ALS 5932 Plant Communities of the Florida Panhandle

Course Description: This course will guide students through Florida’s natural communities utilizing the community descriptions of the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (2010) and narrated Power Points in Canvas. Lectures will cover community structure, indicator species, soils and hydrology as well as fire ecology and other important ecological processes.

Learning Objectives: At the conclusion of this course, the student will be able to:
- Identify and characterize major terrestrial and associated wetland communities of the panhandle of Florida.
- Use vegetative and floral characteristics to identify key indicator plant species of the characteristic plant communities.
- Identify environmental characteristics (soils, hydrology) associated with each plant community.

Prerequisites:
Prior coursework in Environmental Sciences, Soils, Biology, and or Botany will be beneficial. Students should have familiarity with basic biological and botanical vocabulary to facilitate understanding of plant and community identification.

Instructors:
Dr. Debbie Miller
Office: 4917  Building: 4900
Phone: 983-7128
Email: dlmi@ufl.edu
Cell phone: 850-240-2135

Dr. Mack Thetford
Office: 4916  Building: 4900
Phone: 983-7130
Email: thetford@ufl.edu
Office hours: Students are welcomed anytime but should schedule office visits on an individual, by-appointment basis to be sure we are available. After hours contact via email is encouraged. If you have an emergency related to class or lab attendance please call Dr. Miller (cell) 850-240-2135 or Paula Smith (cell) 850-207-4825.

Teaching Assistant: Paula Smith, Room 4803, Office Phone: 983-7141
Email: plsmith62@ufl.edu

Textbook: None required. Class materials will be provided within Canvas.

Class Website
Canvas (for narrated Power Points, lecture quizzes, print-outs, additional readings, assignments, etc.) https://lss.at.ufl.edu/

Class lecture material: available through Canvas and consists of narrated Power Points. Please complete the lectures and quizzes as indicated on the schedule below.

Attendance and Participation: Students are expected to view Power Points and complete quizzes before the closing date and time (Eastern Standard Time) weeks 1-10. See class schedule. Submission of late work requires permission from instructor. Late work will be assessed a 10% penalty for the first day and a 5% penalty for each subsequent day.

Grade:
Powerpoint Quizzes (8 total) 200 points

Weekly quizzes will be taken in Canvas. (25 points each)
Weekly quizzes will cover material in narrated Power Points and may consist of short answer, multiple choice, true false. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO COMPLETE ONLINE QUIZZES IN THE EVENT A SITUATION MIGHT ARISE THAT COULD PREVENT YOU FROM TAKING THE QUIZ (e.g. computer, internet, or power outage)!

PowerPoint Presentation: 25 points
Develop a 15 minute narrated PowerPoint providing additional information on one of the plant communities presented in lecture and using local photographs to illustrate features of the chosen community type and associated plants

Total 225 points
Grading:  
Letter grade based on the following grade scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-63</td>
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<td>E</td>
<td>&lt; 60</td>
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Optional field guides and selected reading:


**Academic Honesty**

In 1995 the UF student body enacted a new honor code and voluntarily committed itself to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. When students enroll at the university, they commit themselves to the standard drafted and enacted by students. In adopting this honor code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the university community. Students who enroll at the university commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the honor code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the honor code is bound by honor to take corrective action. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon community acceptance and enforcement of the honor code. The Honor Code: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. On all work submitted for credit by students at the university, the following pledge is either required or implied: *On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.* The university requires all members of its community to be honest in all endeavors. A fundamental principle is that the whole process of learning and pursuit of knowledge is diminished by cheating, plagiarism and other acts of academic dishonesty. In addition, every dishonest act in the academic environment affects other students adversely, from the skewing of the grading curve to giving unfair advantage for honors or for professional or graduate school admission. Therefore, the university will take severe action against dishonest students. Similarly, measures will be taken against faculty, staff and administrators who practice dishonest or demeaning behavior. Students should report any condition that facilitates dishonesty to the instructor, department chair, college dean or Student Honor Court. *(Source: 2007-2008 Undergraduate Catalog)*

It is assumed all work will be completed independently unless the assignment is defined as a group project, in writing by the instructor. This policy will be vigorously upheld at all times in this course.

**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.

**Campus Resources**

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general wellbeing are encouraged to utilize the university’s counseling resources. Both the Counseling Center and Student Mental Health Services provide 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. The Counseling Center is located at 301 Peabody Hall (next to Criser Hall). Student Mental Health Services is located on the second floor of the Student Health Care Center in the Infirmary.
• University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, www.counsel.ufl.edu
• Career Resource Center, CR-100 JWRU, 392-1602, www.crc.ufl.edu/
• Student Mental Health Services, Rm. 245 Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, www.shcc.ufl.edu
  - Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program (ASAP)
  - Center for Sexual Assault / Abuse Recovery & Education (CARE)
  - Eating Disorders Program
  - Employee Assistance Program
  - Suicide Prevention Program

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. 0001 Reid Hall, 392-8565,

In spite of our distance from Gainesville, students at UF Milton do have access to support services. If you need accommodation for any problem, feel free to call the appropriate office in Gainesville, or contact me directly.
**Complete a lecture and quiz each week.** All course requirements will be complete by the end of week 5. Quizzes close on Friday at midnight EST each week. Lectures are found within modules in Canvas. Week one begins May 11th.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Quiz</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Introduction to Plant Communities</td>
<td>QUIZ 1 Close Midnight EST Friday Week 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Barrier Island Communities- Lowlands 1</td>
<td>QUIZ 2 Close Midnight EST Friday Week 3</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Flatlands – Scrub and Flatwoods Lowlands 2</td>
<td>QUIZ 3 Close Midnight EST Friday Week 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Flatlands – Associated wetlands Lowlands 3</td>
<td>QUIZ 4 Close Midnight EST Friday Week 4</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>High Pine 1 - Upland Pine</td>
<td>QUIZ 5 Close Midnight EST Friday Week 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Uplands and Associated wetlands</td>
<td>QUIZ 6 Close Midnight EST Friday Week 5</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Steep heads and associated plant communities</td>
<td>QUIZ 7 Close Midnight EST Friday Week 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Hardwood forest</td>
<td>QUIZ 8 Close Midnight EST Friday Week 5</td>
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