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

Student should 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  
Office: 4917 Building: 4900  
Phone: 983-7128  
Cell phone: 850-240-2135  
Email: dlimi@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 4900  
Phone: 983-7125  
Email: conniebspencer@ufl.edu

Teaching Assistant: Paula Smith  
Office: 4803 Building: 4800  
Phone: 983-7141  
Cell phone: 850-207-4825  
Email: plsmith62@ufl.edu

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  

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: Thursday Evening: 5:00 - 8:00, Lab 5-6 every Thursday evening; Class generally 6-8 every Thursday; Building 4800; Room 4814

Three REQUIRED all day field trips
Course Material: Course syllabus and course outlines (PowerPoint) will be provided on-line through e-learning in Canvas (https://iss.at.ufl.edu/).

Evaluation: To be able to access 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: 25 points each field trip for attendance and 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).

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.

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.

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 access 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 cellphone ). The optional assignment (general a 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 a 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](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx)

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

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Chpt 1-2 Priceless Florida Chpt 1-2 Ecosystems of Florida</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Florida Climate, Soils</td>
<td>Chpt 22 Priceless Florida Chpt. 3-4 Ecosystems FL</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Biogeography/Geology</td>
<td>Chpt 3 Priceless Florida</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Fire/ High Pine</td>
<td>Chpt.6 175-193 Ecosystems FL</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Fauna of the Southeast and Longleaf pine /</td>
<td>Eco guide specific organisms covered Article available in Sakai;</td>
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<td>High pinelands Fauna</td>
<td>Chapter from Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Book</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>TEST</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Flatwoods/ prairies and wetlands</td>
<td>Chpt 4 Priceless Florida Chpt 5 Ecosystems FL</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Flatwoods fauna</td>
<td>Articles</td>
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<td>ALL DAY FIELD TRIP WRITE UP FROM FIELD TRIP</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
<td>Chpt 5 Priceless Florida Chpt. 6 151-174 Ecosystems of FL</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Interior Scrub</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Scrub Fauna</td>
<td>Articles Eco guide specific organisms covered</td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
<td>TEST</td>
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<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Temperate Hammocks / Interior waters/ Terrestrial Caves and Cave Fauna</td>
<td>Chpt 6 &amp; 7 Priceless Florida Chpt 7 Ecosystems of FL</td>
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<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Beach Dunes and Coastal Waters</td>
<td>Chpt 15 and 21 Priceless Florida</td>
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General Notice to Students

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

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.

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. Students requesting classroom accommodation
must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office
will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this
documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation

Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/

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support services. If you need accommodation for any problem, feel free to call
the appropriate office in Gainesville, or contact me directly.

**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.