



ALS 4932 CONNECTING WITH CALS

Fall 2025 • Course Number 27114

Day and Time: Variable • Location: McCarty Hall D 2025

FACULTY

H. Charlotte Emerson, Ph.D., Faculty

Director, Student Development and Recruitment

2020 McCarty Hall D

Office: 352.392.1963/Cell: 352.494.6208

cemer@ufl.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

Amie Imler, Faculty

Lecturer, Animal Sciences Department

231E Animal Sciences Building (0459)

Office: 352.392.0133

amie.taylor@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Schedule @ <https://bit.ly/3QVeLIY>

Cathy H. Carr, Faculty

Director, Alumni and Career Services

2020 McCarty Hall D

Office: 352.392.1963/Cell: 352.213.4883

chcarr@ufl.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

Al Wysocki, Ph.D., Faculty

Associate Dean, CALS

2020 McCarty Hall D

Office: 352.392.1963

wysocki@ufl.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

Andrew Horvath

PaCE Coordinator & South Florida Recruiter

ahorvath@ufl.edu

Office Hours: By appointment.

Megan Edge

Graduate Assistant

megan.edge@ufl.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Emma Putnam

emmaputnam@ufl.edu

Office: 352.392.1963/Cell: 863.272.8559

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to aid CALS students in a successful transition to the University of Florida, specifically tailored to the resources and opportunities in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. This course aims to help students understand the four core values in CALS: Diversity, Collaboration, Service, and Integrity; through a series of experiences, workshops, and assignments. Connecting with CALS is offered to provide a foundation for a well-rounded college experience, connect students to CALS, UF/IFAS Research and Extension resources, and promote engagement in and outside of the classroom.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Connect with faculty, staff, and peers in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.
- Identify CALS, IFAS and UF resources and services that contribute to personal and educational goals.
- Identify the purpose of reflection and critical thinking.
- Identify educational enrichment opportunities in and outside the classroom.
- Evaluate the effects of personal well-being on student success and engagement.

- Recognize the academic, conduct, and citizenship expectations of the University of Florida and CALS.
- Develop an awareness of and respect for being a part of a diverse global community.
- Create a pipeline of future leaders in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
- Foster communication between students and the CALS Dean's Office

COURSE PREREQUISITES

None required.

TEXTBOOKS, LEARNING MATERIALS, AND SUPPLY FEES

None required. Support materials will be presented by instructors and discussed with students during the first few weeks. Guest speakers from various veterinary careers will participate in panel discussions. Many speakers will be part of the UF CVM community.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Week	Week of	Topic/Speaker	Description/Reading
1	August 21	Meet-the-Mentor/Teacher F2F=Face to Face	Drop by the CALS Collaboration Room (McCarty D 2025) on Thursday, Aug. 21 or Friday, Aug. 22 from 9 am - 4 pm. Take a selfie together.
2	August 25	What is the purpose of Connecting with CALS? (Zoom meeting choose 1 of 2 meeting times to attend) <u>August 25 @ 12:50 PM</u> or <u>August 26 @ 9:35 AM</u>	Syllabus overview, instructor, and student introductions. Resources: Field and Fork, Teaching Center (Tutoring), CALS Computer Lab, MCCD 2025, and CALS Advisors, etc.
3	September 1	Attend CALS Council Meeting Sept. 4, 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm G001 McCarty Hall D	Take a selfie with someone new you met at the meeting.
4	September 8	Attend CALS Kickoff Sept. 9, 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm J. Wayne Reitz Union Grand Ballroom (2 nd floor)	Write a brief paragraph about 3 clubs or involvement opportunities you learned about during CALS Kickoff and take a selfie with two of your instructors and one of the CALS Deans
5	September 15	The Land Grant Extra Credit for attending Zoom session synchronously	See Canvas for readings and map of Land Grant Universities
6	September 22	Visit the Alan and Cathy Hitchcock Field and Fork Pantry.	Learn about ways to get involved with philanthropy and giving on campus and in the community. For extra credit, donate 5 jars of peanut butter to the pantry. Make sure to take a selfie to get credit!
7	September 29	Interview a CALS Ambassador, CALS LI Member, or CURB's Student	A list of students will be provided in Canvas
8	October 6	Attend the CALS Career Expo Oct. 9, 10 am to 3 pm J. Wayne Reitz Union Grand Ballroom (2 nd floor)	Write a brief paragraph reflecting on one or more discussions you had with employers or organizations.
9	October 13	No Class Meetings	Get caught up on assignments and/or get ahead on assignments! For extra credit, attend the UF Homecoming Parade, Campus Festival, Gator Growl, and/or other UF Homecoming events on October 17
10	October 20	Degree Audit Workshops (F2F) Monday October 20, 2025, from 10:00 AM-3:00 PM or Tuesday October 22, 2025, from 10:00 AM- 3:00 PM in McCarty D 2025	How to use ONE.UF for academic planning and progress. Bring a laptop, smartphone and a rough semester by semester plan.
11	October 27	Academic Advisor Appointments (F2F)	Schedule a meeting with your academic advisor to review your degree audit and semester by semester graduation plan- take a selfie with your advisor.

