

HOS 6932 Journal Colloquium – Professional Development for Plant Breeders

Graduate Level – 1 credit hour
Fall 2021

Instructors: Dr. Patricio R. Munoz
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Office Hours by appointment

Teaching Assistant: TBD

Location and time: Tuesday period 3 (9:35-10:20), Fifield 2316

Prerequisite None

Course Description

This course will focus on the question: What does it mean to be a plant breeder? To answer this question, we will cover all aspects of what a plant breeder does in academia, industry, government (USDA), and non-profit organizations. We will also cover the potential career path that a plant breeder can take after graduate school as well as practical aspects of the “plant breeding job” such as obtaining germplasm, management of personnel, and obtaining and managing budgets.

Intended Audience

The course is designed for graduate students working in plant breeding either early in their graduate education or ready to graduate and starting to look for jobs.

Course Objectives

In our intent to prepare career-ready students our objective is to expose students in plant breeding to all the different paths that their career could take, as well as to provide them with the knowledge they might need in these different career paths.

This exposure will ensure students are prepared to perform their best in their future careers. Students should be able to recognize the different paths and thus make an informed decision about their career and research project that maximize their chances to obtain a job in their chosen career path.

Evaluation

Students will be leading discussions (50 points) and moderating discussions with invited speakers (50 points).

Letter Grade

A >90 B+ 85 to 89 B 80 to 84 C+ 75 to 79 C 70 to 74 D+ 65 to 69 D 60 to 64 E < 60

UF grading policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Required and Recommended Literature

This course does not have any required literature.

Recommended Literature:

Coe et al 2020. Plant breeding capacity in U.S. public institutions. *Crop Science*

60(5). <https://doi.org/10.1002/csc2.20227>. <https://access.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/csc2.20227>

Course Schedule and Topics (Tentative)

Topic	Description
Wk 1	Introductions
Wk 2	Expectations, communication, time managing, and conflict handling
Wk 3	Careers in plant breeding – what jobs can a plant breeder perform?
Wk 4	Plant breeding: Starting a breeding program
Wk 5	Invited speaker – USDA Germplasm curator – Source of starting material for plant breeding and a job possibility in the USDA system
Wk 6	Invited speaker – pre-breeding
Wk 7	Plant breeding: Cost and budget – where to obtain funds to perform plant breeding, how to invest and manage them for the benefit of your breeding program
Wk 8	Invited speaker – plant breeding of row crops in academia
Wk 9	Invited speaker – plant breeding fruits in academia
Wk 10	Invited speaker – plant breeding in the CGIAR system
Wk 11	Plant breeding: Managing a team – from mentoring undergraduates to managing a team
Wk 12	Invited speaker – plant breeder of large teams in industry
Wk 13	Invited speaker – quantitative genetics and data analyst as a career path
Wk 14	Invited speaker – breeder of emerging crops – new opportunities
Wk 15	Invited speaker – plant breeding with emerging technologies
Wk 16	Plant breeding – releasing a cultivar – intellectual property

Attendance and Make-Up Work

“Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>”

Online Course Evaluation Process

“Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>”

Academic Honesty

“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-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.

Services for Students with Disabilities

“Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.”

Campus Helping 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: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 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, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies). <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>