

Course syllabus: **Topics in Chemosensory Sciences Journal Club**

GMS7955, Fall 2024

I. General Information

Course Director:

Dan Wesson, Ph.D.; Professor & Chair
Dept of Pharmacology and Therapeutics
University of Florida, College of Medicine
Florida Chemical Senses Institute
ofc: ARB 5-234, 352-294-8767, danielwesson@ufl.edu
ofc hours by appointment only

Location:

Academic Research Building (ARB) Maren conference room, room R5-231

Time/day: Tuesday 10:30-11:30 (see calendar below for specific dates)

II. Description and educational goals

Throughout the animal kingdom, animals rely upon sensory information for their survival. Chemosensation is an especially powerful means of sensing both external/environmental as well as internal signals to promote the display of appropriate behaviors, inform decisions, and ultimately afford organisms, including humans, the ability to survive. Through this journal club you will gain an appreciation for chemosensation, including how cells transduce chemosensory stimuli, how chemosensory information is processed by the nervous system, and how perception is ultimately achieved.

III. Course organization and calendar

This journal club will meet for 7 student-led discussions of primary research articles.

Date	Discussion leader / Topic
August 27th	Course introduction
September 3rd	Sarah Sniffen
September 17th	Zach Markovich
October 3rd	Maria Ramirez
October 8th	Amelia Bunnell
October 15th	Sequoia Smith
October 22nd	Nick Wendrick
November 5th	Cristina Mercado
November 19th	Yasmin Ortiz

IV. Evaluations and grading

Grading will be in accordance with UF policy (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>) and will be based upon a combination of your participation, professionalism, and presentation, as follows:

<p>20% -- your presentation of a primary literature research article</p> <p>50% -- participation (~7pts/class)</p> <p>30% -- professionalism (~4pts/class)</p> <p>100% TOTAL POSSIBLE</p>

All students are expected to participate in discussions within the class, every class session.

How is **participation** evaluated? These are examples of ideal participation:

Contributes by offering quality ideas and asking appropriate questions on a regular basis.
Actively engages others in class discussions by inviting their comments.
Constructively challenges the accuracy and relevance of statements made.
Effectively identifies and summarizes main points.
Always prepared for class with assignments and required materials.
Accurately expresses foundational knowledge pertaining to issues raised during the discussion.

How is **professionalism** evaluated? These are example of ideal professionalism:

Always listens attentively when others speak.
Consistently positive, cooperative attitude during class.
Makes a positive impact on the class.

V. Guidance and selection of research articles

Junior students will seek guidance from more experienced/senior students in the selection of a “good” article for their journal club presentation. Articles should be emailed to your peers at least a week before your presentation date.

What makes a “good” article for your presentation? Consider the following:

Is the article on-topic for this journal club? Hint: It must be overtly motivated by understanding the chemical senses.
Is the article timely (in the past 2 years max)?
Would the article spark discussion and provoke thought in this audience?
Would it facilitate a positive discussion? In other words, not so flawed [in your mind] that the others in the journal club will take away useful knowledge?

VI. Attendance

“Requirements for class attendance ... 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>.”

Given especially that this journal club is held sparsely throughout the semester, please never miss an event, or be late. If you miss an event whether due to illness, a conference, or simply forgetfulness, please email Dan briefly what the reason was and cc your faculty mentor. If not excused you will miss participation and professionalism for that day.

VII. Miscellaneous important information

a) Accommodations 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.”

b) Online course evaluation process:

The course evaluation process in accordance with the [UF Policy on Course Syllabi](#).

“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 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/>.”

c) Student conduct and demeanor:

I expect students to be passionate about topics within this course and to approach the discussions with creativity and thoughtfulness. While critical discussion is encouraged, all students are expected to be respectful of unique opinions which may differ from their own. It is also expected students will engage faculty and seminar speakers with the utmost respect and courtesy.

d) University policy regarding cheating, plagiarism, etc:

“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] in this class.”

e) Campus resources:

The following resources are available to you at UF:

U Matter, We Care:

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that you can talk with a team member or so a team member can reach out to your friend.

Counseling and Wellness Center:

last updated: 8/28/24

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 911 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS) Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department, 392-1111 (or 911 for emergencies). <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>

f) Academic resources:

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.