

ALS 5932 Plant Communities of the Florida Panhandle



Summer 2017 1 credit Web based Lecture

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
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Dr. Mack Thetford
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Email: thetford@ufl.edu

Communication:

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 Gabriel Campbell (727-452-1333).

Teaching Assistant: Gabriel Campbell, Room 4926, Office Phone: 727-452-1333, email: camp5595@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.

Additional reading and resources are found within the course modules

PowerPoint lecture handouts can be downloaded or printed.

Attendance and Participation: Students are expected to view Power Points and complete quizzes before the closing date and time (Eastern Standard Time). 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. Due: July 28, 2017

Total 225 points

Grading: Letter grade based on the following grade scale:

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Grade	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-	60-63
E	< 60

Grades and Grade Points

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Online Course Evaluation Process

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open for students to complete during the last two or three weeks of the semester; students will be notified of the specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

Student Resources

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides 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.

University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575, www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/

Counseling Services
Groups and Workshops
Outreach and Consultation
Self-Help Library
Wellness Coaching

E-learning Technical Support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Leraning-support@ufl.edu Website: <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.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.

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.

Academic Honesty

“As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: *“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”* You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit 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.”*

It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code.>”

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.

Optional field guides and selected reading:

Austin, D., P.N. Honychurch, and S. Bass. 1991, 1997, 1999. Coastal Dune Plant Guide, Coastal Hammock and Mangrove Guide, Scrub Plant Guide. Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, Palm Beach, FL.

Bell, C.R. and B. J. Taylor. 1982. Florida Wild Flowers and Roadside Plants. Laurel Hill Press, Chapel Hill, NC.

Huegel, C.N. 1995. Florida Plants for Wildlife. Florida native Plant Society, Orlando, FL.

Nelson, G. 1994. The Trees of Florida. Pineapple Press, Inc. Sarasota, FL.

Nelson, G. 1996. The Shrubs & Woody Vines of Florida. Pineapple Press, Inc., Sarasota, FL.

Nelson, G. 2000. The Ferns of Florida. Pineapple Press, Inc., Sarasota, FL.

Taylor, W.K. 1992. The Guide to Florida Wildflowers. Taylor Publishing Company, Dallas, TX.

Wunderlin, R.P. 1998. Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida. University Press of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

Yarlett, L.L. 1996. Common Grasses of Florida and the Southeast. The Florida Native Plant Society, Spring Hill, FL.

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 8th.

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