

**WIS 3402**  
**Wildlife of Florida Lecture**  
**Spring 2025 (3 Credits)**

**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

Students should also 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:** 4906 Building: 4900  
**Phone:** 850-983-7128  
**Cell phone:** 850-240-2135  
**Email:** dlmi@ufl.edu

**Office hours: Monday 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.

**Teaching Assistant:**

**Office:** 4803 Building: 4800  
**Phone:** 850-983-7141  
**Cell phone:**  
**Email:**

**Program Assistant:** Connie Spencer  
**Office:** Front Desk in Bldg. 4900  
**Phone:** 850-983-7125  
**Email:** [conniebspencer@ufl.edu](mailto:conniebspencer@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

ISBN: 0-8130-1022-5

**Suggested:**

**Florida – The Ecotraveller’s Wildlife Guide**

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:**

Building 4800; Room 4814

**Lab 5:00-6:00pm** every **Tuesday evening;**

**Lecture: 6:00-8:00pm** every **Tuesday evening;**

Three **REQUIRED** all day field trips.

**Saturday labs** will be used for more extensive field visits where you will learn about wildlife and wildlife conservation from professionals in the field as well as practice field techniques and observations. A van will leave from campus in the a.m. to drive to these areas. **Three REQUIRED** all day field trips.

**Course Material:** Course syllabus and course outlines (PowerPoint) will be provided on-line through e-learning in Canvas <http://elearning.ufl.edu/>.

## Points:

<b>Lecture exams:</b>	2 @ 100 pts each	<b>200 pts</b>
<b>Final exam:</b>	1 @ 100 pts (not comprehensive)	<b>100 pts</b>
<b>Class Participation:</b>	attendance & participation	<b>30 pts</b>
	75% attendance + 25% participating in class discussion / exercises	
<b>Field Trips:</b>	3 @ 25 points each	
	for attendance <u>and</u> participation	<b>75 pts</b>

**You are required to attend** 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). It is recommended that you bring the following items to facilitate lab activities: calculator, clip board, rain gear (if necessary), sturdy shoes (sneakers will be fine unless otherwise noted), snacks and water, something to take pictures with (cellphone will work), and you might want to record what is being said or take extensive notes.

**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.**

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with University policies which can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

With an appropriate excuse (e.g. illness, etc.) as determined by the instructor, make-up work must be completed no later than 1 week after the original due date to prevent the accrual of late work penalties. Exceptions due to extenuating circumstances (e.g. extended illness, etc.) will be evaluated by the instructor.

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. doctor's 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 assess 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 cell phone). The optional assignment (generally an 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 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>

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

Grade	Range
A	93-100%
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-	60-63%
E	< 60%

### Tentative Lecture Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading
Week 1	Introduction	
Week 2	Florida Climate & Soils	Ch. 1-2 Priceless FL Ch. 1-2 Ecosystems FL
Week 3	Biogeography/Geology	Ch. 22 Priceless FL Ch. 3-4 Ecosystems FL
Week 4	Fire / Longleaf Pine Landscapes	Ch. 3 Priceless FL Ch.6 175-193 Ecosystems FL
Week 5	Fauna of the Southeast and Longleaf Pine	Ecoguide Chapter 6 from Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Book - In Canvas
<b>Sat. March 1</b>	<b>Meet on campus at 4:30AM ALL DAY FIELD TRIP</b>	<b>Eglin AFB</b>
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>LECTURE EXAM #1</b>	
Week 7	Fauna Diversity / Longleaf Pine Fauna <i>continued</i>	Ch. 4 Priceless FL Ch. 5 Ecosystems FL
Week 8	Grassland and Savanna Communities and Fauna	Articles
Week 9	Scrub	Ch. 5 Priceless FL Ch. 6 151-172 Ecosystems of FL
Week 10	Spring Break- NO CLASS	
Week 11	Scrub Fauna	Articles Eco guide specific organisms covered
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Meet on campus at 5AM ALL DAY FIELD TRIP</b>	<b>Tall Timbers</b>
<b>Week 12</b>	<b>LECTURE EXAM #2</b>	
Week 13	Temperate Hammocks & Upland Mixed Forest	Ch. 6 & 7 Priceless FL Ch. 7 Ecosystems FL
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Meet on campus at 7:30AM ALL DAY FIELD TRIP</b>	<b>Nokuse Plantation – Bruce, FL Biophilia Center – Freeport, FL</b>
Week 14	Beach Dunes and Coastal Waters	Ch. 15 & 21 Priceless FL Ch. 13 Ecosystems FL Ecoguide specific organisms covered
Week 15	Coastal Fauna <i>continued</i>	Articles Ecoguide specific organisms covered
<b>Week 16</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	

## 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/honocode.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 ongoing 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](http://www.circa.ufl.edu/computers)).

**E-learning technical support**, 352 392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail [learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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,  
<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/default.aspx>  
Counseling Services  
Groups and Workshops  
Outreach and Consultation  
Self-Help Library  
Training Programs  
Community Provider Database

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

