

WIS 3402
Wildlife of Florida
Spring 2017 (3 Credits)

Course Description and Goals

The course is designed to introduce students to the diversity of wildlife species and ecosystems in Florida with an emphasis on amphibians, reptiles, mammals, birds and terrestrial ecosystems. This course will provide students with a basic understanding of the natural history, ecology and behavior of (primarily) terrestrial amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals of Florida. Such a basic background is prerequisite to be able to design field studies that focus on conservation concerns. In this regard, it is important to know where these vertebrates live, their life-history strategies and what management techniques can be employed to address conservation problems. Most importantly, the course is intended to increase student awareness and appreciation of the many natural systems of Florida.

Course Objectives:

Following this course, a student should be able to define and explain the terminology and concepts associated with:

- Identification and characterization of major terrestrial ecosystems of Florida
- Basic natural history, ecology and behavior of key amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals within each major terrestrial Florida ecosystem

Students should also be able to describe the application of ecological principles to conservation and management of wildlife species and ecosystems characterized in this class.

Instructor: Dr. Debbie Miller
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Email: dlmi@ufl.edu

Office hours: Tuesday 2-4 and Wednesday 2-4 (when not out of town);
Otherwise, when the door is open you are welcome. I will be available most of the time but students should call to determine my presence on campus or to make an appointment. When I'm not available in the office cell phone calls are welcomed. **Don't hesitate to call.** Leave a message if the phone is turned off and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Program Assistant: Connie Spencer
Office: Front Desk in Bldg. 4900
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Teaching Assistant: Ashlynn Smith
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Textbook: NONE REQUIRED BUT SEVERAL SUGGESTED

Highly Suggested:
Priceless Florida: Natural Ecosystem and Native Species
Authors: Ellie Whitney, D. Bruce Means and Anne Rudloe
Publisher: Pineapple Press Inc.
ISBN: 978-1-56164-308-0

Suggested:
Ecosystems of Florida
Edited: Ronald L. Myers and John J. Ewel
Publisher: The University of Central Florida Press
ISBN: 0-8130-1022-5

Suggested:
Florida – The Ecotraveller’s Wildlife Guide
Authors: Fiona Sunquist, Mel Sunquist and Les Beletshky
Publisher: Academic Press <http://www.academicpress.com>
ISBN: 0-12-676985-0

Suggested:
Chapter on Wildlife in The Longleaf Pine Ecosystem
Editors: Shibu Jose, Eric J. Jokela, Deborah L. Miller
Publisher: Springer

Class Lecture/Lab Schedule:
Building 4800; Room 4814
Lab 5:00-6:00pm every **Thursday evening;**
Class generally **6:00-8:00pm** every **Thursday evening;**
Three **REQUIRED** all day field trips.

Saturday labs will be used for more extensive field visits where you will learn about wildlife and wildlife conservation from professionals in the field, practice field techniques and observations. A van will leave from campus in the a.m. to drive to these areas. **Three REQUIRED** all day field trips.

Credit Hours:
This is a 3 credit “C” course: 2 credits for lecture = 2 hrs of contact time per week and 1 credit for lab = 2 to 3 hours of additional lab time per week. Labs will

be conducted in a 1 to 1.5 hr period as part of the regular 3 hour class period, and there will be 3 required Saturday all day field trips to complete the lab component. In addition, you should expect to put in ~ 6 hours of additional time outside of class (at a minimum) to complete assignments and prepare for class.

Course Material: Course syllabus and course outlines (PowerPoint) will be provided on-line through e-learning in Canvas <http://elearning.ufl.edu/>.

Evaluation: To be able to assess how well we achieve our goals and objectives, several evaluation methods will be used. Because students vary in the evaluation tools that best demonstrate their knowledge and understanding, my assessment will be based on test scores (test will include both multiple choice, short answer and long answer questions), participation in discussions in class and field experiences and written synthesis of field exercises

Points:

Lecture exams:	2 @ 100 pts each	200 pts
Final exam:	1 @ 100 pts (not comprehensive)	100 pts
Class Participation:	attendance & participation	30 pts
Field Trips:	3 @ 25 points each for attendance <u>and</u> participation	75 pts

You are required to make three (3) fieldtrips; 25 points **will be subtracted for each field trip missed; Exceptions are allowed for medical absences**, but a make-up paper will be required (see instructor). It is recommended that you bring the following items to facilitate lab activities: calculator, clip board, rain gear (if necessary), sturdy shoes (sneakers will be fine unless otherwise noted), snacks and water, something to take pictures with (cellphone will work), and you might want to record what is being said or take extensive notes.

