

Natural Resource Ecology—WIS 3404

3 Credits, Fall Semester 2020, University of Florida

Course Syllabus

- Instructor/TA contacts:** Dr. Steve A. Johnson: tadpole@ufl.edu; Office—352.846.0557
Teaching Assistant: Mr. Owen Schneider, schneider.opatri@ufl.edu
We will do our best to respond to all emails within 24 hours.
- Office hours:** *Dr. J.* Newins-Ziegler Hall Room 216; Wednesdays 2-5 P.M. via phone, Zoom, or Skype (please make an appointment)—**no in-person meetings this semester due to the COVID-19 pandemic**. Email any time within Canvas.
- Mr. Owen Schneider.* Email Mr. *Schneider* in Canvas with questions or to arrange an appointment to discuss with him any issues you may have.
- Course prereqs:** General Biology (BSC 2011 or equivalent course) or permission of instructor
- Course schedule:** Flexible: this is an asynchronous, online course and you will work at your own pace to some extent. However, it is your responsibility to keep up with course assignments and meet posted deadlines for quizzes, exams, and assignments. There are no scheduled class meeting times.
- Course format:** This is an online course and you will access course materials, take quizzes and exams, turn in assignments, and participate in discussions via e-Learning in Canvas, UF's online course management system. Please be sure to visit the course Canvas site ASAP and view the Welcome Video at course home page to learn how the course is organized in Canvas. Also study this syllabus, and the course calendar posted Canvas—a PDF of this syllabus is available at the course Canvas site. **Regularly visit the course Canvas site for important course announcements, and also be sure to check your Canvas email daily.**
- Course website:** Course materials (e.g., readings, quizzes, exams, various assignments, lectures) and announcements will be posted at the Canvas site for the course. As a UF student registered for the class you should have access to this site WIS3404-Natural Resource Ecology, Fall 2020. You will need your Gatorlink username and password to log into Canvas at elearning.ufl.edu (click the orange “Log In To e-Learning” button).
- Required course text:** *Ecology 5th Ed.* (2020) W.D. Bowman and S.D. Hacker, Sinauer Associates, Inc. (Sinauer is now part of Oxford University Press), ISBN 9781605359212 (The cover of the book has an image of a tide pool in

British Columbia.) The textbook is available at the UF Bookstore in paperback, which can be shipped to you or you can pick up your copy at the bookstore. You can also purchase an e-book copy through the UF Bookstore. Visit the bookstore's website to facilitate your purchase: UFloridashop.com You can also purchase the book online through a variety of vendors, such as Amazon.com. Another way to purchase the book is directly from the publisher's site: <https://oup-arc.com/access/bowman5e>

The course text **IS REQUIRED** and you must have a copy of the 5th Edition—you need the book the first week of class. **You will need the registration code on the inside cover to access the book's website. If you buy a used book you may need to purchase a code to access the textbook companion website, which you can get at the publishers webpage.**

Course text website: <https://oup-arc.com/access/bowman5e> You must register before you can access this website, and you need the unique registration code from the inside of your textbook cover to do so. If you purchase a used book this code may not be valid. But no worries, you can purchase a code to access the textbook companion website—again, visit <https://oup-arc.com/access/bowman5e> to do this. On the website you will find chapter summaries, outlines, problem sets, and flashcards with key terms, as well as other helpful resources. The text website is there for you to use, so please take advantage of it. **You will have to visit the course text website to complete some Problem Sets.**

Additional requirements: Since this is an online course, you need a working knowledge of computers and some commonly used programs (e.g., MS Word, Excel). Obviously, you will need a computer and a reliable internet connection. You will also need to become very familiar with the e-Learning in Canvas system. Visit <https://elearning.ufl.edu/e-learning-basics/uf-e-learning-fags/> to view FAQs about using e-Learning at UF and the Canvas system in particular. Also please visit the Student Help page for e-learning at UF: <https://elearning.ufl.edu/keep-learning/>

Web browsers: Because it's built using web standards, Canvas runs on Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS, Android, or any other device with a modern web browser. Canvas supports the last two versions of most browsers. It is **highly recommend** updating to the **newest version** of whatever browser you are using as well as the most up-to-date Flash plug-in. Web browsers currently supported include: Chrome, Safari, Firefox, and Edge. Canvas no longer supports Internet Explorer. Note that your computer's operating system (OS) may affect browser function. Failure to use one of these browsers will cause problems. For more information on approved browser versions and other required apps please visit <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10720>

UF course catalog description: Application of ecological principles and natural history information to conserve and sustainably manage natural resources with an emphasis on animals and plants.

