

BIOL 3101 / 5101 Current / Special Topics in Biology, Ecology of Infectious Disease
Fall 2018

Instructor(s): Dr. Jim Grover

Office Number: Life Science 468, Life Science 206

Office Telephone Number: 817-272-9495 (direct); 817-272-2871 (Biology Dept., leave messages); 817-272-3491 (College of Science, leave messages)

Email Address: grover@uta.edu

Faculty Profile: <https://mentis.uta.edu/explore/profile/james-grover>

Office Hours: Wednesday 10-11 AM, Friday 10-11 AM, or by appointment (best)

Section Information: BIOL 3101-002; BIOL 5101-002

Time and Place of Class Meetings: Life Science 428, 5:30 – 6:20 PM

Description of Course Content: This is a seminar course in which students will read and discuss scientific literature on the ecology of infectious disease. Students are expected to take an active role in their learning, be prepared for class by reading and thinking about assigned literature, attending all classes, and participating regularly in discussion. There are no examinations and grading is based on assignments related to the course learning outcomes and content.

Student Learning Outcomes:

BIOL 3101 and BIOL 5101 (both):

- To become familiar with contemporary research on the ecology of infectious disease.
- To develop the ability to analyze scientific literature and identify their contributions to knowledge.
- To develop the ability to evaluate scientific literature critically, and identify weaknesses and unanswered questions.

BIOL 5101 (only):

- To find and select scientific publications of high quality that provide significant contributions or raise important questions.

Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials: Readings for this course will be posted on Blackboard.

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations: Publications to read will be posted weekly in Blackboard. Read each assigned paper in advance of class and write down

- three things that you learned, or found surprising or important
- three problems in the publication or questions that it raised (problems could include points that were unclear or poorly presented)

These “three things” should each be written on a piece of paper and turned in at the end of class. They should be written in complete sentences using good written English style. You should be prepared to present one or more of your points to the class.

Additional assignment for graduate students enrolled in BIOL 5101: You will be responsible for regularly nominating publications for the class to read. Numbers and due dates of nominations will be assigned based on the needs of the class. In making nominations you should try to recommend papers of high quality, and be sure to consider both relatively new papers (published in the last 5 years), and older “classic” papers. Each nomination should be written, and should include

- complete bibliographical information

- a short paragraph summarizing the paper and its important contributions
 - an explanation of why you think it is of high quality (e.g. citations, reputation of journal, reputation of authors)
 - a pdf copy of the paper, if it is not readily available from the UTA library
- Readings for the class will be selected from nominated papers.

Structure of class discussions:

- The nominator of the assigned paper will explain why they recommended it (5-10 minutes maximum).
- The instructor will randomly call upon individuals to share one of the three things they learned, or one of the three criticisms or questions they had.
- Open discussion of the points raised previously.

To allow time for nominations and selections of publications, and to get everyone used to the structure of class discussions, the first two class discussions on Sept. 4 and 11 will involve papers selected by the instructor:

For Sept. 4:

Hedrick, S. M. 2017. Understanding immunity through the lens of disease ecology. *Trends in Immunology* 38(12): 888-903, <https://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.it.2017.08.001>.

For Sept. 11:

Cable, J., I. Barber, B. Boag, A. R. Ellison, E. R. Morgan, K. Murray, E. L. Pascoe, S. M. Sait, A. J. Wilson, and M. Booth. 2018. Global change, parasite transmission and disease control: lessons from ecology. *Philosophical Transactions B, Royal Society of London*, 372: 20160088, <https://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2016.0088>.

Attendance: At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I have established the attendance policy described in the Grading section of this syllabus.

While UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients "begin attendance in a course." UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

Grading:

BIOL 3101		BIOL 5101	
Three Things Reports	50%	Nominations	20%
Attendance	30%	Three Things Reports	30%
Participation	20%	Attendance	30%
		Participation	20%

Grading of Three Things Reports:

Solid A, 100 points – clearly written in full sentences with no more than a few errors of English style
 A/B, 90 points – has noticeable errors of style but uses full sentences and meaning is clear
 B/C, 80 points – fails to use full sentences consistently, meaning may or may not be clear
 C/D, 70 points – fails to use full sentences, meaning usually not clear

Grading of Nominations (BIOL 5101 only):

Solid A, 100 points – clearly states the important contributions and the basis for judging quality

A/B, 90 points – either the important contributions or the basis for quality is unclear

B/C, 80 points – both the important contributions and the basis for quality are unclear

Grading of Attendance: Everybody starts with the full 30 points. One excused absence is allowed, any additional absences cause a 2 point deduction from the total. An absence is excused only when the instructor is notified by email in advance of the class time, with an explanation of the circumstances. Additional absences will be considered excused only for documented medical or other uncontrollable reasons. Absences for participation in University athletics will be excused under the policy applying in such cases. Other kinds of absences will usually not be excused. You are expected to arrange your known work and family obligations so that you are able to attend and participate regularly in this class.

