

# Natural Resource Ecology—WIS 3404

University of Florida, 3 Credits, Fall Semester 2025

## Course Syllabus

**Instructor/TA contacts:** Dr. Steve A. Johnson (aka Dr. J; he/him/his): [tadpole@ufl.edu](mailto:tadpole@ufl.edu) (but **email me in Canvas** with any course-related questions or issues); Office—352.846.0557 (please do not leave a message)

Grad Teaching Assistant: Ms. Ashlynn Canode (she/her/hers)  
[a.canode@ufl.edu](mailto:a.canode@ufl.edu)

We will do our best to respond to emails within 24 hours during the week.

**Office hours:** *Dr. J:* Wednesdays 2-5PM EST **Email any time, within Canvas only**, with questions or to arrange a Zoom meeting. Students on the Gainesville campus are welcome to arrange a time to meet in person at his office (Newins-Ziegler Hall, Room 216).

*Ms. Ashlynn Canode:* **Email her in Canvas** with questions or to arrange an appointment to virtually meet with her. Ms. Canode is available to meet in person on campus (NZ 366) on Thursdays after 12pm (noon), but please arrange in-person meetings ahead of time.

**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 asynchronous, online course, and you will access course materials, take quizzes and exams, turn in assignments, and communicate with classmates and Dr. J via e-Learning in Canvas, UF's online course management system. The course name in Canvas is "Nat Resource Ecology—Fall 2025—WIS3404". Please be sure to visit the course Canvas site ASAP and view the Welcome Video at the course home page to learn how the course is organized in Canvas. Also study this syllabus, especially the Critical Dates and Deadlines Table—a PDF of this syllabus is available at the course Canvas site. **Regularly visit the course Canvas site for important course announcements and be sure to check your Canvas email daily.**

**Canvas website:** Course materials (e.g., quizzes, exams, assignments, lectures, etc.) 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 course “Nat Resource Ecology—Fall 2025—WIS3404”. You will need your Gatorlink username and password to log into Canvas at [elearning.ufl.edu](https://elearning.ufl.edu) (click the orange “GatorLink” button at left under the E-Learning Login heading).

**Required course text:** To complete this course you need to purchase the digital resources for the Oxford Insight package (ISBN 9780197673737) associated with the course. This package provides you access to each chapter of the text via an eBook (***Ecology 6<sup>th</sup> Ed. (2024) W.D. Bowman and S.D. Hacker, Oxford University Press***) and each chapter’s associated resources. You will need to complete simulations within several of the chapters’ Hands-On Problem sections for your Problem Set assignments, which you will submit in Canvas. There are also practice tests at the end of each chapter that you can take to prepare for the graded quizzes that **you must complete in Canvas**. And be sure to explore the other resources available through Oxford Insight.

**Oxford Insight website:** As noted above, you must purchase access to the Oxford Insight package for the course.

You have two options to purchase the course Oxford Insight package: Option 1 is through the All Access program operated by the UF Bookstore. The program offers UF students easy access to digital course materials for select courses at the lowest price. [Learn more about UF’s All Access program](#). The charge for this option (~\$90) is billed automatically to your UF student account.

Option 2 is to purchase the Oxford Insight package directly from the publisher, Oxford University Press. The cost for this option is ~\$100 and you will have to pay with a credit card. You can [purchase directly from the publisher here](#).

Regardless of how you purchase the Oxford Insight package for the course, you will need to access the **specific package** for this course. The Registration Code for this course’s Oxford Insight package is <https://oup.junction.app/#/register/687147eecbff6efe64f952a5> and the Course Enrollment Code **84073e**.

At the course Home page in Canvas (under Start Here) there are links with guidance on how to purchase your access code and register at the Oxford Insight platform. There is also a link with directions on how to “opt-in” to the course via the UF Bookstore’s All Access program.

**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-faqs/> 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/student-help/>

Web browsers: UF e-Learning in Canvas supports the last two versions of *most* web browsers. It's recommended that students use the most recent version of one of these browsers: Chrome, Firefox, Edge or Safari (Mac users). For more details, visit the [Canvas Supported Browsers](#) page. If you have trouble accessing a site or downloading a file, be sure to try the same URL using a different browser.

Some supported browsers may still produce a banner stating "Your browser does not meet the minimum requirements for Canvas." If you have upgraded your browser but still see the warning banner, try logging out of Canvas and deleting your browser cookies. Please contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu) if you need assistance.

