Wildlife Habitat Management
WIS 4427C
Spring 2025

Class: We will stay at Tall Timbers Research Station from March 15 to March 23.

Instructor: Dr. Marcus Lashley

Office Hours: by appointment
Email: marcus.lashley@ufl.edu
Course Website: http://elearning.ufl.edu/; Login with GatorLink Username & Password

Graduate TA: Annesha Lahiri
Office hours: by appointment
E-mail: a.lahiri@ufl.edu

Preferred Methods of Communication & Conflict Resolution: The preferred method of resolving questions, concerns, and issues regarding course content and expectations is to ask questions of the Instructor or Teaching Assistant in class or via email if necessary. To resolve technical issues contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or http://helpdesk.ufl.edu.

Course Description: Develop an understanding of wildlife habitat relationships and the application of habitat management practices in Florida (and elsewhere).

Course Goals: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to identify common wildlife plants; have an understanding of wildlife habitat management principles and practices used to create, maintain, enhance, and restore habitat for the benefit of wildlife; be able to apply their knowledge and skills to manage a range of vegetation community conditions and gain experience in the use of common habitat management tools.

Prerequisite Course: WIS 3401 – Wildlife Ecology & Management or equivalent course. Much of the Wildlife Habitat Management course requires prior and thorough understanding of the concepts, principles, and practices introduced in the prerequisite course.

Course materials: The course syllabus and lectures will be available on the course website. Materials will require Adobe Acrobat Reader (available free of charge at http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html), MS Word, MS PowerPoint, and/or a video player to access and print.

Course structure: This course will function in two parts. The asynchronous course materials are designed to prepare you with the knowledge to apply ecological theory to habitat management practice for a wide range of wildlife species in a wide range of vegetation types. The synchronous part of the course is designed to develop your field skills in the evaluation of habitat conditions and application of practices for habitat enhancement though experiential learning.

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

Type of activity	Assignment Type		Points
	Participation		50
Asynchronous	Lecture Quizzes	(10 @ 10 pts each)	100
	Lecture Exam		50
Synchronous	Daily plant quizzes	(8 @ 10 pts each)	80
	Forest Stand Improvement Qz		50
	Group Presentation		50
	Plant Exam		50
	Plant video diaries	(10 @ 10 pts each)	100
	Final Field Skills Exam	(Plants, tools, techniques)	50
Total			**580**

Grades: A (≥90.0%), B (80.0%-89.9%), C (70.0%-79.9%), D (60.0%-69.9%), & E (≤59.9%).

Grading Policy: If there is a summation error for points on any exam, quiz, or assignment, see me immediately so I can correct your total score/points. If you believe that an exam question, or other assignment was improperly graded, please bring it to me for reevaluation.

Quizzes: Lecture quizzes will be available online following the completion of each prerecorded lecture and other related materials in the module. The lecture exam will be available online to take after you have finished engaging the online materials. **All asynchronous materials should be completed before the beginning of the synchronous portion of the course.** Daily plant quizzes will be conducted in the field and will cover information related to plant identification, scientific names, common names, and related natural history. Each quiz will consist of at least 5 questions and will generally have two-part questions for a total of ten possible points. Note cards will be provided for you to submit answers. All plant quizzes should be completed individually and without the aid of technology, unless otherwise noted.

Exams: All exams and online quizzes will consist of a combination of multiple-guess (multiple correct answers possible with all needing to be selected for full credit), multiple choice, true/false questions, fill in the blank, which will allow you to demonstrate your knowledge and ability to synthesize, integrate, and apply knowledge and skills. If you do not complete an exam or quiz during the assigned period, you will receive a grade of zero (0) for that exam. **Make-up exams will not be permitted**. Exams and quizzes are closed book; books, notes, papers, computers (except the one a student is working on to access https://elearning.ufl.edu/), other electronic devices, headphones, earpieces, and other listening devices are not permitted to be used or in sight during an exam, and students must work alone. The lecture exam and lecture quizzes are available online at https://elearning.ufl.edu/. Questions for each exam and quiz will be randomly drawn from a question pool, and each exam is time limited. You must go online to the https://elearning.ufl.edu/ site and complete the exams in the time allotted. If you have problems completing the practice exam, notify me immediately.

Plant Video Diaries: These are meant to be informative and fun. These are to be **30 sec clips** in your preferred social media platform (e.g., Instagram; TikTok). You will be graded on identifying the plant correctly, providing good footage and indicators for viewer to identify, providing useful and accurate natural history information, and for creativity and entertainment. The point is for it to be a resource that people would like to watch to learn. We will discuss acceptable methods to turn in these assignments during class. **Each video diary is worth 10 points and you may not use the same genus in more than one video for credit**. Videos that exceed the 30 sec time allotted will receive a 1pt deduction for every second over.

Class Project and Group Presentation: The class will collectively perform an experiment during the course and collect data. Groups will be formed and part of the data will be analyzed and then presented to the class with all group members participating in each part. The grading will be a combination of peer evaluation and based on group

performance in the presentation. Each presentation should be between 20 and 25 minutes, cover your groups part of the class project, and each persons should participate.

Class Attendance, Participation, & Demeanor: Class attendance is required, and you are expected to take part in every activity. If you miss a class activity, you are responsible for all material and information disseminated and you will lose 10 points for every activity missed and a zero on any graded activities. Many of the activities have been planned on a tight schedule and with expert guests who are giving their time to enhance your learning experience. Tardiness will not be acceptable and will result in a 1 pt deduction for every 2 minutes tardy until the 10 point max for the activity.

