

ALS4404: Feast or Famine in Florence

Location: Florence, Italy; Summer A 2019.

Catalog Description: (3 credits) Learn the history of how events and people in Florence (and Italy) helped shape our current understanding of many different sciences. Plague, Galileo, silk production and trade, and the Medici's influence on artists (who are considered by many to be scientists) has shaped human history and the food we eat. Students will be immersed in these topics as they explore the art, science, and food production in Italy. Students will visit multiple museums, historical locations, and tour olive oil, cheese, and wine producing agricultural operations to explore these intertwined disciplines.

Textbook: Nature and Its Symbols. Lucia Impelluso. Copies of this text are provided in the FUA Library.

Course Learning Objectives: Students completing this course will be able to:

1. Illustrate the biological influences driving science and art in the Middle Ages.
2. Compare and contrast Italian and American experiences in art, agriculture, and other biological sciences.
3. Explain the historical significance of insects and crops on Italian development.
4. Recognize the risks that agriculture and our food security face with diminishing resources.
5. Assess the benefits and costs of current biological issues facing science and society.
6. Explain the importance of scientific discovery on olive oil, cheese, and wine production.

At the end of this course, students will be expected to have achieved the following learning outcomes in content, communication and critical thinking:

Content: We will utilize a flipped classroom design to allow students sufficient time to review introductory scientific materials provided through narrated PowerPoints, videos, reading assignments, and experiential assignments. In class, we will discuss how each topic relates to the scientific method and the resultant societal impacts.

Communication: *Course focus on major scientific developments and their impacts on society, science and the environment, and the relevant processes that govern biological systems.* This course was developed specifically to take advantage of the birthplace of the Renaissance and its close ties with the study of biological sciences. Students will develop communication skills as we progress through each of the weekly topics. Through exposure to current scientific topics such as crops at risk due to new olive diseases, and food safety/security concerns, students will have access to excellent content for their discussion postings and in-person exchanges.

Course hashtag: #UF Bugs

We encourage students to share course-related photos and information using the course hashtag and the hashtag #GlobalGators on Twitter and Instagram.

Instructors: This course will be co-taught in Florence, Italy during Summer A by two instructors.

1. Dr. Jennifer L. Gillett-Kaufman, Associate Extension Scientist, Entomology and Nematology Department, gillett@ufl.edu
2. Dr. Phillip E. Kaufman, Professor, Entomology and Nematology Department, pkaufman@ufl.edu

Meeting Times: 9:00 to 11:00 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, for in class lectures and several field learning experiences. Some field learning experiences (marked below with an * asterisk) will require an early start time and/or extended participation until 12:00.

Meeting Location: Florence University of the Arts, Florence, Italy. Class will have both formal classroom meetings and multiple field trips during class time. Classroom to be announced.

Canvas: This course utilizes the Canvas system in e-Learning at the University of Florida to supplement in-class learning. <https://elearning2.courses.ufl.edu/portal> Course materials, including narrated PowerPoints (slides available as PDFs) with associated quizzes will be placed on this site for full student access. Students are required to listen to narrated PowerPoints, read papers, and/or watch videos before class meeting times and be prepared to discuss the information from the pre-work. Student grades will be posted on this site as they are finalized. Most assignments will be submitted in class or on Canvas. All critical dates will be posted on the syllabus page in Canvas, check there for changes in the course schedule.

Office Hours: Given the uncertainty of the course location and timing, both Dr. Gillett-Kaufman and Dr. Kaufman will be available to students by appointment from 7:30 AM until 8:30 PM. Please utilize email, gillett@ufl.edu or pkaufman@ufl.edu, as appropriate to make an appointment. The instructors' cell phone numbers will be provided on Canvas and the first day of class. Please call us if you are having a problem and require immediate assistance.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is required for all sessions. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>. Specifics on Assignment Policy and late submissions appear below.

Assignment Policy: All assignments are due by the date and time posted.

Late submissions: Late submissions for all assignments will be docked 10% on the individual component grade for each 24 hours after each deadline. Quizzes, discussions, presentations and tests cannot be made-up unless the instructors are provided a University-accepted excused absence (see Attendance Policy URL) for which replacement exercises will be assigned.

Material and Supply Fees: TBD

Grading: Grading will be based on 300 points

Pre-class or in-class quizzes, based on PPT and readings (5 pts. x 6 quizzes)

Online discussion and participation (5 pts. x 6 posts)

Individual presentation (25 pts. x 4 presentations)

Group Field Learning presentation (30 pts.)

Mid-term test: (40 pts.)

Final test: (70 pts.)

ALS4404	Number	Individual Point Value	Total Points
Quizzes	6	5	30
Discussion & participation	6	5	30
Individual presentations	2	25	50
Two person presentations	2	25	50
Group presentation	1	30	30
Mid-term test	1	40	40
Final test	1	70	70

Grading Scale:

Grade	Percentage	Minimum points required for grade
A	90-100	270
B+	88-89.999	264
B	80-87.999	240
C+	78-79.999	234
C	70-77.999	210
D	60-69.999	180
E	<60	<180

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Required Readings: To maximize student interaction, instructors employ a flipped-classroom experience using Canvas to deliver readings, videos, and lecture PPT files so students spend class time in the field or delivering presentations and discussing observations made on field trips. As such, readings are arranged by lecture on Canvas and students will be quizzed on content before class online on Canvas.