Course description in more detail: The course describes how ecological concepts and processes are applied at various scales to conserve and manage renewable natural resources (e.g., plants, animals, water, soil) in terrestrial and aquatic systems—it explains how ecological science is applied to help solve real-world problems. In most cases, these problems are caused by the actions of people, and the course emphasizes potential conservation and management strategies to mitigate anthropogenic issues such as, but not limited to, habitat fragmentation, invasive species, disease, and climate change.

The course focuses on interactions within and among species and how they are affected by their abiotic environment. It explores numerous biological principles (e.g., nutrient and water cycles, population growth, symbioses, biodiversity, etc.) and emphasizes how these principles are applied to effectively manage natural resources. The course also provides a broad foundation of important ecological principles while emphasizing how ecological phenomena in terrestrial and aquatic systems are influenced by the actions of humans—natural resource examples are used to illustrate key ideas and concepts. This course uses case studies to illustrate the application of ecological principles to conserve and manage natural resources.

Information delivery consists of recorded lectures, web-based learning activities, problem sets, nature documentaries, and textbook readings. There is also a group project and several online discussions based on nature documentaries students must watch. Text readings provide a broad foundation of general ecological principles, whereas recorded lectures emphasize and explain the application of ecological principles to conservation and management of natural resources. There is no formal lab associated with the course.

Fundamental Goals and Learning Objectives: The general goals and major learning outcomes for the course are listed below. Specific learning objectives are provided for each lecture. Review the 'Summary' boxes at the end of each text chapter for important concepts that students should understand.

- Explain how different ecological principles are applied to solve specific problems affecting the conservation and management of natural resources at different spatial and temporal scales
- Understand and define the concept of biodiversity, describe ecological and socioeconomic values of biodiversity, and make science-based arguments as to why biodiversity should be conserved
- Describe how and why natural systems are organized at scales ranging from biome to population and provide examples
- Explain how biotic and abiotic factors affect the abundance and distribution of plants and animals and understand how organisms adapt and evolve in response to changing

environments; analyze the role of climate change in this context and discuss strategies for mitigating negative effects of climate change on renewable resources

- Understand and define basic interactions within and among species (e.g., competition, predation, symbioses), and explain how these interactions can be manipulated to manage populations of plants and animals to meet specific objectives
- Explain energy flow through food webs, and nutrient (e.g., carbon) and water cycles at global and local scales and how the flow of energy is affected by the actions of humans

Assessments:

Quizzes: There are 14 quizzes in this course. The first quiz is to ensure you are familiar with the syllabus and the course calendar (Quiz 1 Syllabus Quiz). The other 13 quizzes cover information presented in the book chapters—these quizzes must be completed weekly by 10:00 P.M. on Thursdays. **Questions for the quizzes (except for the Syllabus Quiz) are based exclusively on the text chapter readings that are assigned each week (many questions emphasize detailed information).** See the “Course Lecture and Reading Schedule” below and the module pages in Canvas for each week’s text reading assignments. The number of chapters covered by a particular quiz varies from 1-3, depending on the assigned chapter readings in a week. Read the chapters before you attempt the quizzes! You must take quizzes online in Canvas. Quiz questions are multiple choice and true/false. To help you master the material presented in the text, you have the option of taking each quiz up to four times. Questions are randomly drawn from a larger pool by the Canvas system. Each quiz has five questions from each text chapter assigned that week. Quizzes are timed, and the time allotted for each quiz is proportional to the number of chapters covered by a quiz—5 minutes per chapter. Once you start a quiz in Canvas you must finish it in the allotted time—the “clock keeps ticking” in Canvas as soon as you open a quiz and only stops after the allotted time has passed. Your official quiz score is your best score on any quiz, assuming you take a quiz more than once. Weekly quizzes (including the Syllabus Quiz) are worth a total of 145 points (each question is worth 1 point). All the quizzes for each module of the course will be available on the date that module opens in Canvas, but they close at different times. Quizzes must be completed before their closing date and time. Consult the Critical Dates & Deadlines table below for a list of open/due dates and times for quizzes. To “make-up” a quiz, students must provide a legitimate, documented excuse for not completing the quiz on time. Access quizzes at the Module page in Canvas—you should see links to quizzes on the Module overview page and under the Assessments heading within each Module page.

