

# Non-Thesis Capstone Project

## ENY 6905

2-3 credits, variable

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### *Course Description*

This course serves as the final project for the non-thesis M.S. degree students. Students demonstrate their ability to apply knowledge gained during their graduate program to develop a scholarly work that addresses important problems/issues/opportunities of professional interest to them.

### *Course Objectives*

At the end of the course, diligent students will be able to:

1. Apply scientific principles and an understanding of the scientific process
2. Apply graduate coursework to an area of specific professional or personal interest.
3. Generate new knowledge for appropriate instruction, extension or research fields.
4. Create educational materials for appropriate audiences.
5. Communicate the results of the project clearly in writing and in poster or oral presentation form.

### *Course Prerequisites*

ENY 6931, Seminar in Scientific Communication, should be taken prior to this course.

### *Types of Capstone Projects*

1. Research or demonstration project in pest management, public health, or other applied area of entomology/nematology
2. Research into natural history, biology, behavior, or conservation of insects and other invertebrates
3. Development and/or execution of training for pest management scouts, mosquito control workers, pest control industry, or related groups
4. Develop print or web educational material for outreach to Extension or public health
5. Develop curriculum and measure knowledge gain in K-12 audience
6. Literature review and synthesis of an understudied entomological or nematological topic that addresses a professional knowledge gap or personal interest
7. Portfolio of artistic endeavors/pieces related to insects or nematodes
8. Any other project that meets the requirements and is approved by the student's committee.

### *Project Guidelines*

You should plan to spend at least two semesters on this scholarly project. A two-credit capstone project will require about 96 hours of work and a three-credit course should entail about 145 hours of work. During the first semester propose the project, get approval, and then plan the project. In the next semester, complete the project and present the results. **Register for the capstone project class in the last semester when you are ready to present the final paper and presentation (either two or three credits, as appropriate for the scope of the project).** You will receive your grade for all components of the project in that final semester.

1<sup>st</sup> semester

1. Identify topic and scope of project in discussion with capstone advisor (*obtain approval*)
2. Review literature and current knowledge about the issue/problem/topic
3. Identify need for the project/research
4. Outline the project in the project proposal (*turn in for feedback and grade*):
  - a. Title
  - b. Rationale/justification
  - c. Pertinent literature
  - d. Objectives
  - e. Proposed scope of project and methods
  - f. Cited literature, if appropriate

2<sup>nd</sup> semester

1. Start working on project immediately, if you have not already, and check in with capstone advisor.
2. Provide first draft of project report following this outline:
  - a. Introduction (including background and rationale for project)
  - b. Approach
  - c. Results
  - d. Conclusions / significance/implications
3. Provide final draft after receiving feedback from advisor
4. Prepare for oral presentation (10 – 12 min talk), or oral description and defense of a poster presentation

***Timeline for Project***

Semester	Activity	Week Due (Sunday, 11:59 p.m.)	Grade (%)
1st	Identify topic in consultation with advisor	Week 2	Obtain approval
	Review literature and current knowledge	Week 4	
	Identify need/rationale for the research	Week 5	
	Proposal first draft for feedback	Week 8	
	Proposal for grade/start working	Week 12	
2nd	First draft written project report	Week 8	15%
	Final written project report	Week 10	50%
	Oral or poster presentation (by Zoom or in person)	Week 12	25%

***Assignment Grading***

Assignment	Percentage of Final Grade
Project proposal	10%
First draft written project report	15%
Final written project report	50%
Final oral or poster presentation	25%
	100%

***Grading Policy***

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see [catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-gradingpolicies/](http://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-gradingpolicies/).

Percent	Grade	Grade Points
93.0 - 100.0	A	4.00
90.0 - 92.99	A-	3.67

87.0 - 89.99	B+	3.33
83.0 - 86.99	B	3.00
80.0 - 82.99	B-	2.67
77.0 - 79.99	C+	2.33
73.0 - 76.99	C	2.00
70.0 - 72.99	C-	1.67
67.0 - 69.99	D+	1.33
63.0 - 66.99	D	1.00
60.0 - 62.99	D-	0.67
0 - 59.99	E	0.00

### ***Assignments***

Grading rubrics will be provided in the Canvas course page for the Project proposal, First draft written project report, Final written project report and the Final oral or poster presentation.

### ***Attendance Policy, Class Expectations, and Make-Up Policy***

Late material will lose 5 % of their value each day and will not be accepted if they are more than one week late unless there are extenuating circumstances supported by a doctor’s note or approved in advance by the instructor. There is no attendance expectation except on the final presentation date. Additional information can be found here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

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

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [dso.ufl.edu/drc](https://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.

### ***Course Evaluation***

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/>.

### ***University Honesty Policy***

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 (<https://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 or TAs in this class.

### ***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. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

### ***Student Privacy***

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see:

<http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html>

### ***Campus Resources:***

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

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

*Counseling and Wellness Center:* Visit [counseling.ufl.edu/](http://counseling.ufl.edu/) 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 [shcc.ufl.edu/](http://shcc.ufl.edu/).

*University Police Department:* Visit [police.ufl.edu/](http://police.ufl.edu/) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 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; [ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center](http://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center).

#### ***Academic Resources***

*E-learning technical support:* Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](http://ufcomputinghelpdesk.com) 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 services [career.ufl.edu/](http://career.ufl.edu/).

*Library Support:* [cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask](http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask) 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. [teachingcenter.ufl.edu/](http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/)

*Writing Studio:* 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. [writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/](http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/)

*Student Complaints On-Campus:* [sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-codestudent-conduct-code/](http://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-codestudent-conduct-code/)

*On-Line Students Complaints:* [distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/](http://distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/)