Foundations of Natural Resources and Conservation
FOR3200C – 1 credit

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	Office hours: Mondays 8:30-9:30 am or by appointment
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Course location/time	Room 4822
	Thursday 5:00-6:00 pm
Course description	Overview of current and historical views of forest conservation, utilization, and policy; principles of forest biology, ecology, Silviculture and management relevant to future courses and careers; basic field research, communications and computer skills.
Course Prerequisites	3FY or instructor permission
Textbook	There is no required text for the course.

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Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, each student will be able to apply foundational concepts in natural resources and conservation to subsequent courses in their curriculum, and to their professional careers.

Course Evaluation and Performance

30% Term project
20% Natural Resource Professional Questions and Summaries
     Questions 1% x4
     Summaries 4% x4
20% Online Class Question/Answer (2% x10)
20% Canvas Quizzes (10% per quiz)
10% Class Participation

Term Project (30%)

A final course project will allow you to explore, demonstrate, and/or apply concepts learned during class. You may choose one of several formats for your final project:

(1) <u>Natural resource site (park, forest, etc.) video or brochure</u>
You're in this major to get into nature, right? This project will allow you to do that, for credit! Prepare a 5-7 minute video or a two page (letter paper size pages) brochure which describes important elements of a natural resource site that you visit. The video or brochure must include:
   o Name and location of the site
   o Name of agency or entity which manages the site
   o Objective or mission of the agency
   o Description of how the site and the natural resource management activities there are helping the agency or entity fulfill its mission
   o Photos, videos, maps, and other visual information which illustrate your points, with most photos taken by you during your visit to the site
   o Limited use of photos or maps from agency materials may be used, but they should be minimal and their source must be cited
   o At least one photo or video shot must include your face to show that you visited the site

(2) <u>Natural resources art project</u>
If you are feeling creative, this may be the project for you. Create an original piece of art which reflects some aspect of natural resource management. This could be a painting, sculpture, woodwork, cartoon, drawing, illustrated map, fiber art, or any other medium which you choose, EXCEPT, for the purposes of this project, photography is excluded. You can illustrate an event in natural resource management history, the work of a particular person, a meaningful natural resource location, etc. Here are the requirements:
   a. The art must illustrate some concept that we covered in class this semester
   b. You must include a PowerPoint slide file which includes
      i. Bullet points or short paragraph describing your art and explaining its connection to a concept that we discussed in class
      ii. Photos of you with your piece of art during at least three phases of its creation so that I can be sure you created the art
      iii. A photo of the final piece

(3) <u>Natural resources road trip</u>
Feel like hitting the road? Then start your engines and do this project. Plan a road trip in the continental United States which visits natural resource sites managed by at least three

different types of entities: local, state, and federal. The road trip should have a theme that you state up front. The theme is completely up to you, but could be something like, "big trees" or "endangered species" or "indigenous history" or "scenic trails" or "wild rivers" or anything else you can think of that makes sense given your planned stops. Your project should be in the form of a PowerPoint file which includes:

    a. A neat and professionally done map which shows the route and sites for your road trip. The total travel mileage should be 2,500 miles or less. Your trip must start and end at the same location, but you can make that starting location any city that you choose, as long as it has a population over 100,000 (meaning it would probably have an airport).

    b. An agenda slide(s) for each day of the trip which includes travel details (e.g. driving from point A to point B), locations to visit, and identification of one or two features that you will visit at the location and how those features meet the theme that you chose.

    c. A summary slide for each site visited which includes
        i. Name and location of the site
       ii. Name of agency or entity which manages the site
     iii. Objective or mission of the agency
     iv. Description of how the site and the natural resource management activities there are helping the agency or entity fulfill its mission

    d. Any photos, videos, maps, and other visual information which illustrate your points from agency materials may be used, but their source must be cited

Natural Resource Professional Engagement (20%)

We will have natural resource professionals from different agencies visit our class to talk about their position and answer student questions. Each student will be expected to write 2 meaningful questions that they would like to ask each natural resource professional and post them on Canvas before the start of class. Students should try to ask at least one of these questions during the class period (1%). Following class, students will write a 1 paragraph summary of the presentation and their engagement with the natural resource professional. This should include what the person does and what organization they work for, along with what the student learned from the presentation (4%).

