

WIS 3401 Wildlife Ecology and Management (3 credits)

Fall 2022



Lectures, support materials, assignments, quizzes, and exams are found in UF eLearning (Canvas).

Discussion groups: WEC majors (Section 18184 - Group 1) – Tuesday, 3:00pm – 3:50pm, 112 Newins-Ziegler Hall
WEC majors (Section 18184 - Group 2) – Tuesday, 4:05pm – 4:55pm, 112 Newins-Ziegler Hall
Natural Resource Conservation majors in Milton, FL (Section 18183 - Group 3) – Thursday, 3:00pm – 3:50pm via Zoom: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/4895062272>
Non-WEC majors on main campus (Section 23494 - Group 4) - asynchronous section via Canvas

Instructor: Dr. Bridget Baker

Office: 307A Newins-Ziegler Hall

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:30pm – 2:30pm, or by appointment; in person or via Zoom:
<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/4895062272>

Email: bridgetbaker@ufl.edu

Dr. Baker's Teaching Philosophy: As a lifelong learner, I am passionate about instilling a love for new information and connections in the students whom I teach and mentor, regardless of academic level and/or discipline. Excitement in teaching and learning is contagious, and nothing is more satisfying than seeing the ripple effects in the lives and careers of inspired students. I want every student to feel respected, safe, included, valued, and competent. I genuinely care about the education, growth, success, and goals of my students and mentees. I invest time in knowing each student, encouraging direct communication with me either online or in-person, and supporting students to pursue research and/or clinical experiences, internships, jobs, and further academic training.

Graduate Teaching Assistant: This is a graduate student who has been assigned to the course and is available to help administer the course (e.g., exam development, discussion groups, and grading) and help students as needed.

Teaching Assistant: Po-An Chen

Office Hours: By appointment

Email: poanchen@ufl.edu

Course Description: Wildlife as a natural resource with emphasis on principles of conservation, ecology, and management.

Course Goal: To provide foundational knowledge about the principles of wildlife ecology and management that are necessary to think critically as a professional wildlife ecologist/manager and to solve wildlife conservation problems.

Course Objectives: The course has several primary objectives related to the course goal:

- Explain wildlife ecology and management terms and definitions.
- Identify historical and contemporary people, legislation, and events that have shaped wildlife ecology and management.
- Apply wildlife ecological concepts and/or management strategies at all levels of biological organization.
- Debate a range of positions related to the ethics and philosophy of wildlife management.
- Using peer-reviewed literature and other credible sources, evaluate and communicate a variety of wildlife ecology and management principles, practices, and issues.

Prerequisite Courses: Integrated Principles of Biology I & II and associated labs (BSC 2010, 2010L, 2011, & 2011L), equivalent courses.

Class organization: Lectures and supporting materials will be available via UF eLearning (Canvas) every Wednesday in preparation for the following week’s quiz and discussion. Please see course components and detailed calendar below.

Required book:

Leopold, A. 1968. A Sand County Almanac and Sketches Here and There. Oxford University Press, New York, NY.

- Sand County Almanac (**SCA**) **Part I** is entitled “A Sand County Almanac” and includes the “Foreword”, as well as “January” through “December”.
- **SCA Part II** is entitled “Sketches Here and There” and includes “Wisconsin” through “Manitoba”.

Evaluation: To assess how well we achieve the course goal and objectives, and allow you to demonstrate your knowledge and skills in the principles of wildlife ecology and management and their application in solving wildlife conservation problems, we have developed several evaluation instruments (i.e., discussions, quizzes, and exams).

Grading:

Quizzes*:	13 quizzes @ 15 pts each	195 pts
Discussions**:	12 discussions @ 20 pts each	240 pts
Q & A sessions^:	3 sessions @ 15 pts each	45 pts
Exams^^:	3 exams @ 130 pts each	390 pts
Final project†		130 pts
		Total 1000 pts

Grade	Scale	Grade	Scale
A	93-100%	C	73-76%
A-	90-92%	C-	70-72%
B+	87-89%	D+	67-69%
B	83-86%	D	63-66%
B-	80-82%	D-	60-62%
C+	77-79%	E	<60%

***Quizzes:** Quizzes are designed to reinforce the week’s lecture and supplementary material, as well as provide example exam questions. **Each quiz will be open for 48 hours from Sunday at 11:30am until Tuesday at 11:30am. There will be no make-up quizzes.**

****Discussions:** Topics will be provided each Wednesday in advance of the following week’s discussion. All students are expected to **submit a written response by the following Tuesday at 11:30am** (see grading information below). Discussion comments / posts must be appropriate, pertinent to the discussion, and add content. Saying things like “hey” or “yes, I agree with this statement” will not count as engagement.