12	November 3	Mock Interview (F2F)	Students will be assigned a faculty member to set up a mock interview with. See Canvas for more detailed information. (F2F, attendance point included) November 3-7, 2025
13	November 10	Complete 5 F-Book Traditions	Download "TheGatorNation" App and complete 5 F-Book Traditions. Complete more than 5 traditions for up to 5 points extra credit.
14	November 17	CALS Day of Service	Participation in CALS Day of Service or another service project and write a reflection. (Alternative service learning experiences must be preapproved to get credit)
15	November 24	Thanksgiving Week	Eat a lot of food with your friends and family!
16	December 1	Final Assignment: Class Faculty Appointment (F2F)	Set up meeting with Carr, Emerson, Wysocki, or Imler to discuss student success, opportunities, end-of-semester items, and provide informal course feedback

COURSE GRADING STRUCTURE

*Detailed assignment instructions and due dates can be found in Canvas.

Assignment	Description	Points	Due Date
First Class Meeting Attendance	Hop on Zoom and meet your professors and classmates while learning more about Connecting with CALS	5	8/25 or 8/26
CALS Meet the Teacher/Mentor	Take a selfie with one of the instructors/mentors or another CALS representative on 8/21 or 8/22 and upload to Canvas	3	8/24/2025
@UFCALS	Follow CALS on social media: all platforms you have a current account for!	3	8/31/2025
Draft Resume	Submit your first draft resume to Quinncia	5	8/31/2025
CALS Council Meeting	Attend a CALS Council meeting and submit your selfie	3	9/7/2025
Letter to Self	This letter will serve as a benchmark at the beginning of the semester and as a reflection tool later	3	9/7/2025
CALS Kick-Off	Attend the CALS Kick-Off and submit your reflection and selfies	5	9/14/25
Time Management	Time Management Submission	3	9/14/2025
Gator Career Link	Students are required to set up an account and become familiar with the UF Career Connections Center resources available FREE of charge. Turn in a screenshot of your profile page.	3	9/14/2025
Land Grant Reading, Lecture and Reflection	Reflection #2: Land Grant Universities	5	9/21/2025
Alan and Cathy Hitchcock Field and Fork Pantry	Learn about ways to get involved with philanthropy and giving on campus and in the community. For extra credit, donate 5 jars of peanut butter to the pantry. Make sure to take a selfie to get credit!	5	9/28/25
Resilience Questionnaire	Submit Online Questionnaire Answers and Reflection	5	9/28/2025
Finding & Using Your Strengths	Complete the Strengths questionnaire. Submit a copy on Canvas and write a reflection	3	9/28/2025
Student Leader Interview	Conduct an interview using the list provided in Canvas with a CALS Ambassador, LI, or CURB's student.	5	10/5/25
Finalized Resume	Students are required to finalize a resume that encompasses who they are as student and future professional	5	10/5/2025
CALS Career Expo	Attend the CALS Career Expo/Reflection	5	10/12/2025
Degree Audit Timeline	Students will plan a rough draft on how they will complete their degree for on time graduation. (F2F, attendance point included)	5	10/26/2025