Exams: There are three exams in this course; the first covers material assigned for Modules 1-2, the second exam is on material assigned for Modules 3-4, and the third exam covers material for Modules 5-6 (exams are not cumulative). Exam questions predominantly cover material presented in recorded lectures (see View Presentation headings for each Module page in Canvas) but may also include information from the Online Learning Activities and the text. Exam questions are multiple choice and true/false. Like quizzes, exams are administered in Canvas, and they are timed. Unlike quizzes however, you may only take each exam ONCE. Each exam is worth 100 points. Each exam will only be open in Canvas for a limited time on specific dates. Consult the Critical Dates & Deadlines table below for a list of open/due dates and times for exams. To “make-up” an exam, students must provide a legitimate, documented excuse for not completing the exam

on time. Access exams via the Modules pages in Canvas—you should see links to exams on the Module overview page and under the Assessments heading within each Module page.

Problem Sets: There are four Problem Sets assigned for this course. Consult the Critical Dates & Deadlines table below and the Problem Set assignment sheets for a list of open/due dates and times for these assignments. Information for completing the Problem Sets is outlined in the assignment sheets (PDF files) that you download at the Canvas site. On the Module pages these assignments are listed under the Assessments heading at the bottom of the page. Most of the Problem Sets must be completed by visiting the course text website. Each Problem Set is worth 25 points, regardless of the number of questions, for a total of 100 points. Values for individual questions are adjusted accordingly, depending on the total number of questions for each Problem Set. Late Problems Sets are not accepted without a legitimate, documented excuse. **Please do not wait until the last minute to complete and submit Problem Sets** to avoid technical glitches that might delay your ability to upload the assignment on time. Access Problem Sets via the Modules link in Canvas—you should see links to Problem Sets on the Module overview page and under the Assessments heading within each Module page.

Video Discussions: There are two graded discussions in this course based on streaming videos that you must watch online—each discussion is worth 50 points. On a specific date you must reply with insightful and thought-provoking comments to questions about the videos. Details for accessing each streaming video and directions for these assignments can be found in the assignment sheet associated with the appropriate Video Discussion assignment sheet, which you download at the course Canvas site. Consult the Critical Dates & Deadlines table below and the Video Discussion assignment sheets for a list of due dates and times for Video Discussions. There are multiple deadlines within each discussion period, so be sure to download and read the assignment sheets as soon as they become available in Canvas. The assignment sheets become available when their associated modules open—Module 2 for the first discussion and Module 5 for the second discussion. As soon as the modules open be sure to follow the links to the Video Discussion assignments. There you will be able to download directions and see the discussion questions—keep these questions in mind as you watch each video. On specific dates listed in the assignment sheet you will have access to your discussion section and will be able to reply to the discussion questions. Until you make your initial reply you will not be able to see any replies from your classmates. Note there are different deadlines for making your initial post and responding to your classmates, and each discussion session will only be open for one week. Stay abreast of these important dates or you may lose points.

Online Learning Activities: The 'OLA' sheets contain lists of links to a variety of information sources that will allow you to further explore topics within each module. You are strongly encouraged to explore these, but that is not a requirement. If you find that a link no longer works or have a suggestion for additional resources that could be added, please email Dr. J in Canvas.

Points and Final Grade:	Points
Quizzes (14)	145 pts.
Exams (3)	300 pts.
Problem Sets (4)	100 pts.
Video Discussions (2)	100 pts.
<u>Total</u>	<u>645 pts.</u>

Grades: **A** (90%>), **B** (80 - 89.9%), **C** (70 – 79.9%), **D** (60 – 69.9%), **E** (<60%)
Scores are not ‘curved’.

Course Lecture & Reading Schedule

(Consult the Critical Dates & Deadlines table below on page 9 for due dates and times for exams, quizzes, and various assignments)