Discussion groups (see complete information at top)

Groups 1 and 2 are reserved for WEC majors and will meet in 112 Newins-Ziegler Hall.

Group 3 is a synchronous Zoom session reserved for remote, Natural Resource Conservation majors in Milton, FL.

Group 4 is reserved for non-WEC majors on main campus using the asynchronous discussion board in Canvas.

Synchronous discussion sections		Asynchronous discussion section	
Requirement	Points	Requirement	Points
Submit a minimum 2 paragraph (~8 sentence) summary of your planned contribution for discussion with at least one credible resource by Tuesday at 11:30am.	10	First submit, then post a minimum of 2 paragraph (~8 sentences) contribution to the discussion board with at least one	10

		reputable resource. Due by Tuesday at 11:30am.	
Attendance	5	Post two, unique replies with a supporting or countering point to other posts (5 pts each). Due by Thursday at 11:30am.	10 (5 pts each)
Actively contribute to discussion	5		

^Q & A sessions: During each module (see course calendar below), each student must submit one to three question(s) that would help clarify or improve your comprehension of the online lecture and supplementary material. These questions are due one week before each exam. The course instructor will compile and respond to the most common and relevant questions via a video posted in Canvas on the Tuesday preceding each exam. Some exam questions will come directly from the Q&A videos.

^^Exams: Exams cover lecture, discussion, supplementary material, Q&A videos, and A Sand County Almanac (SCA). Exam questions will be a combination of multiple-choice, matching, true/false, and short answer types. The first exam will include SCA Part I; the second exam will include SCA part II; the third exam will be cumulative, but exclude SCA. All exams will be administered during the course of the semester (i.e. no exam will be scheduled during Final Exams week). Exams are taken in Canvas. You may use your notes, but students must work alone. **Exams open on Thursday at 11:30 am and close on Thursday at 11:30 pm.** Each will be time-limited. Questions will be randomly drawn from multiple question pools. If you do not complete an exam during the assigned period, you will receive a grade of zero for that exam. Make-up exams will only be given if you have an approved absence (i.e., arranged before the absence and with a note from a medical doctor or an appropriate University official). Please note that an absence is not excused unless it encompasses the entire time the exam was available.

+Final project: The final project is based on the concept of the 3-minute thesis, with the goal of inspiring creativity with science communication. Students must choose a topic of interest that relates to material from WIS 3401. Each student will make a 1- to 3-minute video/reel, audio podcast, or recorded PowerPoint presentation that makes the topic easily understood by a general audience, while covering the content credibly, effectively, and creatively. Students must submit a proposal that includes the topic and a summary of the project plan. The proposal will be worth 30 points of the final project grade. Proposals can be submitted starting November 1st. **Students who do not submit a proposal by November 18th, will receive zero points on the entire final project.** The final project will be due on the final day of the semester.

Grades and Grade Points: Grades will be posted on Canvas. Students will have two weeks after the posting of a quiz, discussion, Q&A, or exam grade to request a review of the grade. Failure to request a review within this period indicates a willingness to accept the assigned grade. Exams can be reviewed during the course instructor's Office Hours or by appointment (in person or via Zoom). For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points (i.e. the final grade), see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx> (Links to an external site.).

Attendance and Make-up Work: Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are described below, and are consistent with university policies that can be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx> (Links to an external site.).

elearning: Canvas is the platform/software at <https://elearning.ufl.edu/> (Links to an external site.) containing the course website, testing location, and includes all course information, materials, and scheduling. **Students are responsible for using a reliable and fast computer and internet connection** while completing quizzes and exams. Completing the Practice Exam will allow you to assess your computer and internet connections. Working on campus computers and networks may be helpful. Unless Canvas or the UF network are slowed or not working, slow or lost connections and computers that "die" are not acceptable reasons for incomplete, unfinished, or missing quiz questions, discussion posts, or exams.