Canvas Q&A (20%)

At the end of each class, students will post at least 1 question to Canvas about that week's course content (in-person lecture/activity, recorded video lectures). Questions can be about something specific that the student didn't understand or they can be broader questions expanding off of the material. In addition, students should answer at least 2 questions posted by the other students. Each Q&A is worth 2%.

Canvas Quizzes (20%)

Students will be assigned an online midterm (10%) and final (10%) quiz on Canvas covering everything in the class that has been covered up to that point. Quizzes will be available from Monday-Friday and can be completed independently or with other students. Students will also have unlimited tries on the quiz while it is open, meaning if you do poorly the first time, you can complete the quiz again until you are satisfied with you grade.

Class Participation (10%)

Attendance and participation in in-person classes and class activities are required. Useful participation requires asking thoughtful questions, responding to instructor questions, bringing new perspectives, and participating in-class activities.

Reading List

There are no required textbooks for this class. Readings may be provided on Canvas as part of class assignments.

Course Logistics

Students may access lectures, assignments, readings, and supporting materials through the course Canvas site as they become available.

Technology Requirements:

- A computer or mobile device with high-speed internet connection.
- A webcam, headset and/or microphone, and speakers.
- Latest version of web browser. Canvas supports only the two most recent versions of any given browser. [What browser am I using?](#)
- Installation of proctoring software may be required and will be provided if so.

Class Outline

This syllabus represents current plans and objectives for this course. As the semester progresses, changes may need to be made to accommodate timing, logistics, or to enhance learning. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.

Week/Date	Topic	Assignments this week	What is due this week?
Week 1 Aug 24	Syllabus review and term project introduction	-Read "Thinking like a Mountain" -Term Project - Online Q&A	-Read "Thinking like a Mountain" -Online Q&A (Friday)
Week 2 Aug 31	Lecture: Fundamentals of Natural Resource Management Activity: Campus scavenger hunt	-Watch North American forest management lecture videos (P1 and P2) -Online Q&A	- Online Q&A (Friday) -Watch North American forest management lecture videos (P1 and P2) (Friday)
Week 3 Sept 7	Discussion: North American Natural Resource Management Lecture: The case of fire and the Great Plains	-Watch field safety videos -Online Q&A	-Online Q&A (Friday) -Watch field safety videos (Friday)
Week 4 Sept 14	Activity: Sampling a forest stand	-Online Q&A -NR Professional Questions	-Online Q&A (Friday) -NR Professional Questions (Friday)
Week 5 Sept 21	Meet a Natural Resource Professional: Barbra Almario, Wildlife Biologist, FWC	-NR Professional Summary	-NR Professional Summary (Friday)
Week 6 Sept 28	Lecture: Adaptive Management and Contemporary Natural Resource Issues	-Online Q&A -Watch climate and climate change videos	-Online Q&A (Friday) -Watch climate and climate change videos (Friday)
Week 7 Oct 5	Discussion: Climate and Climate Change Activity: Considering Climate for the Florida Wildlife Corridor	-Bring your term project idea to class next week to present to the class -Online Q&A	-Online Q&A (Friday)
Week 8 Oct 12	Activity: Propose your term project idea	-Bring your term project ideas to class -Canvas Midterm Quiz	-Bring your term project idea to class (Thursday) -Canvas Midterm Quiz (Friday)
Week 9 Oct 19	Lecture: Scientific writing and reading	-Read a scientific paper -Online Q&A	-Online Q&A (Friday)