**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 purpose and description in more detail:** This course is one option among five courses that fulfills the Ecology requirement (Category 2) for the Natural Resource Conservation major. It also fulfills the Ecology common Requirement or can serve as an Ecology Focus Area course for the Wildlife Ecology & Conservation major. Additionally, it is a popular elective for UF students majoring in Biology, Environmental Science, Animal Science, Interdisciplinary Studies as well as other majors. As noted above, this is a 100% online course delivered asynchronously via Canvas.

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, and textbook readings. 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 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 of the recorded lectures. Review the 'Summary' boxes at the end of each text chapter for important concepts that students should understand.

- Apply ecological principles to solve specific problems affecting the conservation and management of natural resources
- 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 provide examples of how organisms adapt and evolve in response to changing environments
- Recognize various types of biological interactions of organisms (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 and how the flow of energy is affected by the actions of humans
- Demonstrate critical thinking skills by interpreting and analyzing data; demonstrate technical writing skills via scientific reports

### **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! **Be sure to read all the information in each chapter: chapter case study, chapter introduction, and each of the chapter sections, and the chapter review.** It's a good idea to take the Chapter Test at the end of each chapter within the Oxford Insight platform as practice before you take the graded quizzes in Canvas. The Chapter Tests at the end

of each chapter at the course digital resources site **do not** count toward your grade—these are practice quizzes, and they are optional. Again, the questions associated with each Chapter Test within the Oxford Insight platform are **NOT** the same as the course quizzes you take in Canvas.

**You must take the course quizzes** (14 throughout the semester) **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 single quiz, assuming you take a quiz more than once. Weekly quizzes (including the Quiz 1, 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 cover material presented in recorded lectures (see View Presentation headings for each Module page in Canvas). 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 available 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.

You are **NOT** allowed to use or attempt to use notes or any other unauthorized materials or resources (including AI) on exams or quizzes. **Using any form of assistance on exams or quizzes other than your own memory is cheating, and cheating is a violation of the UF Student Honor Code.** Each exam and quiz is timed. As soon as you begin an exam or quiz in Canvas the exam clock starts ticking, and the exam or quiz will close when the allotted time has expired, even if you have not completed the assessment. You are on your honor not to use notes of other resources when you take exams and quizzes and I trust you to adhere to this policy. Be assured, you will not have time to look up all answers in your notes or online.

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 50 points, regardless of the number of questions, for a total of 200 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.

Online Learning Activities (OLAs): The ‘OLA’ sheets contain summaries and links for a variety of information sources that will allow you to further explore topics within each module. You are strongly encouraged to explore these, but this is not a requirement. This is your chance to dig a bit deeper on a specific topic—you will learn more by doing this, so please make some time to check out the resources on the ‘OLA’ sheets. 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	% of Total Pts.
Quizzes (14 @ 5-20 pts each)	145 pts.	1-3.1%/quiz, 22.5% overall
Exams (3 @ 100 pts each)	300 pts.	15.5%/exam, 46.5% overall
Problem Sets (4 @ 50 pts each)	200 pts.	7.8%/PS, 31.0% overall
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>645 pts.</u></b>	

Grades: **A** (580 pts.>), **B** (579 - 516), **C** (515 – 451), **D** (450 – 387), **E** (<387 pts.)  
**Scores are *not* ‘curved’; +/- grades are *not* assigned in this course.**

## Course Lecture & Reading Schedule

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

Week Date	Modules: Assignments, Lecture Topics, Online Learning Activities, Text Readings	Text Readings
<b>Module 1—Organisms and Their Environment</b>		
<i>Module 1: Aug. 21 to Sept. 30</i>		
<u>Assignments &amp; Quizzes/Exams</u>		
-Quiz 1 Syllabus, Quizzes 2-3		
-Problem Set 1: see assignment sheet posted in Canvas		
<b>1</b> Aug. 21	<b>Case Study Lecture:</b> Course Introduction <b>Online Learning Activities:</b> Activities emphasize ecological connections and focus on amphibian declines and malformations. <b>Text Reading Topics:</b> Ecological Connections	<i>Chapter 1</i>  <u><i>Web of Life</i></u>
<b>2</b> Aug. 25	<b>Case Study Lecture:</b> Climate Change Impacts on Future Biome Distribution <b>Online Learning Activities:</b> Interactive web pages allow exploration of our planet’s major biomes as well as	<i>Chapters 2 &amp; 3</i>  <u><i>Physical Env.</i></u> <u><i>Biosphere</i></u>

