BROADER IMPACTS OF SCIENCE ON SOCIETY

FALL 2025 Syllabus

BSC 6038 & GLY 6932
Credits: 2

Thursdays, periods 3 & 4
(9:30 - 11:30 AM)

Location: 222 Carr Hall

No required text. We will read selected readings from
"Broader Impacts of Science on Society" freely available at the UF Library

COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE DESCRIPTION

There is an increasing emphasis on the relevance of what a scientist does and how we impact society in general. This is manifested in many ways, for example, NSF now requires "Broader Impact" plans in grant proposals and explicit plans for how these kinds of activities will be accomplished. This seminar-format course will explore how scientists can increase our impact on society and will provide students the tools to prepare successful "Broader Impact" plans.

LEARNING GOALS

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

- Better understand the landscape of NSF's Broader Impacts review criteria;
- evaluate Broader Impacts plans from other researchers;
- design many types of broader impacts activities at UF; and
- develop the tools needed to conduct Broader Impacts activities in the future.

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Mariela Pajuelo
Assistant Scientist FLMNH

- Office Hours: After class (periods 5-6) or by appointment.
- Email: mpajuelo@ufl.edu
- 216 Dickinson Hall

CLASS FORMAT

Class periods will mostly be devoted to presentations and discussions (e.g., of readings). Guest speakers will provide a connection from the readings onto 'real world' applications. The last class will be devoted to students' final project presentations.

COURSE POLICIES

CLASS DEMEANOR

- Students are expected to be in class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students.
- Please do not use cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom.
- Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.

GRADING

LIST OF GRADED WORK

- **CLASS PARTICIPATION (50%)**: including
  - being present in class for the entire period;
  - having at least one question written down about the week's assignment; and
  - active participation (i.e., discussing assignment or asking question(s) in class.
- **CLASS LECTURE (20%)**: based on a topic of your interest. This will be presented during weeks 10-13.
- **FINAL PROJECT (30%)**: some kind of project related to Broader Impacts.

COMMUNICATION, CONTENT and DELIVERY

Assignments and notifications will be provided using the **UF e-Learning course website.**

COURSE EVALUATIONS

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at GatorEvals. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at GatorEvals Results.

ATTENDANCE AND MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS

- Because this is a student-focused course, attendance is required and is part of the final grade (see below).
- Other requirements for class attendance, assignments, and related matters are consistent with university policies that can be found in the **Graduate Catalog**.

GRADING SCALE (%)

A:	93-100
A-:	90-<93
B+:	88-<90
B:	83-<88
B-:	80-<83
C+:	78-<80
C:	73-<78
C-:	70-<73
D:	60-<70
E:	<60

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Assignment
1	Aug 21, 2025	Introductions & Course organization		Collaboration cards
2	Aug 28, 2025	Broadening Participation. Class Topics and Dates	Chapter 9	
3	Sep 4, 2025	Science Communication*. Elevator Speeches	Chapters 4 & 8	Elevator speeches
4	Sep 11, 2025	K-12 Outreach*. Discuss BI project	Chapters 3 & 7	
5	Sep 18, 2025	Innovation, Strategic science vs curiosity science	Chapter 13	
6	Sep 25, 2025	Informal Learning: Museums* Discuss BI Project	Chapter 11	Class Lecture Title & Description
7	Oct 2, 2025	Science Education*		Final Project Title & Description
8	Oct 9, 2025	Evaluation*	Chapter 18	
9	Oct 16, 2025	Visual Storytelling for Science*		
10	Oct 23, 2025	Student Lecture		Final Project Summary
11	Oct 30, 2025	Student Lecture Discuss progress BI project		
12	Nov 6, 2025	Student Lecture		
13	Nov 13, 2025	Student Lecture		
14	Nov 20, 2025	Final Project presentations		
15	Nov 27, 2025	No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday		
16	Dec 4, 2025	Course Wrap up (if needed)		

*Guest speaker

UNIVERSITY POLICIES & RESOURCES

This course follows all university-wide academic policies and guidelines. Please refer to the following link for information on academic policies, student responsibilities, and campus resources: https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies.

DISCLAIMER: This syllabus and course requirements are subject to change. If changes occur, these will be communicated to the students.