Week Date	Modules: Assignments, Lecture Topics, Online Learning Activities, Text Readings	Bowman et al. Readings
Module 1—Organisms and Their Environment		
<i>Module 1 opens Aug. 31 @ 7AM & closes Oct. 7 @ 10PM</i>		
<u>Assignments & Quizzes/Exams</u>		
-Quiz 1 Syllabus, Quizzes 2-3		
-Problem Set 1: see assignment sheet posted in Canvas		
1 Aug. 31	<p>Case Study Lecture: Course Introduction & Climate Change Impacts on Future Biome Distribution</p> <p>Online Learning Activities: Activities emphasize ecological connections and focus on amphibian declines and malformations. Interactive web pages allow exploration of our planet’s major biomes as well as numerous research sites in the US that are part of the LTER network.</p> <p>Text Reading Topics: Ecological Connections, Climate and Biomes</p>	<p><i>Chapters 1, 2 & 3</i></p> <p><i>Web of Life</i> <i>Physical Env.</i> <i>Biosphere</i></p>
2 Sept. 7	<p>Case Study Lecture: Thermal Effects on Pythons in Florida</p> <p>Online Learning Activities: Activities offer a look at the fundamental processes that affect Earth’s climate, provide specific examples of how animals deal with extremes in temperature, and more</p> <p>Text Reading Topics: Coping with Environmental Variation</p>	<p><i>Chapters 4 & 5</i></p> <p><i>Env. Var.-Temp.</i> <i>Env. Var.-Energy</i></p>
Module 2—Ecosystems		
<i>Module 2 opens Sept. 14 @ 7AM & closes Oct. 7 @ 10PM</i>		
<u>Assignments & Quizzes/Exams</u>		
-Quizzes 4-6, Exam 1		
-Video Discussion 1: see assignment sheet posted in Canvas		

-Group Project: see assignment sheet posted in Canvas		
3 Sept. 14	<p>Case Study Lecture: Hydrothermal and Seep Vent Community Structure</p> <p>Online Learning Activities: Video clips explore the unique organisms of deep-sea hydrothermal vent communities and the response of global plant growth to climate change</p> <p>Text Reading Topics: Primary and Secondary Production</p>	<p><i>Chapter 20</i></p> <p><i>Production</i></p>
4 Sept. 21	<p>Case Study Lecture: Brown Treesnake Trophic Cascades</p> <p>Online Learning Activities: Videos and simulations emphasize the complex relationships among species in trophic cascades</p> <p>Text Reading Topics: Food Webs, Energy Flow</p>	<p><i>Chapter 21</i></p> <p><i>Energy Flow & Food Webs</i></p>
5 Sept. 28	<p>Case Study Lecture: Biological Soil Crusts Conservation and Ecology</p> <p>Online Learning Activities: Animations and video clips explain nutrient cycling, eutrophication, and acid rain impacts</p> <p>Text Reading Topics: Nutrient Cycling</p>	<p><i>Chapter 22</i></p> <p><i>Nutrient Supply & Cycling</i></p>
Module 3—Natural Communities		
<p><i>Module 3 opens Oct. 5 @ 7AM & closes Nov. 4 @ 10PM</i></p> <p><u>Assignments & Quizzes/Exams</u></p> <p>-Quizzes 7-8</p> <p>-Problem Set 2: see assignment sheet posted in Canvas</p>		
6 Oct. 5	<p>Case Study Lecture: Row Crops as Biofuels</p> <p>Online Learning Activities: Videos, animations, and news articles highlight ecological engineers, the process of succession, and biofuels</p> <p>Text Reading Topics: Community Structure and Change</p>	<p><i>Chapters 16, 17, 19</i></p> <p><i>Natural Communities</i></p>
7 Oct. 12	<p>Case Study Lecture: Road Effects on Herpetofauna</p> <p>Online Learning Activities: Explore and learn about biogeography and continental drift</p> <p>Text Reading Topics: Biogeography</p>	<p><i>Chapter 18</i></p> <p><u><i>Biogeography</i></u></p>
Module 4—Populations		
<p><i>Module 4 opens Oct. 19 @ 7AM & closes Nov. 4 @ 10PM</i></p> <p><u>Assignments & Quizzes/Exams</u></p> <p>-Quizzes 9-10, Exam 2</p> <p>-Problem Set 3: see assignment sheet posted in Canvas</p>		
8 Oct. 19	<p>Case Study Lecture: Salamander Life History and Conservation</p> <p>Online Learning Activities: Explore reproductive strategies of marine invertebrates and plants, and learn about conservation efforts for Kiwis in New Zealand</p> <p>Text Reading Topics: Species Life Histories, Population Distribution and Abundance</p>	<p><i>Chapters 7 & 9</i></p> <p><i>Life History</i></p> <p><i>Pop. Dist. Abund.</i></p>
9	<p>Case Study Lecture: Pond-breeding Amphibians as Metapopulations</p>	<p><i>Chapters 10 & 11</i></p>

