

**Instructor** Dr. Victoria M Donovan  
Email: victoria.donovan@ufl.edu  
Office: Rm 4918  
Office hours: I have an open-door policy for students. Please feel free to swing by to talk with me anytime you see me in my office. For the best chances of reaching me, contact me via email to set up an appointment during the week.

**Course location/time:** Room 4822  
Class: Tuesdays 7-8 pm following FOR 3214 Lecture plus 2 Saturday Labs

**Course description:** This lab section acts as a supplement to FOR 3214, Fire Ecology and Management. Students will engage in activities that teach them about fire behavior and its role as an ecological process and management tool.

**Course Learning Objectives:**

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe fire as an ecological process, including its effects on plants, animals, soil, water, and air
2. Demonstrate the ability to safely participate in the execution of prescribed fires
3. Describe basic wildland fire behaviour and smoke management

**Evaluation and Performance**

Lab Assignments: 30% (15% each x 2)  
Lab Activity Sheets: 25% (5% each x 5)  
Prescribed Burn Participation/Report: 25%  
Fire Fighter Type 2 Certification: 20%

Lab Assignments (30%):

Students will attend two Saturday lab sessions where they will conduct field measurements. At the end of every lab session, students will be given a lab assignment to complete within and

outside of lab time. Each assignment will be worth 15% of their final grade. Labs will require you to be outside. Outdoor attire for labs should include proper shoes (running shoes are fine, however, ideally hiking boots), long pants, and rain gear if necessary. If you need assistance acquiring outdoor friendly attire, please contact me.

Lab Activity Sheets (25%):

During regular lab hours, we will complete lab activities that assess different aspects of fire behaviour and outcomes. Some of these assignments will include working with fire. Long hair must be pulled back and clothing must be fit snugly (see below). Activity sheets will be due the following class. Each activity sheet will be worth 5% of student's final grade.

Prescribed Burn Participation/Report (25%):

Students will be required to participate on at least one prescribed burn run by the local PBA or land management agency. All students enrolled in the class will be added to a listserv, which will be shared with local agencies who will then inform students of opportunities for burning. Note that prescribed burns are highly weather dependent, and so last-minute cancellations and shifting time windows aren't uncommon.

When you attend a prescribed burn, you should ideally have 6 inch or higher leather boots (no steel toes!) or leather hiking boots. You should also wear well-fitting long sleeves and pants. Note baggy clothes allow oxygen buildup underneath clothing, while floppy, dangly, or fuzzy garments can more easily catch fire. All clothing should be cotton. Do not wear clothing with screen printing. Everyone should also have leather gloves. The class has a limited number of Nomex jumpsuits, leather gloves, and helmets that students can borrow for prescribed burns. Should you need assistance obtaining outdoor attire for prescribed burns, please contact me. In addition, on a prescribed burn, always bring at least two large bottles of water and snacks.

Fire Fighter Type 2 Certification (20%): Students will complete their online training for Firefighter Type 2 Qualifications ([Firefighter Type 2 \(Crewmember\) | NWCG](#)). At the end of the course, students will need to submit online course certifications demonstrating that they have successfully completed all online modules. We will have a number of flipped lab sessions in which students will be given time to complete their training courses. Note that, to complete the full certification, students will need to complete a Field Exercise Day that will not be a part of this class. A

**Grading Scale:**

- A (93% and above)
- 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%-62%)
- E (Below 60%)

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

1. The S-190: Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior online course (6-8 hours of training)
2. The S-130: Firefighter Training online course (6-8 hours of training)
3. The L-180: Human Factors in Wildland Fire Service online course (6-8 hours of training)
4. The FEMA IS-100: Introduction to the Incident Command System online course (2-4 hours of training)
5. The IS-700: an introduction to the National Incident Management System online course (3-4 hours)

**Tentative Schedule:** 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.

Date	Topics and Activities	Assigned Work	Assignment Due
Week 1 (1/10)	Syllabus Review		
Week 2 (1/17)	Lab Activity: Modelling fire behavior	- Lab Activity Sheet 1	
Week 3 (1/24)	Lab Activity: Matchstick forests	- Lab Activity Sheet 2	-Lab Activity Sheet 1 (5%)
Week 4 (1/31)	Flipped Lab		-Lab Activity Sheet 2 (5%)
Week 5 (2/7)	Saturday Lab 1	- Lab Assignment 1	
Week 6 (2/14)	Flipped Lab		