Week 10 Oct 26	Discussion: Scientific Paper Lecture: Citing scientific literature Activity: Using the Program Zotero	-Bring your resume to class next week -Watch Professional Networking Videos -Online Q&A	-Read a Scientific Paper (Thursday) -Online Q&A (Friday) -Watch Professional Development Videos (Friday)
Week 11 Nov 2	Lecture: Creating a CV/Resume Activity: Peer review of resumes	-Online Q&A -Natural Resource Professional Questions	-Bring a printed resume to class (Thursday) -Online Q&A (Friday) Natural Resource Professional Questions (Friday)
Week 12 Nov 9	Meet a Natural Resource Professional: TBD	-NR Professional Questions - NR Professional Summary	-NR Professional Questions (Friday) -NR Professional Summary (Friday)
Week 13 Nov 16	Meet a Natural Resource Professional: Scott Singletary, Ecologist with Biome Consulting	- NR Professional Summary	-NR Professional Summary (Friday)
Week 14 Nov 23	THANKSGIVING BREAK	-NR Professional Questions	-NR Professional Questions (Friday)
Week 15 Nov 30	Meet a Natural Resource Professional: TBD	- NR Professional Summary -Online Q&A	-NR Professional Summary (Friday) -Online Q&A (Friday)
Week 16 Dec 7	READING DAY	-Canvas Final Quiz	-Canvas Final Quiz (Friday) -Term Project (Thursday)

Late Submissions & Make-up Requests

It is the responsibility of the student to access on-line lectures, readings, quizzes, and exams and to maintain satisfactory progress in the course. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx

Computer or other hardware failures, except failure of the UF e-Learning system, will not excuse students for missing assignments. Any late submissions due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from the Helpdesk when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24
hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request consideration.

For computer, software compatibility, or access problems call the HELP DESK phone number—352-392- HELP = 352- 392-4357 (option 2).

Communication Courtesy and Professionalism

Just as in any professional environment, meaningful and constructive dialogue is expected in this class and requires a degree of mutual respect, willingness to listen, and tolerance of opposing points of view. **Respect for individual differences and alternative viewpoints will be maintained in this class at all times.** All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy, decency, and civility in all interactions. Failure to do so will not be tolerated and may result in loss of participation points and/or referral to the Dean of Students' Office.

Semester Evaluation Process

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning.

At approximately the mid-point of the semester, the School of Forest, Fisheries, & Geomatics Sciences will request anonymous feedback on student satisfaction on various aspects of this course. These surveys will be sent out through Canvas and are not required but encouraged. This is not the UF Faculty Evaluation!

At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

Academic Honesty Policy

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 them 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 or 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.

Inclusive Learning Environment

This course embraces the University of Florida's Non-Discrimination Policy, which reads,

> *The University shall actively promote equal opportunity policies and practices conforming to laws against discrimination. The University is committed to non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act.*

If you have questions or concerns about your rights and responsibilities for inclusive learning environment, please see the instructor or refer to the Office of Multicultural & Diversity Affairs website: http://multicultural.ufl.edu.

Services for 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. 0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, http://www.disability.ufl.edu

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 Helping Resources

For issues with technical difficulties for e-learning in Canvas, please post your question to the Technical Help Discussion in your course, or contact the UF Help Desk at:

- Learning-support@ufl.edu | (352) 392-HELP - select option 2 | http://elearning.ufl.edu
- Library Help Desk support http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask
- SFFGS Academic Hub https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/303721

Student Life, Wellness, and Counseling Help

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.

- UF CALS offers direct mental health counseling FREE OF CHARGE for students at distance locations (REC's) through an embedded counselor – Dr. Philip Daniels. He has a welcome video which can be viewed here: [Dr. Daniels Welcome Video.](#) If you are a student at a UF/IFAS Research and Education Center, you will be directed to Dr. Daniels for consultation and referral services. *Email communication has limited confidentiality and is reserved for scheduling, pdaniels@ufl.edu* If you are in need of an appointment, please email or call Dr. Daniels directly (352) 392-1575.
- Counseling and Wellness resources http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/
- U Matter, We Care http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/
- Career Connections Center http://career.ufl.edu/
- Student Success Initiative http://studentsuccess.ufl.edu
- Other resources are available at http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help for online students.

Student Complaint Process

The School of Forest, Fisheries, & Geomatics Sciences cares about your experience and we will make every effort to address course concerns. We request that our online students complete a course satisfaction survey each semester, which is a time for you to voice your thoughts on how your course is being delivered. You can also [submit feedback anytime](#).

If you have a more urgent concern, your first point of contact should be the Academic Coordinator or the Graduate/Undergraduate Coordinator for the program offering the course. You may also submit a complaint directly to UF administration:

- https://distance.ufl.edu/getting-help/
- https://registrar.ufl.edu/complaint.html