Oct. 26	<p>Online Learning Activities: Simulations and animations explain and illustrate important concepts of the growth of populations.</p> <p>Text Reading Topics: Growth, Regulation, and Dynamics of Populations</p>	<p><i>Pop. Dynamics</i> <i>Pop. Growth Reg.</i></p>
<p>Module 5—Interactions Among Organisms</p>		
<p><i>Module 5 opens Nov. 2 @ 7AM & closes Dec. 16 @ 10PM</i></p> <p><u>Assignments & Quizzes/Exams</u></p> <p>-Quizzes 11-12</p> <p>-Video Discussion 2: see assignment sheet posted in Canvas</p>		
10 Nov. 28	<p>Case Study Lecture: Sundew/Spider Competition</p> <p>Online Learning Activities: Videos demonstrate and discuss competition and evolution of chemical defenses in plants and animals</p> <p>Text Reading Topics: Competition & Predation</p>	<p><i>Chapters 12 & 14</i></p> <p><i>Predation</i> <i>Competition</i></p>
11 Nov. 9	<p>Case Study Lecture: Biological Control of Invasive Anurans</p> <p>Online Learning Activities: As you will learn in these videos, truth can be stranger than fiction—explore the intriguing topics of parasitism and mutualism</p> <p>Text Reading Topics: Parasitism, Mutualism, Commensalism</p>	<p><i>Chapters 13 & 15</i></p> <p><i>Parasitism</i> <i>Mutualism &</i> <i>Commensalism</i></p>
12 Nov. 16	<p>Case Study Lecture: Florida Panther Conservation: Genetic Introgression</p> <p>Online Learning Activities: Video clips and animations illustrate processes of natural selection and speciation</p> <p>Text Reading Topics: Evolution, Behavioral Ecology</p>	<p><i>Chapters 6 & 8</i></p> <p><i>Evol./Ecol.</i> <i>Behav. Ecol.</i></p>
<p>Module 6—Applied Ecology</p>		
<p><i>Module 6 opens Nov. 23 @ 7AM & closes Dec. 16 @ 10PM</i></p> <p><u>Assignments & Quizzes/Exams</u></p> <p>-Quiz 14, Exam 3</p> <p>-Problem Set 4: see assignment sheet posted in Canvas</p>		
13 Nov. 23	<p>No quiz or assigned readings this week—enjoy the Thanksgiving Break!</p>	
14 Nov. 30	<p>Case Study Lectures: Assisted Migration Case Study & Swallow-tailed Kite Case Study</p> <p>Online Learning Activities: Explore a variety on online resources that address climate change impacts</p> <p>Text Reading Topics: Landscape and Global Ecology</p>	<p><i>Chapters 24 & 25</i></p> <p><i>Landscape Ecol.</i> <i>Global Ecol.</i></p>
15 Dec. 7	<p>Case Study Lecture: Red-cockaded Woodpecker Management and Conservation</p> <p>Online Learning Activities: Explore a collection of topics ranging from partnerships to fight invasive species to efforts to save endangered species</p> <p>Text Reading Topics: Conservation Biology</p>	<p><i>Chapter 23</i></p> <p><i>Cons. Biology</i></p>

Critical Dates & Deadlines

(This is the best source for critical dates in this course!)

