

**ALS 4932**  
**Exploring Research Opportunities in CALS**  
**UF Honors Program**

Fall 2021 Semester (Class Number 25821) 1 credit

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This class will meet in-person: Thursdays (3:00-4:55pm) in Turlington, room 2342. There are no pre-requisites for this course. The class will meet starting August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and end on October 14, 2021.

**Office Hours (Dr. Wysocki)**

Thursdays from 8:00 am – 9:00 am. If I am unable to keep office hours on a given day, I will email the class the day before to notify you. I will be using the Canvas mail system and the UF listserv to communicate class information to you, so you must be checking your ufl.edu email account on a regular basis. If the office hours don't work for you, I am happy to schedule an appointment outside of office hours. The easiest thing to do is to call our office (352-392-1963) and ask for an appointment with me.

**Co- Instructors**

Dr. R. Elaine Turner – Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences ([returmer@ufl.edu](mailto:returmer@ufl.edu))  
Dr. Charlotte H. Emerson – Director of Student Development and Recruitment ([cemer@ufl.edu](mailto:cemer@ufl.edu))

**Required Material** We will be using Clifton Strengths for Students this term. We have purchased the Clifton Strengths for Students for each of you to take the “Clifton Strengths for Students” assessment. Details for taking this assessment are found on the course website. There are no additional materials and supplies fees.

**Course Description**

In this course, we will work with honors students across the university to develop an action plan for deeper involvement in their disciplines, whether that be through undergraduate research, internships, leadership, global experiences, or other opportunities.

This course operates on a blended and flipped classroom model. There will be guided work completed online outside of class, complemented by in-class activities, including discussions and visits to research facilities in IFAS (Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences). The combination of out-of-class independent work with in-class activities will allow students to develop a well-researched path to further involvement in the agricultural and life sciences fields.

**Learning Objectives**

By the end of the course, as a student, you will be able to:

1. Understand the undergraduate research opportunities available in CALS.
2. Confidently approach faculty about obtaining a research experience.
3. Give an elevator speech about yourself and your research interests.
4. Present yourself as a more effective student researcher.

**Course Website**

Throughout the semester, we will rely on our course website. It is best for you to access the course website through the “e-Learning Support Services Homepage.” You will need a Gatorlink account (discussed above) to log on to Canvas in E-Learning. To log on to Canvas in E-Learning, you must go to <http://lss.at.ufl.edu/> and click on the hyperlink “e-Learning.” Click continue and enter your Gatorlink ID and password. You will then be taken to the “My Courses” Homepage. From here, you can easily access the course website by clicking on the appropriate hyperlink (ALS4932).

## Student Responsibilities

**Lectures, readings, exercises, and cases** will be used throughout the course. You are responsible for all in-class material presented and for all assignments of out-of-class work. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get notes from classmates and to talk with the instructor about assignment(s) that are due.

**Command of knowledge and course concepts** will be shown through written and oral activities. You are responsible for applying what you have learned to various activities that will be assigned. This course requires that students go beyond mere memorization of facts. As a student, you must be willing to apply concepts to your daily life. You are encouraged to maintain an open, receptive, and inquisitive attitude toward learning.

### Covid and our Class

We respectfully ask that each of you wear a mask (even if you have been vaccinated) in our classroom and when we are visiting research facilities. Your instructors will be wearing their masks. If you are not cleared for campus or have another excused absence, we will work with you to make up missed assignments and do our best to let you know what you missed from our visits.

### Course grades will be assigned by the following criteria:

For detailed information regarding UF grading policies for assigning grade points, check the following undergraduate catalog web page <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

A	92-100%	C	72-75.99%
A-	89-91.99%	C-	69-71.99%
B+	86-88.99%	D+	66-68.99%
B	82-85.99%	D	62-65.99%
B-	79-81.99%	D-	59-61.99%
C+	76-78.99%	E	<58.99%

It is expected that students will keep track of their course progress on the course website as grades will be updated frequently throughout the semester. Any discrepancies should be reported as soon as possible.

### Grading Calculation Breakdown

Your final course grade will consist of a weighted average of the following:

Weekly Activities .....	<u>40%</u>
Class Participation .....	<u>30%</u>
Reflections .....	<u>30%</u>
Total	100%

#### Weekly Activities (40% of your final course grade)

Most weeks you will be asked to complete short activities related to the readings and to events that are taking place on campus and the world. Some activities will be worked in in class and others will be turned in electronically, via Canvas and will be due on **Wednesdays by 11:59 pm**. These short activities are designed to encourage you to keep up with the readings and to test your knowledge of course concepts and readings prior to the regularly scheduled classes. In addition to the weekly activities, you will receive also receive grades in this category for completing your information sheet, having your picture taken for the information sheet, and meeting with your instructor.

#### Reflections (30% of your final course grade)

There will be activities that will be asked to complete. Some of these activities will require a brief reflection paper on your experience. Additional details regarding reflections can be found on the course website.

#### Make-Up Work

If you need to miss class, please let us know before the class. Excused absences include: illness, death in the family, and job interviews. This make up policy is designed to be consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

### **Class Participation (30% of your final course grade)**

Given the nature of the honors program, your class participation is critical to the success of this learning experience. Since there are relatively few students in the class, we expect to get to know each of you well. We will use a simple scale to evaluate your participation each time we meet. The scale is as follows:

- 5 pts – Just showing up to class.
- 8 pts – Made comments in class, responded to questions and comments from fellow students.
- 10 pts – Made significant contributions to our discussion and learning.

### **Visiting Research Facilities**

Most class sessions involve traveling to research facilities (we provide the transportation if the location is not within walking distance), to meet faculty who will explain their research programs to you. Your attendance and contribution for these planned events will be noted as part of your class participation grade.

