

**WIS 3402L
Wildlife of Florida Lab
Spring 2015 (1 Credit)**

Course Description and Goals:

This course is designed to develop student competency in field identification of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians in Florida. Such competency will allow students to work effectively with various local, state and federal agencies that are responsible for management and conservation of natural resources.

Course Objectives:

- Students will be able to identify principles used in characterizing wildlife groups
- Students will be able to classify and identify representative of Florida's wildlife

Instructor: Dr. Debbie Miller
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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 welcome. **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
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Teaching Assistant: Paula Smith
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Course Material: Course syllabus and **required** lab manuals (one for each group of animals) and lab presentations (one for each group of animals) should be downloaded from e-learning system in Canvas.

Optional but highly recommended field guides for bird, mammal, reptile and amphibian identification **include but are not limited to:**

National Geographic Society, 1987, Field Guide to the Birds of North America;

Peterson Field Guides:

Mammals

Reptiles and Amphibians

Eastern Birds

Florida's Fabulous Reptiles and Amphibians by Pete Carmichael and Winston Williams

Florida's Fabulous Mammals by Jerry Lee Gingerich

Florida's Fabulous Birds Land Birds: Their Stories by Winston Williams

Robbins et al., 1983, Birds of North America: A Guide to Field Identification, Golden Press

Identification guide to the snakes of Florida by Steve Johnson and M.E. McGarrity SP 454 IFAS-Extension Bookstore, UF; website at ifasbooks.com

Class Lab Schedule: Thursday Evening: 5:00 - 6:00; additional time outside of lab is required to prepare for lab quizzes Building 4800; Room 4814

Evaluation: To evaluate how well we meet our objectives and goals weekly, graded quizzes associated with lab exercises and a small project will be used.

Lab Exercises:

Lab exercises are designed to provide students with the opportunity to learn how to identify the various species of amphibians, reptiles, mammals and birds that are encountered in Florida. Power Point slides, skins and skulls (when available) will be available for examination and study. Lab quizzes will be given weekly, unless otherwise scheduled (see lab schedule below). Students will be required to identify from a slide or specimen the scientific name, common name, taxonomic grouping (ie. Order, Family etc.) and sometimes sex of each animal. Within each group of animals lab quizzes will be comprehensive.

Project: The project will allow students to develop skills in finding information about wildlife species. Students will produce information sheets with journal

article, book and grey literature references such as thesis and dissertation or agency reports (at least 3) that emphasize the ecology and management of two wildlife species commonly found in an ecosystem of your choice. Information obtained from the web will supplement the 3 references described above not take the place of those references. The wildlife species can be Florida species or from elsewhere in the US or the world. You **can not** use any of the wildlife species we highlight in the lecture notes or chosen by your fellow classmates. SEE PROJECT HANDOUT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Course Points:

Weekly ID quizzes: 200 pts
(Within each major group of animals i.e. mammals, birds etc.
weekly quizzes are comprehensive)

Project: 25 pts
Total: 225 pts

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. doctors 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.

Late work will be penalized 5 % per day.

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

| Grade | Range | Points |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| A | 93-100% | 232-250 |
| A- | 90-92% | 224-231 |
| B+ | 87-89% | 217-223 |
| B | 83-86% | 207-216 |
| B- | 80-82% | 199-206 |
| C+ | 77-79% | 192-198 |
| C | 73-76% | 182-191 |
| C- | 70-72% | 174-181 |
| D+ | 67-69% | 167-173 |
| D | 63-66% | 157-166 |
| D- | 60-63% | 149-156 |
| E | < 60% | < 149 |

Laboratory Schedule

| Date | Topic | Quiz |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| January 8 | Lab introduction; Mammal ID | |
| January 15 | Mammal Lecture and Identification | |
| January 22 | Mammal ID | YES/Comprehensive |
| January 29 | Mammal ID | YES/Comprehensive |
| February 5 | Bird ID | YES/Comprehensive |
| February 12 | Bird ID | |
| February 19 | Bird ID | YES/Comprehensive |
| February 26 | Bird ID | YES/ Comprehensive |
| March 5 | Spring Break | NO LAB OR CLASS |
| March 12 | Bird ID | YES/Comprehensive |
| March 19 | Reptiles | PROJECT DUE YES/Comprehensive |
| March 26 | Reptiles | |
| April 2 | Reptiles | YES/ Comprehensive |
| April 9 | Amphibians | YES/ Comprehensive |
| April 16 | Amphibians | YES/Comprehensive |

*Topic schedule subject to change

General Notice to Students

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 Counseling Services

Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals which interfere with their academic performance. These resources include:

1. University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling;
2. Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling;
3. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling;
4. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling.

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.

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.