Check-In	Stop by the CALS Collaboration room or join a zoom meeting for a check-in.	5	10/26/2025
Advising Appointment	Students must be familiar with who their advisor is and meet to discuss their critical academic plan. Turn in a brief synopsis of your advising meeting along with a selfie with your advisor at your advising appointment (F2F, attendance point included)	5	11/2//2025
Mock Interview	Students will be assigned a faculty member to set up a mock interview with. See Canvas for more detailed information. (F2F, attendance point included) November 3-7, 2025	10	11/9/2025
Club/Organization Meeting	Attend one club/organization meeting. Turn in agenda and selfie at the meeting for credit.	3	11/23/2025
CALS Coffee and Careers or another approved UF workshop/seminar	Students are required to attend an out of class seminar and submit a two-paragraph reflection following the seminar or workshop	5	11/23/2025
F-Book	Download "TheGatorNation" App and complete 5 F-Book Traditions. Complete more than 5 traditions for up to 5 points extra credit.	5	11/23/2025
Service-Learning Project- CALS Day of Service	Participation in CALS Day of Service or another service project and write a reflection. (Must be preapproved to get credit)	5	11/23/2025
Service-Learning Reflection	Write and submit a reflection on your service-learning experience	5	11/30/2025
Letter to Future Student	See Canvas for more details	3	11/30/2025
One on One Meeting with one of the instructors	Students are required to meet with an instructor (Carr, Emerson, Wysocki, or Imler) to discuss academic and professional goals and other topics. You will meet with one of the four faculty members as your final exam. Week of December 1-5, 2025	15	12/07/2025
TOTAL POINTS		132	

***Please Note:** All out-of-class written assignments and reflections **MUST** be typed and submitted through Canvas.

GRADING SCALE

Letter Grade	Percentage Range
A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%
D	63-66%
D-	60-62%
E	0-59%

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:

A 10-percent per day deduction will be assessed for assignments turned in late. Submissions more than a week late will not be accepted. This policy will be strictly enforced.

GRADING POLICY

Course grading is consistent with [UF grading policies](#).

USE OF E-MAIL

Students are REQUIRED to be able to send and receive e-mail using your ufl.edu account.

CANVAS

Students are expected to utilize the online course delivery system, Canvas, on a regular basis. Students are expected to follow the UF technology policy and always use their UF email and account to access course assignments, Zoom, and Canvas. All grades, course communication and announcements will be posted in this venue. Assignments, when applicable, will be submitted through Canvas.

ATTENDANCE

Given the importance of class discussion and participation in demonstrations and exercises, it is not possible for a student to perform satisfactorily in the course without regular attendance. Students are required to attend class and assigned activities as well as arrive on time. Students are always responsible for making up excused work in a timely manner. Students who are repeatedly absent, even with a doctor's excuse, will find it difficult to succeed in this course. Requirements for class attendance and make-up assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

PROFESSIONALISM

Educators and learners are professionals guided by specific values and engaging in particular behaviors. These values and behaviors include respect, cooperation, active participation, intellectual inquiry, punctuality, and regular attendance. In addition to what you know and can do, you will be evaluated on your growth as a professional. Professional characteristics on which you will be judged include punctuality, attendance, collegial attitude, and participation. Because this course relies extensively on discussion and other class interactions, attendance is crucial to your success and that of your classmates. If you are ill or an emergency occurs, contact your instructor PRIOR TO the scheduled class time; otherwise, your attendance and participation are firm expectations.

ACADEMIC POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Academic policies for this course are consistent with university policies. See <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>

CAMPUS HEALTH AND WELLNESS RESOURCES

Visit <https://one.ufl.edu/whole-gator/topics> for resources that are designed to help you thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally at UF.

Please contact [UMatterWeCare](#) for additional and immediate support.

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.

PRIVACY AND ACCESSIBILITY POLICIES

- Instructure (Canvas)
 - [Instructure Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Instructure Accessibility](#)
- Zoom
 - [Zoom Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Zoom Accessibility](#)

Technical Support

UF Computing Help Desk & Ticket Number: All technical issues require a UF Helpdesk Ticket Number. The UF Helpdesk is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/> | 352-392-4357