Assignment	Assign. Available	Available Time	Due Date	Due Time
Quiz 1 Syllabus Quiz	31-Aug-20	10:00 AM	3-Sept-20	10:00 PM
Quiz 2 Chps 1,2,3	31-Aug-20	10:00 AM	10-Sept-20	10:00 PM
Quiz 3 Chps 4,5	31-Aug-20	10:00 AM	10-Sept-20	10:00 PM
Quiz 4 Chp 20	14-Sept-20	10:00 AM	17-Sept-20	10:00 PM
<i>Problem Set 1</i>	31-Aug-20	7:00 AM	18-Sept-20	10:00 PM
<u>Video Discussion 1*</u>	14-Sept-20	7:00 AM	21-Sept-20	10:00 PM
Quiz 5 Chp 21	14-Sept-20	10:00 AM	24-Sept-20	10:00 PM
Quiz 6 Chp 22	14-Sept-20	10:00 AM	1-Oct-20	10:00 PM
Exam 1	5-Oct-20	12:01 PM (noon)	6-Oct-20	10:00 PM
Quiz 7 Chps 16,17,19	5-Oct-20	10:00 AM	8-Oct-20	10:00 PM
Quiz 8 Chp 18	5-Oct-20	10:00 AM	15-Oct-20	10:00 PM
<i>Problem Set 2</i>	5-Oct-20	7:00 AM	16-Oct-20	10:00 PM
Quiz 9 Chps 7,9	19-Oct-20	10:00 AM	22-Oct-20	10:00 PM
Quiz 10 Chps 10,11	19-Oct-20	10:00 AM	29-Oct-20	10:00 PM
Exam 2	2-Nov-20	12:01 PM (noon)	3-Nov-20	10:00 PM
Quiz 11 Chps 12,14	2-Nov-20	10:00 AM	5-Nov-20	10:00 PM
<i>Problem Set 3</i>	19-Oct-20	7:00 AM	6-Nov-20	10:00 PM
<u>Video Discussion 2*</u>	2-Nov-20	7:00 AM	9-Nov-20	10:00 PM
Quiz 12 Chps 13,15	2-Nov-20	10:00 AM	12-Nov-20	10:00 PM
Quiz 13 Chps 6,8	2-Nov-20	10:00 AM	19-Nov-20	10:00 PM
Quiz 14 Chps 23,24,25	23-Nov-20	10:00 AM	3-Dec-20	10:00 PM
<i>Problem Set 4</i>	23-Nov-20	7:00 AM	4-Dec-20	10:00 PM
Exam 3	14-Dec-20	12:01 PM (noon)	15-Dec-20	10:00 PM

***Note: Video Discussions have MULTIPLE due dates. Consult the assignment sheets in Canvas to determine all due dates and times for these assignments.**

Also consult the monthly calendar posted in Canvas that shows due dates and times.

Getting help with technology:

For IT help regarding issues with the course involving the Canvas site, first check the student Help Desk Wiki page at <https://wiki.helpdesk.ufl.edu/FAQs/E-Learning>. You can also get to this page by clicking the “Student Help” link in the blue, Student Links box at the left on the UF e-Learning Support Services page at <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/> and scroll down to the specific FAQs for Canvas. (This is the same page where you log into e-Learning in Canvas.). Within Canvas you can also get help by clicking the “Help” link in the upper right of the blue Canvas header. This will open a box with several choices—try the “Search the Canvas Guides” option. If you still need assistance after exploring the sites listed above, contact the UF Computing Help Desk (352-392-4357, helpdesk@ufl.edu).

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do I access the online learning management system used for this course?

This course is delivered in the Canvas learning management system. You will need a Gatorlink account to log on to e-Learning in Canvas. To log on to UF’s e-Learning in Canvas site, go to <http://lss.at.ufl.edu/> and click on the blue “Log In To E-Learning” at the right of the page; you may be prompted to enter your Gatorlink username and password. Once you have entered your Gatorlink username and password your Canvas page will load, and all of the Canvas courses you are registered for will be available to you. You will need to click the “Courses” drop-down menu in the blue banner at the top of the page. This course will appear as WIS 4934: Natural Resource Ecology, Fall 2014.

2. Where do I get the required text and instructional materials for this course?

The required course text, which you will need the first week of class, can be acquired in a variety of ways (new copies are available at the UF Book Store). See the “Required course text” heading on the first page of this syllabus for details. Supplemental readings and all other materials will be available as PDFs at the course Canvas site.

3. Do I have to have Internet access at home?

No, but you are strongly encouraged to have reliable Internet access at home. The University also has many student computer labs available to students who wish to use them.

4. What computer programs will I need to use in this course?

Adobe Acrobat reader is free software required to view and print course materials that are available in Canvas as PDF files. To download the free reader, go to <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>.

e-Learning in Canvas is the centrally-supported course management system at UF. It is the online source for the learning resources and assignments in this course. For a tutorial regarding E-Learning Canvas functionality, go to <https://wiki.helpdesk.ufl.edu/FAQs/E-Learning>.

Word Processing is a fundamental tool for all learning in higher education. There are numerous programs available, with the most popular being Microsoft Word. You will be required to submit many word processed documents during this course. It is recommended to save these files in the .doc or .rtf format which can be easily opened by your instructor.

Data Manipulation is important for organizing, visualizing, and presenting scientific data. One of the easiest ways to do this is with a spreadsheet and the functions available in a spreadsheet program such as Microsoft Excel. You will need to ability to organize and present data in tables and graphs to complete Problem Sets in this course.