	<p>numerous research sites in the US that are part of the LTER network</p> <p><b>Text Reading Topics:</b> Climate and Biomes</p>	
<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Sept. 1</p>	<p><b>Case Study Lecture:</b> Thermal Effects on Pythons in Florida</p> <p><b>Online Learning Activities:</b> 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><b>Text Reading Topics:</b> Coping with Environmental Variation</p>	<p><i>Chapters 4 &amp; 5</i></p> <p><u>Env. Var.-Temp.&amp; Water</u></p> <p><u>Env. Var.-Energy</u></p>
<b>Module 2—Ecosystems</b>		
<p><i>Module 2: Sept. 8 to Sept. 30</i></p> <p><u>Assignments &amp; Quizzes/Exams</u></p> <p>-Quizzes 4-6, <b>Exam 1</b></p> <p>-Problem Set 2: see assignment sheet posted in Canvas</p>		
<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Sept. 8</p>	<p><b>Case Study Lecture:</b> Hydrothermal and Seep Vent Community Structure</p> <p><b>Online Learning Activities:</b> Video clips explore the unique organisms of deep-sea hydrothermal vent communities and the response of global plant growth to climate change</p> <p><b>Text Reading Topics:</b> Primary and Secondary Production</p>	<p><i>Chapter 20</i></p> <p><u>Production</u></p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Sept. 15</p>	<p><b>Case Study Lecture:</b> Brown Treesnake Trophic Cascades</p> <p><b>Online Learning Activities:</b> Videos and simulations emphasize the complex relationships among species in trophic cascades</p> <p><b>Text Reading Topics:</b> Food Webs, Energy Flow</p>	<p><i>Chapter 21</i></p> <p><u>Energy Flow &amp; Food Webs</u></p>
<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Sept. 22</p>	<p><b>Case Study Lecture:</b> Biological Soil Crusts Conservation and Ecology</p> <p><b>Online Learning Activities:</b> Animations and video clips explain nutrient cycling, eutrophication, and acid rain impacts</p> <p><b>Text Reading Topics:</b> Nutrient Cycling</p>	<p><i>Chapter 22</i></p> <p><u>Nutrient Supply &amp; Cycling</u></p>
<b>Module 3—Natural Communities</b>		
<p><i>Module 3: Sept. 29 to Oct. 28</i></p> <p><u>Assignments &amp; Quizzes/Exams</u></p> <p>-Quizzes 7-8</p>		
<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Sept. 29</p>	<p><b>Case Study Lecture:</b> Row Crops as Biofuels</p> <p><b>Online Learning Activities:</b> Videos, animations, and news articles highlight ecological engineers, the process of succession, and biofuels</p> <p><b>Text Reading Topics:</b> Community Structure and Change</p>	<p><i>Chapters 16, 17, 19</i></p> <p><u>Communities</u></p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>Oct. 6</p>	<p><b>Case Study Lecture:</b> Road Effects on Herpetofauna</p> <p><b>Online Learning Activities:</b> Explore and learn about biogeography and continental drift</p> <p><b>Text Reading Topics:</b> Biogeography</p>	<p><i>Chapter 18</i></p> <p><u>Biogeography</u></p>
<b>Module 4—Populations</b>		

