

Wildlife Ecology & Conservation Colloquium
WIS 2920 (1 Credit)
Fall 2024
Online synchronous course

Lecture: Monday, Period 4 (10:40 – 11:30 a.m.); Online live (synchronous) through Zoom
Instructor: Christina Romagosa
Office: Building 106 (2295 Mowry Road)
Office Hours: Wed 9 am to 12 pm, **Note - Newins-Ziegler (NZ) 362
Phone: 352-273-3996
Email: cmromagosa@ufl.edu

Graduate Teaching Assistants: Gabriela Logo (glogo@ufl.edu), Lillian Maxwell (lillianmaxwell@ufl.edu)

Undergrad Teaching Assistant: Natalie Anderson (natalie.anderson@ufl.edu)

Course Website: <https://elearning.ufl.edu/>; GatorLink Username & Password

Course Schedule: Last page of syllabus, also on elearning

Communication with instructor: When you have questions, need further instruction or have a problem, I encourage you to talk with me after class, or set up an appointment. The best way for you to arrange an appointment is via e-mail (cmromagosa@ufl.edu).

Course Description: In this course, we will examine wildlife ecology and conservation as a major and career (for majors/minors only).

Course Goal: Our goal for this course is to provide you with the knowledge and skills necessary to successfully navigate the major while at the University, develop career appropriate skills, and explore career options upon completion of your degree program – we want you to think about your education and career!

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

Specific objectives are for you to:

- 1) Have a place to discuss challenges you face in your education and future career
- 2) Become part of the wildlife ecology & conservation community
- 3) Understand options within the major
- 4) Learn how to successfully complete your degree program
- 5) Develop skills that enhance success in your major and career
- 6) Understand graduate school options and possibilities
- 7) Understand various career options
- 8) Meet with professionals and experience different career paths
- 9) Develop a career path
- 10) Think about your education and career

Prerequisite Courses: None

Recommended Textbook: None required, but Henke and Krausman, “Becoming a Wildlife Professional” is a great resource for wildlife students. <https://www.amazon.com/Becoming-Wildlife-Professional-Scott-Henke/dp/1421423065>.

Course Materials: The course syllabus, lectures, assignments, and readings will be available on the Canvas course website. Materials may require Adobe Acrobat Reader (available free of charge at <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>), MS Word, and/or MS PowerPoint to access and print.

Privacy and the online format: Our class sessions may sometimes be audio visually recorded. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

Evaluation in this class: You'll find that this class is not challenging and is meant for you to learn more about the major and think about your career goals. Attendance, participation, and assignments are how you are evaluated for your grade. People have failed this class simply for not doing their assignments or not showing up for class.

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|-----------------|---|----------------|
| Grading: | Attendance (see below; at least 9 classes, each worth 15 points) | 135 pts |
| | Participation | 35 pts |
| | <u>Class Assignments (1 @ 10 pts; 8 @ 50 pts each)</u> | <u>410 pts</u> |
| | Total | 580 pts |
| Grades: | A (≥522 pts; ≥90.0%), B (464-521 pts; 80.0%-89.9%), C (406-463 pts; 70.0%-79.9%), D (348-405 pts; 60.0%-69.9%), & E (≤347 pts; ≤59.9%). | |

Grading Policy: If there is a summation error for points on any assignment, see me immediately so I can correct your total score/points. If you believe that an assignment was improperly graded, please bring it to me for reevaluation. In such cases, the entire assignment will be reevaluated, and a new grade assigned for the entire assignment. Please regularly check the grades for attendance & participation and assignments on the course website, and notify me immediately if a grade is incorrectly recorded. Requirements for class attendance & participation and make-up assignments are described below with each section, and are consistent with university policies that can be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>. For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

Attendance & Participation: Let's set a minimum of 9 classes (not counting the first class) that you should be physically logged in and present for. Each one of those 9 classes is worth 15 points (135 in total). And just because you hit your 9 required doesn't mean that you shouldn't come to all 15 classes – you'll miss information and opportunities! This class is synchronous, but one perk of online is that you can access information and recorded lectures at any time. Unfortunately, the in-class discussions with me and/or guest speakers won't be as easy to make up. Camera on would be great, but not required. Participation in any classes you attend means you interact with the speakers in the breakout rooms via chat or by speaking. Approved/excused absences are arranged before the absence, and you have a note from a medical doctor or an appropriate University official. Also, please do reach out to me if you are having challenges with attending or participating in class.

