

Wildlife of Florida – Lab

WIS 3402L

Spring 2023 (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 representatives of Florida's wildlife

Instructor: Dr. Debbie Miller

Office: 4906 Building: 4900

Phone: 983-7128

Cell phone: 850-240-2135

Email: dlmi@ufl.edu

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

Office: Front desk 4900

Phone: 983-7125

Email: conniespencer@ufl.edu

Teaching Assistant: Gina Mangold

Office: Milton Campus

Telephone: (850) 983-7141

E-mail: gmangold@ufl.edu

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: All course material and Quizzes to be completed online!

Evaluation: To evaluate how well we meet our objectives and goals weekly, graded quizzes associated with lab exercises 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, 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.

Course Points:**Weekly ID quizzes: 200 pts**

(Within each major group of animals i.e. mammals, birds etc., weekly quizzes are comprehensive)

TOTAL: 200 PTS

Make-up quizzes will be given only when circumstances beyond a student's control are reported and when documented (e.g. doctor's note). Notify the TA before the quiz is missed or as soon as possible. A make-up quiz should be **taken 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 scale:

| | | |
|----|---------|---------|
| 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 |
|---------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Week 1 | Introduction | |
| Week 2 | Mammal ID | YES/Comprehensive |
| Week 3 | Mammal ID | YES/Comprehensive |
| Week 4 | Bird ID | YES/Comprehensive |
| Week 5 | Bird ID | YES/Comprehensive |
| Week 6 | Bird ID | YES/Comprehensive |
| Week 7 | Bird ID | YES/Comprehensive |
| Week 8 | Bird ID | YES/ Comprehensive |
| Week 9 | SPRING BREAK | |
| Week 10 | Bird ID | YES/Comprehensive |
| Week 11 | Bird ID | YES/Comprehensive |
| Week 12 | Reptiles | |
| Week 13 | Reptiles | YES/ Comprehensive Birds |
| Week 14 | Amphibians | YES/ Comprehensive |
| Week 15 | Amphibians | YES/Comprehensive |
| Week 16 | READING DAYS – NO CLASS | |
| Week 17 | FINALS WEEK – No Lab Final | |

*Topic schedule subject to change

General Notices to Students

Academic Honesty

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/honorcodes/honorcode.php>.

It is assumed all work will be completed independently unless the assignment is defined as a group project, in writing by the instructor. This policy will be vigorously upheld at all times in this course.

Computer Requirement: Access to and on-going use of a computer are required of all students to complete their degree programs successfully. The university expects each student entering the university and continuing students to acquire computer hardware and software appropriate to the degree program. Competency in the basic use of a computer is a requirement for graduation (www.circa.ufl.edu/computers).

E-learning technical support, 352 392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail learning-support@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Counseling Center: The University Counseling Center offers counseling services to currently enrolled students for personal, career and educational concerns (www.counsel.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

Health and Wellness 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.

U Matter We Care, <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu>. If you or a friend are in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 294-2273 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352 392-1575,

Academic Resources

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 352 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <http://www.crc.ufl.edu>

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 352 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu>.

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 352 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio>.

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.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

STUDENT COMPLAINTS

Each online distance learning program has a process for, and will make every attempt to resolve, student complaints within its academic and administrative departments at the program level. See <http://distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints> for more details.

INFORMATION SOURCES: The tentative lecture schedule is presented. However, this schedule is subject to change at the instructor's notice and is subject to weather and day length constraints.

NOTE: The visual aspects and memorization requirements of this course make it imperative that students view all lectures, read all handouts.

COURSE EVALUATIONS:

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on ten criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at