SCIENCE JOB POSTING (Due 10/12)
- Oct 12     **Life Science Careers I**  
Guest presentation by Albert Serrano; UCF alumnus and former VaxDesign employee  
Brief student presentations on job searches from Oct. 5th class (5 presentations)
- Oct 19     **Life Science Careers II**  
Brief student presentations on job searches from Oct. 5th class (13 presentations)

### **Communicating Research**

- Oct 26     **Oral Presentations**  
Modes of presentation, effective speaking techniques  
HOMEWORK: ATTEND A SEMINAR & PROVIDE A WRITTEN SUMMARY (Due 12/3)

- Nov 2      **Research Literature**  
Finding literature and how to read a paper

### **The Practice of Research**

- Nov 9      **The Scientific Method**
- Nov 16     **Research Bias & Ethics**  
HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT: ONLINE PLAGIARISM MODULE (Due 12/3)
- Nov 23     **Research Ethics interactive session**
- Nov 30     GEAR research presentations by cohort 1  
Followed by Q&A without faculty

FINAL EXAM: Laboratory safety practical: Tuesday Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 - 6:50

Red presentations by Dr. Teter

Blue presentations by Dr. Fedorka

Green presentations by Dr. Schneider

Orange presentation by Ian Biazzo

Purple presentation by Aubrey Kuperman