<b>Module 4: Oct. 13 to Oct. 28</b> <u>Assignments &amp; Quizzes/Exams</u> -Quizzes 9-10, <b>Exam 2</b> -Problem Set 3: see assignment sheet posted in Canvas		
<b>9</b>  Oct. 13	<b>Case Study Lecture:</b> Salamander Life History and Conservation <b>Online Learning Activities:</b> Explore reproductive strategies of marine invertebrates and plants, and learn about conservation efforts for Kiwis in New Zealand <b>Text Reading Topics:</b> Species Life Histories, Population Distribution and Abundance	<b>Chapters 7 &amp; 9</b>  <u>Life History</u> <u>Pop. Dist. &amp; Abundance</u>
<b>10</b>  Oct. 20	<b>Case Study Lecture:</b> Pond-breeding Amphibians as Metapopulations <b>Online Learning Activities:</b> Simulations and animations explain and illustrate important concepts of the growth of populations. <b>Text Reading Topics:</b> Growth, Regulation, and Dynamics of Populations	<b>Chapters 10 &amp; 11</b>  <u>Pop. Dynamics</u> <u>Pop. Growth &amp; Regulation</u>
<b>Module 5—Interactions Among Organisms</b>		
<b>Module 5: Oct. 27 to Dec. 12</b> <u>Assignments &amp; Quizzes/Exams</u> -Quizzes 11-13 -Problem Set 4: see assignment sheet posted in Canvas		
<b>11</b>  Oct. 27	<b>Case Study Lecture:</b> Sundew/Spider Competition <b>Online Learning Activities:</b> Videos demonstrate and discuss competition and evolution of chemical defenses in plants and animals <b>Text Reading Topics:</b> Competition & Predation	<b>Chapters 12 &amp; 14</b>  <u>Predation</u> <u>Competition</u>
<b>12</b>  Nov. 3	<b>Case Study Lecture:</b> Biological Control of Invasive Anurans <b>Online Learning Activities:</b> As you will learn in these videos, truth can be stranger than fiction—explore the intriguing topics of parasitism and mutualism <b>Text Reading Topics:</b> Parasitism, Mutualism, Commensalism	<b>Chapters 13 &amp; 15</b>  <u>Parasitism</u> <u>Mutualism &amp; Commensalism</u>
<b>13</b>  Nov. 10	<b>Case Study Lecture:</b> Florida Panther Conservation: Genetic Introgression <b>Online Learning Activities:</b> Video clips and animations illustrate processes of natural selection and speciation <b>Text Reading Topics:</b> Evolution, Behavioral Ecology	<b>Chapters 6 &amp; 8</b>  <u>Evol. &amp; Ecol.</u> <u>Behav. Ecol.</u>
<b>Module 6—Applied Ecology</b>		
<b>Module 6: Nov. 17 to Dec. 12</b> <u>Assignments &amp; Quizzes/Exams</u> -Quiz 14, <b>Exam 3</b>		
<b>14</b>	<b>Case Study Lectures:</b> Assisted Migration Case Study & Swallow-tailed Kite Case Study	<b>Chapters 24, 23 &amp; 25</b>



Nov. 17	<b>Online Learning Activities:</b> Explore a variety on online resources that address climate change <b>Text Reading Topics:</b> Landscape Ecology & Ecosystem Management, Global Ecology, Conservation Biology	<u>Landscape Ecol.</u> <u>Conserv. Biology</u> <u>Global Ecol.</u>
15 Nov. 24	<b>Enjoy Thanksgiving Break!</b>	
16  Dec. 1	<b>Case Study Lecture:</b> Red-cockaded Woodpecker Management and Conservation <b>Online Learning Activities:</b> Explore a collection of topics ranging from partnerships to fight invasive species to efforts to save endangered species	No text readings

## Critical Dates & Deadlines

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

Assignment	Available Date	Available Time	Due Date(s)	Due Time* (EST)
Quiz 1 Syllabus Quiz	21-Aug-25	7:00 AM	<b>28-Aug-25</b>	10:00 PM
Quiz 2 Chps 1,2,3	21-Aug-25	7:00 AM	<b>4-Sept-25</b>	10:00 PM
Quiz 3 Chps 4,5	21-Aug-25	7:00 AM	<b>4-Sept-25</b>	10:00 PM
Problem Set 1	21-Aug-25	7:00 AM	<b>5-Sept-25</b>	10:00 PM
Quiz 4 Chp 20	8-Sept-25	7:00 AM	<b>11-Sept-25</b>	10:00 PM
Quiz 5 Chp 21	8-Sept-25	7:00 AM	<b>18-Sept-25</b>	10:00 PM
Quiz 6 Chp 22	8-Sept-25	7:00 AM	<b>25-Sept-25</b>	10:00 PM
Problem Set 2	8-Sept-25	7:00 AM	<b>26-Sept-25</b>	10:00 PM
<b>Exam 1</b>	29-Sept-25	12:01 PM (noon)	<b>30-Sept-25</b>	10:00 PM
Quiz 7 Chps 16,17,19	29-Sept-25	7:00 AM	<b>2-Oct-25</b>	10:00 PM
Quiz 8 Chp 18	29-Sept-25	7:00 AM	<b>9-Oct-25</b>	10:00 PM
Quiz 9 Chps 7,9	13-Oct-25	7:00 AM	<b>16-Oct-25</b>	10:00 PM
Quiz 10 Chps 10,11	13-Oct-25	7:00 AM	<b>23-Oct-25</b>	10:00 PM
Problem Set 3	13-Oct-25	7:00 AM	<b>24-Oct-25</b>	10:00 PM
<b>Exam 2</b>	27-Oct-25	12:01 PM (noon)	<b>28-Oct-25</b>	10:00 PM
Quiz 11 Chps 12,14	27-Oct-25	7:00 AM	<b>30-Oct-25</b>	10:00 PM
Quiz 12 Chps 13,15	27-Oct-25	7:00 AM	<b>6-Nov-25</b>	10:00 PM
Quiz 13 Chps 6,8	27-Oct-25	7:00 AM	<b>13-Nov-25</b>	10:00 PM
Problem Set 4	27-Oct-25	7:00 AM	<b>14-Nov-25</b>	10:00 PM
Quiz 14 Chps 23,24,25	17-Nov-25	7:00 AM	<b>20-Nov-25</b>	10:00 PM
<b>Exam 3</b>	8-Dec-25	12:01 PM (noon)	<b>9-Dec-25</b>	10:00 PM