Week 7 (2/21)	Lab Activity: Community response to fire	- Lab Activity Sheet 3	
Week 8 (2/28)	Flipped Lab		- Lab Assignment 1 (15%) -Lab Activity Sheet 3 (5%)
Week 9 (3/7)	Flipped Lab		
Week 10 (3/14)	SPRING BREAK		
Week 11 (3/21)	Lab Activity: Landscape ecology	- Lab Activity Sheet 4	- Lab Activity Sheet 4 (5%)
Week 12 (3/28)	Saturday Lab	- Lab Assignment 2	
Week 13 (4/4)	Flipped Lab		
Week 14 (4/11)	Lab activity: Smoke modelling	-Lab Activity Sheet 5	- Lab activity sheet 5 (5%) - Lab Assignment 2 (15%)
Week 15 (4/18)	Flipped Lab		
Week 16 (4/25)	Flipped Lab		-Prescribed burn report (25%) - Firefighter Type 2 Certification (20%)

### **Attendance, Late Submissions, and Make-up Requests**

Attendance in lab is not mandatory but poor attendance will result in a poor grade. If a student does not participate in at least one of the first two class meetings of a course or laboratory and

they have not contacted the department, the student may be dropped from the course. See the link below for further details.

Late assignments will lose 10% for every 24 hours past the deadline unless arrangements have been made with the instructor prior to the due date for an extenuating circumstance. Computer troubles will not be considered as an excuse for late assignments unless they are accompanied by a ticket number that includes the date and time of the problem from the UF Tech Support Help Desk. You must contact the instructor as soon as possible regarding technical difficulty that may result in a late assignment.

Requirements for class attendance, make-up exams, and assignments consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

### **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 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>.

### **Communication Courtesy**

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. Failure to do so may result in loss of participation points and/or referral to the Dean of Students’ Office:

[https://www.cise.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/CISE\\_Netiquette\\_Guide.pdf](https://www.cise.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/CISE_Netiquette_Guide.pdf)

### **Inclusive Learning Environment**

This course embraces the University of Florida’s Non-Discrimination Policy:

*“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 would like more information about your rights and responsibilities for inclusive learning environment, see the Office of Multicultural & Diversity Affairs website:

<http://multicultural.ufl.edu/>. If you have any questions or concerns about the inclusivity of this course's learning environment, please reach out to the instructor. I am happy to discuss your thoughts, feelings, and needs so we can make our learning environment more inclusive.

### **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: <https://disability.ufl.edu/>

### **Campus Helping 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](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu)

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

U Matter We Care, [www.umatter.ufl.edu/](http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/)

Career Connections Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, <https://career.ufl.edu/>.

Student Success Initiative, <http://studentsuccess.ufl.edu>

Student Complaints:

- Residential Course: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>.
- Online Course: <https://distance.ufl.edu/state-authorization-status/#student-complaint>

### **Software Use**

All faculty, staff and students at 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.

### **Semester 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. 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/>.

### **UF/IFAS Field and Fork Pantry**

The Pantry (<http://pantry.fieldandfork.ufl.edu>) is a resource on the University of Florida campus committed to eradicate food insecurity. Food insecurity is not having a reliable access to nutritious foods for yourself on a regular basis. If you, or anyone you know is experiencing food insecurity, the Pantry is a resource to visit. We offer non-perishable food, toiletries and fresh vegetables grown at the Field and Fork Gardens to provide a well-balanced diet. Protecting the privacy of its guests and providing food to those in need within our campus community is our priority. Our guests do not need any proof of need to use this resource, all that is needed is a Gator 1 ID to prove you are a current Student, Faculty or Staff at the University of Florida.

### **Help for Technical Difficulties**

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 <https://uflib.ufl.edu/find/ask/>
- SFRC Academic Hub <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/303721>