

Valdosta State University
Department of Biology
BIOL 7900, Section A: Graduate Seminar
Course Syllabus, Fall 2023

Instructor: Dr. Erin Grabarczyk

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In-person office hours: Monday 9-10AM, Wednesday 3:30-4:30PM, or by appointment.

Virtual office hours: Thursday 9AM-12PM on TEAMS, or by appointment.

Lecture: Wednesday, 5-6:50PM in BSC 1202

Course description: This is a graduate seminar course meant to introduce students to the graduate program, provide tips and tools for success, as well as an introduction to R program software and R studio. Educational outcomes associated with this course include numbers 1 and 2 as specified by the VSU Biology Department for its Master's program, and general outcomes numbers 3, 4, 5, and 7 as specified by the University.

Required book: R for Data Science (2e) by Hadley Wickham, Mine Çetinkaya-Rundel, & Garrett Grolemund.

AVAILABLE FOR FREE ONLINE: <https://r4ds.hadley.nz/>

Class Policies

- **Classroom etiquette:** Please be on time. Please turn off your cell phone. Be respectful of yourself, your classmates, and your instructor. If you are disrupting the class, I will ask you to leave.
- **Ask questions:** If you have a question or don't understand something please let me know. I am more than willing to take as much time as necessary to help you understand a concept, but you have to ask!
- **Late work:** Once during the semester you may turn in late work for full credit. I will give you 48 hours to submit your work, no questions asked. Your assignment needs to be emailed to me, turned into my mailbox in the biology office, or submitted on BlazeVIEW. After your one late work turn-in, late assignments will not be accepted.
- **Email:** Use your VSU account for e-mail communication.
- **Cheating:** You are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the policies and procedures in the Undergraduate Catalogs that pertain to Academic Honesty. These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse. [The policies can be found at <http://valdosta.edu> under Student Code of Conduct.] If there is reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. You will be given the opportunity to review the charge(s). If you

believe you are not responsible, you will have the opportunity for a hearing. You should consult with your instructor if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment or test. All forms of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to collusion, fabrication, cheating and plagiarism are worthy of punishment according to the policy set forth by Valdosta State University. This includes doing your own work on lab assignments. While you are allowed to brainstorm with each other, it is expected that your answers are your own. **I will not tolerate any form of cheating.**

AI: VSU's **Academic Student Conduct Code** states that "no student shall engage in plagiarism, which is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were the student's own." Content generated by an Artificial Intelligence third-party service or site (AI-generated content) without proper citation is another form of plagiarism. If you are unsure about whether something may be plagiarism or another form of academic dishonesty, please reach out to me as soon as possible.

Accommodation Statement: Students with disabilities who are experiencing barriers in this course may contact the Access Office (<https://www.valdosta.edu/student/disability/>) for assistance in determining and implementing reasonable accommodations. The Access Office is located in University Center Room 4136 Entrance 5. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V), 229-375-5871. For more information, please visit VSU's Access Office or email: access@valdosta.edu. To request reasonable accommodations for pregnancy and childbirth, contact Ms. Myia Miller, Title IX Compliance Officer, at maburden@valdosta.edu. Please note, you will be required to provide documentation from an appropriately licensed medical professional indicating the requested accommodations are medically necessary.

Title IX Statement: Valdosta State University (VSU) upholds all applicable laws and policies regarding discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment and pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, religion, age, veteran status, political affiliation, or disability. The University prohibits specific forms of behavior that violate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities that receive federal funding. VSU considers sex discrimination in any form to be a serious offense. Title IX refers to all forms of sex discrimination committed against others, including but not limited to: sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence by other employees, students or third parties and gender inequity or unfair treatment based on an individual's sex/gender. The designated Title IX Coordinator for VSU is Ms. Selenseia Holmes. To view the full policy or to report an incident visit: <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/title-ix/>

Grading Scale:

Letter	%	Points
A	90-100	139-155
B	80-89	124-138
C	70-79	108-123
D	60-69	93-107
F	<60	<93

Assignments:

Participation (65 points)

Schedule (10 points)

Progress report (10 points)

CV (10 points)

Manuscript review (20 points)

Literature cited (20 points)

ggplots figure (10 points)

R package discussion (10 points)

Tentative Course Schedule:

Week	Date	Tentative topic(s)	Assignment
1	Aug 16	Introduction to seminar, Grad School Survival 101	
2	Aug 23	Scheduling, time management, keeping up in your program	Schedule
3	Aug 30	Promote yourself, create an online profile, how to impress your advisor	Progress report
4	Sept 6	CV	CV
5	Sept 13	Review manuscript submissions	Manuscript review
6	Sept 20	Build a citation index	Literature cited
7	Sept 27	Introduction to R & R studio. Importing data: objects, functions & coding	
8	Oct 4	Data transformation	R package discussion
9	Oct 11	ggplots	ggplots figure
10	Oct 18	TBD	
11	Oct 25	Exploratory Data Analysis	
12	Nov 1	Exploratory Data Analysis	
13	Nov 8	Tidy data	
14	Nov 15	Graphics for Communication	
15	Nov 29	Review	