**\*Note: All due date times are Eastern Standard Time.**

### **Course Communication Expectations (Netiquette)**

Although this an online course you are expected to conduct yourself in a professional and polite manner, just as you should do in a face-to-face course. In your written communication please use a respectful tone and treat you classmates and instructors with respect. Use written language appropriate for a university classroom and avoid popular social media abbreviations and chatspeak. Also avoid slang, ALL CAPS, and limit use of emoticons and be very judicious in your use of humor or sarcasm. Proper spelling, punctuation and grammar is expected. For additional information consult this [guide to Netiquette](#) adapted from UF's Center for Teaching Excellence.

### **Getting help with technology:**

For IT help regarding issues with the course involving the Canvas site, first check the student Help Desk Canvas FAQs <https://elearning.ufl.edu/student-help/student-help-faqs/>. You can also get to this page by clicking the "Student Help" link in the blue at the top of the Canvas log in page <https://elearning.ufl.edu>. Within Canvas you can also get help by clicking the "Help" icon in lower left of the blue Canvas header. If you still need assistance after exploring the sites listed above, contact the UF Computing Help Desk (352-392-4357, [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto: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 orange "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 the Canvas courses you are registered for will be available to you via your Dashboard. If you are new to Canvas, please check out the Quickstart Guide for Students: <https://elearning.ufl.edu/student-help/keep-learning/quickstart-guide-for-students/>

#### *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 one of two ways. 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 and Wi-Fi is available across campus.

#### *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 list of FAQs regarding e-Learning in Canvas, go to <https://elearning.ufl.edu/student-help/student-help-faqs/>.

**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 for use with Canvas. However, it is highly recommended that you use the most recent version of one of these browsers: Chrome, Firefox, Edge or Safari (Mac users).

**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/>

#### *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 UF e-Learning Canvas FAQs page <https://elearning.ufl.edu/student-help/student-help-faqs/>
2. Email the UF Help Desk [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu)
3. Call the UF Help Desk [352-392-HELP (4357) call the Help Desk for urgent questions]
4. Email the course instructors in Canvas

The UF Computing Help Desk is available by phone or email at: (352) 392-HELP (4357) and [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu) 24 hours a day. They are also open at the HUB for walk-ins M-F from 8AM-10PM and S-S from 8AM-5PM. Before calling the UF help desk try to figure out the issue yourself by visiting the websites listed under number 1 above. See the 'Getting help with technology' section above 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: <https://disability.ufl.edu/>.

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

On weekdays, your instructors should respond to emails within 24 hours, but this may not always happen due to meetings and professional obligations. Emails sent on weekends may 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 conduct course activities. 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 no regularly scheduled meeting times does not mean you don't have to devote time to this course. You should expect to have to devote 4-6 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. But you will be required to work well independently.

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.
- Make sure you have a dependable internet connection; WIRED rather than wireless if possible.
- 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. 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

All of the Academic Policies & Resources pertaining to this course (e.g., attendance, Academic Honesty, helpful resources) can be found here: [UF Syllabus Policy Links - Online Course Syllabi - University of Florida](#)