Tentative Course Schedule: [Check your ufl.edu email address and Canvas for updates.](#)

Week 1:

May 14, Tuesday: *Pre-class syllabus quiz 1 on Canvas 5 points.* Flipped-classroom activity: Review the online syllabus. Overview of course assignments, expectations and conduct. Cooperating with strangers, networking exercise. Introduction to Field Learning expectations. ***Assigned topics for all of your in-class presentations will be given today.***

May 15, Wednesday: In-class, short lecture on the impact of insects on human health and a discussion on important diseases of European and Italian history, including bubonic plague (fleas).

May 16, Thursday: **Field Learning.** Romans- building the foundation for a healthy city.

Week 2:

May 20, Monday: *Pre-class quiz 2 on Canvas 5 points.* “Bad air” and Cooties: How ancient and modern cultures handle(d) pestilence. In-class short lecture on the Italian founders of science including Galileo, Michelangelo, and Leonardo.

May 21, Tuesday: **Field Learning.** Walk around Florence with a visit to the Basilica of San Miniato al Monte and its associated cemetery to discuss modern and historical Italian burial practices.

May 22, Wednesday: **Field Learning.** Where did all the bodies go??? Walk around Florence and visit buildings with design elements that are symbolic of plague. Visit a site of mass burials attributed to plague and discuss cultural significance of changes in burial practices. And visit the Basilica di Santa Croce.

May 23, Thursday: What happened in history? Short in-class individual student presentations of assigned historical events and individuals.

Week 3:

May 27, Monday: *Pre-class quiz 3 on Canvas 5 points.* In-class discussion on locusts in history and their migration from Africa to Europe. Discussion about benefits of Peace Corps service and the UF Peace Corps Prep Program.

May 28, Tuesday: In-class short lecture on wine wasps and honey bees. In-class discussion on how these insects have helped agriculture in Italy.

May 29, Wednesday: **Field learning.** University botanical garden visit. Student assigned plant and pest presentations delivered in garden on plant families and common pests.

May 30, Thursday: [Mid-term test in class!](#)

Week 4:

June 3, Monday: *No class today!*

June 4, Tuesday: *Pre-class quiz 5 on Canvas 5 points.* Field Learning expectations.

June 5, Wednesday: Insect and nature in art: An overview of symbolism. Student two person presentations on assigned animals and plants in art. In class discussion of mid-term.

June 6, Thursday: *Pre-class quiz 4 on Canvas 5 points.* Flipped-classroom activity: Reading on introduced and invasive species, olive decline. In class lecture. Olive production and pests.

*****These events may be moved to another date or changed to another location*****

*****June 7, Friday: Early start field learning. 8:30!** What is in your olive oil? Olive grove insect management tour and olive oil tasting. Fattoria di Maiano. *Class ends at 3:00 today.

*****June 8, Saturday: Field learning. Chiantishire (8:00 am - 8:00 pm).** This Field Learning activity will lead students through one of the most charming areas of Tuscany, rich in architecture, history, gastronomical traditions, and untouched nature. A visit to the Antinori cellars in Bargino, San Casciano in Val di Pesa, is also included.

Week 5:

June 10, Monday: Silk production and trade, historical trade routes and modern production methods. Why people love to wear caterpillar cocoons!

June 11, Tuesday: Foundations of science – what was lost is found again! Presentation preparation, and Feast and Famine team group work.

June 12, Wednesday: Student individual presentations on different assigned instruments/topics from the Galileo Museum of the History of Science.

June 13, Thursday: Field learning. Hoarders? What we can learn from some of the earliest scientific collections. Visit the natural history museum (Museum la Specola).

Week 6:

June 17, Monday: *Pre-class quiz 6 on Canvas 5 points.* **Field learning.** Discuss changes in the scientific method and scientific instrumentation over time, tour the Galileo Museum of the History of Science.

June 18, Tuesday: Field Learning Wine, Meat, and Cheese Group presentations. In class review for final.

June 19, Wednesday: [Final test in class!](#)

June 20, Thursday: Final course evaluation.

Online Course Evaluation Process

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open for students to complete during the last two or three weeks of the semester; students will be notified of the specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

Academic Honesty

As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: *"We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity."* You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit 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."*

It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>.

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

The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation

0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/

Campus Helping Resources

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

Your course instructors, Drs. Gillett-Kaufman and Kaufman, will provide you with cell phone numbers that you can call day or night if you need assistance.

- *University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575, www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/*

Counseling Services

Groups and Workshops

Outreach and Consultation

Self-Help Library

Wellness Coaching

- *Career Resource Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, www.crc.ufl.edu/*