Canvas Technology Requirements: Computers, Internet, and Web browsers: Canvas runs on Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS, Android, or any other device with a modern web browser. It is recommended to use a computer less than five years old with at least 1GB of RAM. It is recommended to have a minimum Internet speed of 512kbps. It is **strongly recommended** to not use a phone, tablet, or notepad for critical course tasks such as exams and discussions. Canvas currently supports the following browsers: Chrome, Safari, Firefox, Edge. Canvas supports the last two versions of most browsers. It is **highly recommended** to update to the **newest version** of whatever browser you are using.

For more information on approved computers and browsers please visit: [Canvas Basics Guide browser and computer requirements](#). On this web page, there is an area titled "Is My Browser up to Date?". Use it to check each computer and browser you may use in this course. Under "Browser Privacy Settings", read the section(s) for any browser intended for use. Note that your computer's operating system may affect browser function. Failure to use one of these browsers will cause problems. For example, in browsers such as Safari, insecure content will never be displayed. Return to the page to check for updates on technology issues in Canvas.

If you encounter technical difficulties in this course, **contact the UF Computing Help Desk** right away to troubleshoot. <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/> or (352) 392-HELP. If the problem cannot be fixed immediately, **notify your instructor, and provide them with the Help Desk ticket number.**

Online Course Evaluation Process: Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at: <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>.

Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>.

Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at: <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

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/process/student-conduct-honor-code>.

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.

Services for Students with Disabilities: The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this

documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation 0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/>

Campus Helping Resources: Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general wellbeing are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

- University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575, www.counseling.ufl.edu
 - Counseling Services
 - Groups and Workshops
 - Outreach and Consultation
 - Self-Help Library
 - Wellness Coaching
- U Matter We Care, www.umatter.ufl.edu/
- Career Connections Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, <https://career.ufl.edu/>.
- Student Success Initiative, <http://studentsuccess.ufl.edu>.

Student Complaints:

- Residential Course: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-studentconduct-code/>.
- Online Course: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>

Proposed Course Schedule						
	Topic	Quiz due dates	Discussion posts due	Q&A due dates	Other due dates	Exam dates
8/24-9/1	Welcome to WIS 3401	Sep 1 st				
8/31-9/8	Lesson 1 - Introduction to ecology	Sep 6 th	Sep 6 th			Sep 29 th
9/7-9/15	Lesson 2- History and regulations	Sep 13 th	Sep 13 th			
9/14-9/22	Lesson 3- Evolutionary and physiological ecology	Sep 20 th	Sep 20 th	Sep 22 nd		
9/21-9/29	Lesson 4 - Behavior and habitat use	Sep 27 th	Sep 27 th		SCA Part I	
9/28-10/6	Lesson 5 - Population abundance and distribution	Oct 4 th	Oct 4 th			Oct 27 th
10/5-10/13	Lesson 6 - Population growth and regulation	Oct 11 th	Oct 11 th			
10/12-10/20	Lesson 7 - Species interactions and diversity	Oct 18 th	Oct 18 th	Oct 20 th		
10/19-10/27	Lesson 8 - Species interactions and diversity	Oct 25 th	Oct 25 th		SCA Part II	Dec 1 st
10/26-11/3	Lesson 9 - Succession and island biogeography	Nov 1 st	Nov 1 st			
11/2-11/10	Lesson 10 - Human impacts and global change	Nov 8 th	Nov 8 th			
11/9-11/17	Lesson 11 - Human impacts and global change	Nov 15 th	Nov 15 th		Final project proposal Nov 18 th	
11/16-12/1	Lesson 12 – mgmt/conservation case studies	Nov 29 th	Nov 29 th	Nov 22 nd		
12/2-12/9	Final project Course evaluation				Dec 7 th Dec 9 th	

Note: The course instructor reserves the right to modify the schedule as necessary.