Grading of Participation: Full points will be scored if you are consistently able to provide a discussion point from your Three Things Report when called upon.

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels; see “Student Support Services,” below.

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study: Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an one hour per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc. In some cases, more time may be needed.

Grade Grievances: Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current University Catalog. For undergraduate courses, see <http://catalog.uta.edu/academicregulations/grades/-undergraduatetext>; for graduate courses, see <http://catalog.uta.edu/academicregulations/grades/#graduatetext>. For student complaints, see <http://www.uta.edu/deanofstudents/complaints/index.php>.

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

Disability Accommodations: UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a **letter certified** by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting: **The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD)** <http://www.uta.edu/disability/> or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

Non-Discrimination Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos.

Title IX Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. *For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX or contact Ms. Michelle Willbanks, Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-4585 or titleix@uta.edu*

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code in their courses by having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>. Faculty are encouraged to discuss plagiarism and share the following library tutorials <http://libguides.uta.edu/copyright/plagiarism> and <http://library.uta.edu/plagiarism/>

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Campus Carry: Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” are directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students’ anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish

student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: for semester-long courses, a period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. From room 428, turn left, go through the double doors, proceed down the staircase and exit the building from the lobby. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include [tutoring](#), [major-based learning centers](#), developmental education, [advising and mentoring](#), personal counseling, and [federally funded programs](#). For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/studentssuccess/success-programs/programs/resource-hotline.php>

The IDEAS Center (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers **FREE tutoring** to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. Students can drop in, or check the schedule of available peer tutors at www.uta.edu/IDEAS, or call (817) 272-6593.

The English Writing Center (411LIBR): The Writing Center offers **FREE** tutoring in 15-, 30-, 45-, and 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Register and make appointments online at <https://uta.mywconline.com>.

The Library's 2nd floor Academic Plaza offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the library's hours of operation. <http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza>

Course Schedule

Date	Activity
August 28	Discussion of course syllabus and scientific literature
September 4	Discussion of paper: Hedrick, S. M. 2017. Understanding immunity through the lens of disease ecology. Trends in Immunology 38(12): 888-903, https://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.it.2017.08.001 .
September 11	Discussion of paper: Cable, J., I. Barber, B. Boag, A. R. Ellison, E. R. Morgan, K. Murray, E. L. Pascoe, S. M. Sait, A. J. Wilson, and M. Booth. 2018. Global change, parasite transmission and disease control: lessons from ecology. Philosophical Transactions B, Royal Society of London, 372: 20160088, https://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2016.0088 .
September 18	Discussion of assigned paper(s)
September 25	Discussion of assigned paper(s)
October 2	Discussion of assigned paper(s)
October 9	Discussion of assigned paper(s)
October 16	Discussion of assigned paper(s)
October 23	Discussion of assigned paper(s)
October 30	Discussion of assigned paper(s)
November 6	Discussion of assigned paper(s)
November 13	Discussion of assigned paper(s)
November 21	Discussion of assigned paper(s)
November 27	Discussion of assigned paper(s)
December 4	To be determined

As instructor of this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that served the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. Schedule changes will be announced in class and posted in Blackboard.

Emergency Phone Numbers: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381

LIBRARY INFORMATION library.uta.edu

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

Research or General Library Help

Academic Plaza Consultation Services library.uta.edu/academic-plaza

Ask Us ask.uta.edu/

Library Tutorials library.uta.edu/how-to

Subject and Course Research Guides libguides.uta.edu

Librarians by Subject library.uta.edu/subject-librarians

Research Coaches <http://libguides.uta.edu/researchcoach>

Resources

A to Z List of Library Databases libguides.uta.edu/az.php

Course Reserves pulse.uta.edu/vwebv/enterCourseReserve.do

Study Room Reservations openroom.uta.edu/