Safe spaces: My classroom is a safe space. While in my classroom you have the right to express yourself freely and openly (and appropriately), and have me, the TA, and your classmates respect your expression. In this safe space, mutual respect is expected. Both parties do not always have to agree, however, to foster an environment that is conducive to learning and personal growth, mutual respect is necessary and expected.

Cultural Accommodation: I do my best to be cognizant of cultural and religious observations. If you have a religious or cultural observance conflict, contact me at the beginning of the semester and we will work out appropriate arrangements.

elearning: Canvas is the platform/software at https://elearning.ufl.edu/ containing the course website, testing location for exams, assignment submission location, and includes the course scheduling and supplementary files.

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 assignment 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 at 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: 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.

Health and Wellness
• U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352-392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.
• Counseling and Wellness Center: http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx, 352-392-1575.

• Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS): Student Health Care Center, 352-392-1161.
• University Police Department: 352-392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies. http://www.police.ufl.edu/.
Academic Resources
• E-learning technical support: 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learningsupport@ufl.edu.
https://elearning.edu/help.shtml.
• 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/.
• Student Complaints Campus: https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf.

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, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/.

Sexual Harassment: It is the policy of The University of Florida to provide an educational and working environment for its students, faculty, and staff that is free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment. In accordance with federal and state law, the University prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment. Sex discrimination and sexual harassment will not be tolerated, and individuals who engage in such conduct will be subject to disciplinary action. The University encourages students, faculty, staff, and visitors to promptly report sex discrimination and sexual harassment. Any employee, co-worker, or student who has knowledge of sexual harassment is strongly encouraged to report it promptly: http://hr.ufl.edu/manager-resources/recruitment-staffing/institutional-equity-diversity/sexual-harassment/.

Course Evaluation & Student Complaint Process: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations 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/results/. To file a complaint about this course, see:
• Residential Course: https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf.
• Online Course: http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process.

Additional assigned readings will be made available through the course website in the Modules section.

COVID-19 Plan –
-        Any student showing symptoms of COVID-19 will be immediately isolated from students and be asked to return only after symptoms have cleared and a negative test result can be produced.
-        Any student who test positive during the class will be required to stop attending the course and will receive an incomplete to be made up at a later date.
-        Students will be encouraged to bring food and drinks (non-alcoholic only) for the entire length of the class and if a trip to the grocery store is needed, the TA, me, and students will visit the grocery together.

Course Schedule (Note: This schedule is subject to change. Some of the activities and the schedule of guests are weather dependent)	
Date	**Topic**
1-13 – 3-14	Asynchronous completion of online materials and associated lecture quizzes and the lecture exam.
3-15	9 a.m. – Arrive at Tall Timbers Research Station — Get moved in and settled. 11 a.m. – Plant walk/**plant quiz** 12 p.m. – Eat lunch and discuss field course structure and expectations. 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.– Plant walk
3-16	8 a.m. – Fire frequency with Dr. Kevin Robertson 11 a.m. – Tractor tools 12 p.m. – Eat lunch 1 p.m. – Game bird management with Dr. Dwayne Elmore 430 p.m. – **Plant quiz,** Plant videos and study time
3/17	8 a.m. – Fire effects with Dr. Morgan Varner 10 a.m. – Old Field Management 12 p.m. – Eat lunch 1 p.m. – Fire Management Tools **Plant quiz** and plant walk 3 p.m. – Drive to Ordway
3/18	8 a.m. – 12 p.m. – Turkey Behavior Research 12 p.m. – Eat lunch 1 p.m. – Turkey Habitat, plant walk, and Forest Stand Improvement **and plant quiz** 4 p.m. – Return to Tall Timbers
3/19	8 - 930 a.m. – **Plant quiz** and plant walk 10 a.m. – Conduct prescribed fire (Eric Staller) *weather dependent 3 p.m. – Discussion Time

	430 p.m. – Plant videos, Process Camera Data, and study time 7 p.m. - 1 plant video due *
3/20	8-930 a.m. – Herpetology with Kim Sash 9 a.m. – Process Behavior data 12 p.m. – Eat lunch 1 p.m. – Discussion 3 p.m. – **Plant quiz** and plant walk 430 p.m. – Plant videos, Process Behavior Data, and study time
3/21	8 a.m. – Nongame bird management with Dr. Kate Richardson 12 p.m. – Eat lunch 1 p.m. – Deer Forage Challenge and **Plant Quiz** 3 p.m. – Process Behavior Data and Prepare presentations 430 p.m. – Plant videos and study time
3/22	8 a.m. – **Presentations** 12 p.m. – Lunch with FWC Biologist Jules Ofalt 1 p.m. – Discussion 3 p.m. – **Plant quiz** and **forest stand improvement quiz** 430 p.m. – Plant videos and study time **7 p.m. - 9 plant videos due *** Group supper
3/23	8 a.m. – **Plant Exam** 10 a.m. – **Final Field Skills Exam** 2-5 p.m. – Clean up lodge and go home!
	This schedule is meant as a guide and may change quickly to accommodate guest experts. Also, many activities are weather dependent and likely to change depending on the situation.*