### **Important Dates**

Our First Day of Class	Thursday August 26, 2021
University Drop/Add Deadline	Friday August 27, 2021 (11:59 pm)
All students have picture taken/ Info Sheets Due	Thursday September 2, 2021
Weekly Assignments	Due Wednesdays by 11:59 pm
Last Day to Drop a Class	Monday November 22, 2021 (11:59 pm)
<b>Last Class for our Class</b>	Thursday October 14, 2021

### **E-Mail Accounts**

**During the course of the semester, the instructor will rely heavily on e-mail as a vehicle for distribution of important information** (e.g., quizzes, guest lectures, reading assignments). We will use the email system within Canvas. In addition to Canvas, **Students are required to check their Gatorlink e-mail on a daily basis.** Students at the University of Florida have the privilege of a Gatorlink account mailbox and computer lab access. To establish a Gatorlink account, the URL is <http://www.gatorlink.ufl.edu>. You may also go to CIRCA, in the HUB, to establish an account there.

### **Services for Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center.](#) 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.

### **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.

### **Online Course Evaluation Process**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner.](#) 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 [ufl.bluera.com/ufl/](http://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/). [Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here.](#)

### **Campus Resources**

#### ***Health and Wellness***

- *U Matter, We Care:* If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

- *Counseling and Wellness Center*: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website 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 the Student Health Care Center website.
- *University Police Department*: [UFPD website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 911 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; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.
- *GatorWell Health Promotion Services*: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450.

### **Academic Resources**

- *E-learning technical support*: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).
- *Career Connections Center*: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling.
- *Library Support*: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- *Teaching Center*: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
- *Writing Studio*: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- *Student Complaints On-Campus*: Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information. On-Line Students Complaints: View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.

### **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 Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Conduct Code](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

### **Recording of course lectures**

“Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture **does not** include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.”

## Course Schedule

The order of the coverage of class topics may change depending on when we can obtain access to the faculty and presenters.

Date	Topic	Assignments
<b>Class 1:</b> <b>(Thursday Aug 26, 2021)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Day of Class</li> <li>• The Land Grant Mission</li> <li>• Syllabus Review</li> <li>• Ice Breaker</li> <li>• Approaching Faculty on Research</li> <li>• Research Office Presentation</li> </ul>	<b>Due September 1:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Info Sheet &amp; Picture</li> <li>• Clifton Strengths</li> <li>• Research Interest Elevator Speech</li> </ul>
<b>Class 2:</b> <b>(Thursday Sept. 2, 2021)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research Interest Elevator Speeches</li> <li>• Resume assignment instructions</li> <li>• Clifton Strengths Feedback/Review (Alison Noonan CCC)</li> </ul>	<b>Due September 8:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resume Assignment</li> </ul>
<b>Class 3:</b> <b>(Thursday Sept. 9, 2021)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leveraging your library resources Presentation by Melody Royster <b>UF Agricultural Sciences Librarian</b> Room 308 Marston Science Library</li> <li>• To TA or Not to TA?</li> </ul>	<b>Due September 15:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gathering Research Intel Assignment</li> <li>• Reflections visit with Melody Royster</li> </ul>
<b>Class 4:</b> <b>(Thursday Sept. 16, 2021)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit <b>Animal Sciences Department</b> Dr. Chad Carr, Mrs. Amie Imler 2250 Shealy Drive, Gainesville, FL 32611</li> <li>• Resumes handed back</li> </ul>	<b>Due September 22:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend the CALS Coffee &amp; Careers event September 21 (2025 McCarty D), have your resume reviewed</li> <li>• Revised resume due</li> <li>• Reflection on visit with Animal Sciences</li> </ul>
<b>Class 5:</b> <b>(Thursday Sept. 23, 2021)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit <b>Entomology and Nematology Department.</b> Dr. Rebecca Baldwin 1881 Natural Area Drive Gainesville, FL 32611</li> </ul>	<b>Important Dates:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UF Career Showcase (9/28): 9-3 pm, O’Connell Center Gate 3</li> <li>• Study Abroad Fair (9/29): 10-3 pm, Reitz North Lawn</li> </ul> <b>Due September 29:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Find UF faculty member whose research you are interested in</li> <li>• Reflection on visit with Entomology/Nematology</li> </ul>
<b>Class 6:</b> <b>(Thursday Sept. 30, 2021)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit <b>Family Nutrition Program</b> Dr. Karla Shelnett FSHN Building 572 Newell Drive Gainesville, FL 32611</li> </ul>	<b>Due October 6:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflection on visit with Family Nutrition Program</li> </ul>
<b>Class 7:</b> <b>(Thursday Oct. 7, 2021)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit <b>Environmental Horticulture Department.</b> Dr. Kevin Begcy and Dr. Swathi Nadakuduti. 1535 Fifield Hall Gainesville, FL 32611</li> </ul>	<b>Important Dates:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UF Fall Research Expo (10/7): 5-7 pm, Reitz Union Grand Ballroom</li> </ul> <b>Due October 13:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflection: Write an email draft to potential research mentor</li> <li>• Reflection on visit with Environmental Horticulture</li> </ul>
<b>Class 8:</b> <b>(Thursday Oct. 14, 2021)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit <b>Food Sensory Lab</b> to conduct a taste panel, Dr. Charlie Sims Aquatic Food Production Pilot Plant 520 Newell Drive, Bldg. 120</li> <li>• Ice Cream Social</li> </ul>	<b>Important Dates:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CALS Kickoff: (10/14), 5:30-7:30 pm, Grand Ballroom, J. Wayne Reitz Union</li> </ul> <b>Due October 20:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Reflection on the course</li> <li>• Thank You letters to researchers that interacted with the class</li> </ul>