Field Trip Write Ups: 50 points for each field trip	150 pts
Instructions for each lab write-up will be provided at the beginning of each lab.	
Total Points:	555 pts

Late work will be penalized 5 % per day.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with University policies which can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

With an appropriate excuse (e.g.illness,etc.) as determined by the instructor, make-up work must be completed no late than 1 week after the original due date to prevent the accrual of late work penalties. Exceptions due to extenuating circumstances (e.g. extended illness, etc.) will be evaluated by the instructor.

Make-up exams will be given only when circumstances beyond a student's control (e.g. illness, etc.) are reported and, when possible, documented (e.g. doctor's note). Notify the instructor before the exam is missed or as soon as possible. A make-up exam should be taken or arrangements made to take the **exam no later than 1 week after the initial exam is given.**

Class Notes:

Available on e-learning - CANVAS

Laboratory slides and Power Point slides for wildlife identification also available on e-learning CANVAS; Print outs will not be provided. You must print your own set of lecture notes and Power Point slides.

Evaluation: To be able to assess how well we achieve our goals and objectives, several evaluation methods will be used. Because students vary in the evaluation tools that best demonstrate their knowledge and understanding my assessment will be based on test scores (test will include both multiple choice, short answer and long answer questions), participation in discussions and field experiences, written synthesis of field exercises.

Fieldtrips are **REQUIRED**. If a circumstance beyond your control occurs you must let me know immediately (before the trip is preferred; call my cell phone). The optional assignment (generally an 8-10 page paper on a subject that I feel best substitutes for the field trip) can be used as a makeup for a missed fieldtrip only with my permission (contingent on legitimate excuse for missing required fieldtrip). Write-ups from fieldtrips will be due 1.5 weeks after the trip (the second class period) unless otherwise indicated.

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>

Grade Assignment: Letter grade will be determined based on the following grade scale:

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%

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading
Week 1	Introduction	
Week 2	Florida Climate, Soils	Chpt 1-2 Priceless Florida Chpt 1-2 Ecosystems of Florida
Week 3	Biogeography/Geology	Chpt 22 Priceless Florida Chpt. 3-4 Ecosystems FL
Week 4	Fire/ High Pine	Chpt 3 Priceless Chpt.6 175-193 Ecosystems FL
Week 5	Fauna of the Southeast and Longleaf pine / High pinelands Fauna	Eco guide specific organisms covered Article available in Canvas; Chapter from Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Book
Week 6	TEST	
Week 7	Flatwoods/ prairies and wetlands	Chpt 4 Priceless Florida Chpt 5 Ecosystems FL
TBA	ALL DAY FIELD TRIP. WRITE UP FROM FIELD TRIP DUE ONE WEEK POST TRIP	EGLIN AFB
Week 8	Flatwoods fauna	Articles
Week 9	Spring Break	
Week 10	Interior Scrub	Chpt 5 Priceless Florida Chpt. 6 151-174 Ecosystems of FL
TBA	ALL DAY FIELD TRIP. WRITE UP ONE WEEK	NOKUSE – Freeport
Week 11	Scrub Fauna	Articles Eco guide specific organisms covered
Week 12	TEST	
Week 13	Temperate Hammocks / Interior waters/ Terrestrial Caves and Cave Fauna	Chpt 6 & 7 Priceless Florida Chpt 7 Ecosystems of FL

Week 14	Beach Dunes and Coastal Waters	Chpt 15 and 21 Priceless Florida Chpt. 13 Ecosystems FL Eco guide specific organisms covered
TBA	ALL DAY FIELD TRIP. WRITE-UP FIELD TRIP DUE Wed.	TALL TIMBERS – Tallahassee
Week 15	Wrap up	Articles Eco guide specific organisms covered
Week 17	FINAL EXAM	

General Notices to Students

Campus 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>*

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.

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.

UF Academic Honesty

As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: "I understand the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University."

UF Computer Software Usage

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.

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>.