A **Web Browser** is essential and Canvas supports most browsers. However, it is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that you use the most recent version of the browser: **Internet Explorer** 10 and 11, **Chrome** 35 and 36, **Firefox** 30 and 31, and **Safari** 6 and 7.

Java is required to view and complete the simulations at the course text website, which are required for most of the Problem Sets. You can download Java free at <http://www.java.com/en/>

You will also need **Flash Player**, which you can download free at <http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>.

5. *Where do I get help with computer problems and other technical help?*

If you have a question or problem using technology required for this course, including using Canvas, here are the steps you should take.

1. Consult the Help Desk Wiki for Canvas <https://wiki.helpdesk.ufl.edu/FAQs/E-Learning>
2. Consult the UF e-Learning Canvas FAQ page https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help/Canvas_FAQ
3. Email the UF Help Desk helpdesk@ufl.edu
4. Call the UF Help Desk [352-392-HELP (4357) call the Help Desk for urgent questions]
5. Email the course instructor tadpole@ufl.edu
6. Call the course instructor 352-846-0557

The UF Computing Help Desk is available by phone or email at: (352) 392-HELP (4357) and helpdesk@ufl.edu. The hours of operation are: Monday-Thursday: 7:30am-10:00pm, Friday: 7:30am-5:00pm and Weekends: 12:00pm-6:00pm. Before calling the UF help desk try to figure out the issue yourself by visiting the websites listed under number 1 & 2 above. See the 'Getting help with technology' section on page 9 of this syllabus for more information.

6. *What is the University policy on 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.

7. *What if I need special accommodations to take the course?*

The UF 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.

Contact the Disability Resource Center by phone: (325) 392-8565, the UF Gainesville campus, Room 0001 Reid Hall, or online at: www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/.

8. *How long will I have to wait for a response from the instructor to my e-mail?*

On weekdays, your instructor should respond to emails within 24 hours, but this may not always happen due to meetings and professional obligations. Emails sent on weekends will not be answered until Monday.

9. *What will help me succeed in this course?*

Strong discipline and desire to succeed: You'll need to log in to the course Canvas site regularly to check for messages and to participate in discussions. There is a great deal of reading in this course, so you need to make a commitment to completing the assigned readings on a regular basis. Just because there are not regularly scheduled meeting times does not mean you don't have to devote time to this course. You should expect to have to devote 6-9 hours a week working on this course. Quizzes are scheduled weekly to help ensure that you don't get behind with course reading assignments.

Ability to work well independently: You'll develop the support of fellow learners all taking the same coursework together, but it will be different than a typical classroom environment. If you work well independently, your chance of success is higher. You will also need to work well in a group to complete the group project.

Computer savvy: If you're not familiar with the Internet and e-mail communication, I recommend that you take a computer enrichment class prior to enrolling in this course. I assume you know how to access and send data on the Internet.

Below are some **Best Practices** provided by the UF Help Desk for taking quizzes and exams in Canvas.

- Don't wait until the last minute. Know when the quiz/exam must be completed and leave yourself plenty of time.
- Take your quiz/exam during [Help Desk hours](#) so that if you encounter problems there will be someone available to help you. Make sure you have a dependable internet connection; WIRED rather than wireless.
- Be sure you are using the most recent version of your web browser when logging into Canvas.
- Make sure you read all instructions carefully before beginning the exams.
- If you lose internet connection, or your browser crashes, the timer will continue to count down. Log back in as quickly as possible and resume the test! You may need to click the "Resume Quiz/Exam" button.
- If you encounter any unexpected behavior (error messages, inability to log in, etc.) take a screen shot of the problem (**Print Scrn**) and paste (**CTRL+V**) into a program like Word or Paint. Save this file. This is important so that your instructor knows your problem is legitimate, and to assist the UF Computing Help Desk in helping you fix the problem.
- If you encounter problems that prevent you from taking an exam, immediately call the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357. Keep the ticket number for future reference.
- When you are done with an exam, *be sure you submit it!*

University of Florida Policy Statements

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>

Absences and Make-Up Work

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/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Course Evaluation Process

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

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students 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." The Honor Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Honor Code](#). Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

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 Resources

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter. We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).

University Police Department: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#)

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

[Career Connections Center:](#) Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

[Library Support:](#) Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

[Teaching Center:](#) Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

[Writing Studio:](#) 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.](#)

On-Line Students Complaints: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process](#)

Services for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Online Course Evaluation Process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner](#). 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 ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. [Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here](#).