Class Assignments: You will have 8 assignments related to topics in class. These assignments are designed to get you thinking about the wildlife program and educational requirements, qualifications, typical responsibilities and duties, and other aspects of pursuing various program-related careers. Your assignments can be uploaded at the course website at <https://elearning.ufl.edu/>. Any information source (e.g., class notes, internet, and library) may be used to develop responses, but you must work alone. Late responses will lose 20 points for each day they are late unless associated with an approved absence (see above).

Class Demeanor: We'll be online, so please be professional in all facets of this course. Camera on would be awesome, but not required. Disruptive or rude behavior will not be tolerated. Please be respectful and mute your phones, and don't talk on phones or to other students in the class when it is not part of a class-related discussion. Be mindful of sound at your locations, and make sure to mute yourself unless you are speaking. The instructor reserves the right to remove anyone from the class if they do not conduct themselves in a professional manner. If you are removed from the class, you will not receive any credit associated with it. We consider texting, talking while others are speaking, surfing the web on handheld devices, mocking other students, and inappropriate comments all grounds for dismissal from class.

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 by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. 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. 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.

Plagiarism: As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own the ideas, words, writing etc., which belong to another. As per UF Honor Code (see Academic Honesty below): A student shall not represent as the student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to: *1. Quoting oral or written materials including but not limited to those found on the internet, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution. 2. Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student.* Canvas has some handy applications for faculty to determine whether plagiarism has occurred. Plagiarism is one of the worst academic sins, for the plagiarist destroys the trust among colleagues without which research cannot be safely communicated. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course. Offenders of this policy will be punished according to University policies.

Academic Honesty: You are expected to become familiar with and follow current University Policy (see <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>). In addition, there will be no cheating of any type tolerated in this course.

Course evaluation: As a student, you are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in all the courses you take, including this one. We, as instructors, can't improve our teaching or know what we did right/wrong unless you tell us. These evaluations are conducted online via GatorEvals. 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: <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Campus Helping 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. Below I've added links that can help with a variety of topics.

Health and Wellness

- **CALS has their own mental health counselor!** His name is Dr. Philip Daniels and you can email him at pdaniels@ufl.edu or call (352) 392-1575. Let them know you are a student in CALS, and they will get you in contact with him.

- U Matter, We Care (<http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>): 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: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/> 352-392-1575
- Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit <https://shcc.ufl.edu/>
- Sexual or Physical Assault Services: <https://umatter.ufl.edu/concern/assault/>; <https://police.ufl.edu/divisions/behavioral-services/office-of-victim-services/>
- University Police Department: 352-392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies. <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>.
- 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; <https://ufhealth.org/locations/uf-health-shands-emergency-room-trauma-center/>
- GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit <https://gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu/> or call 352-273-4450

Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support: 352-392-4357 or e-mail to helpdesk@ufl.edu; <https://elearning.ufl.edu/e-learning-basics/uf-e-learning-faqs/>; <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>
- Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1200, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <http://www.career.ufl.edu/>
- Center for Undergrad Research. <https://cur.aa.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 to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu>
- Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio>
- Student complaints on campus: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu>
- Online student complaints: <https://pfs.tnt.aa.ufl.edu/state-authorization-status/#student-complaint>

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: <https://hr.ufl.edu/forms-policies/policies-managers/sexual-harassment/>

In-Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a

student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

| <i>Tentative Course Schedule</i> | | |
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| Date | Topic | Assignments - all assignments are due on Mondays at 11:59 pm unless otherwise specified |
| Wk1, 26-Aug | Course Intro: Welcome to the Wildlife Ecology & Conservation Program | Assign 1: Getting to know each other (due Wed, 4 Sept, 11:59 pm) |
| Wk 2, 2-Sep | No Class: Labor Day | |
| Wk 3, 9-Sep | Overview of the Wildlife Ecology & Conservation Program | Assign 2: Find your WEC faculty advisor (due 16 Sep) |
| Wk 4, 16-Sep | Wildlife Ecology & Conservation, outside the classroom 1: Internships and volunteering | Assign 3: Start thinking about your focus area and discipline of interest (due 30 Sep) |
| Wk 5, 23-Sep | Wildlife Ecology & Conservation, outside the classroom 1: Study Abroad | Assign 4: Find an internship, old or new, that interests you (due 7 Oct) |
| Wk 6, 30-Sep | Class networking – in person at natural areas teaching laboratory and online | |
| 7-Oct | Wildlife Ecology & Conservation, outside the classroom 3: Undergrad research and outreach | Assign 5: Research that faculty and grad students do at UF (due 14 Oct) |
| 14-Oct | Graduate and Professional School 101 | Assign 6: Do I want to go to grad or professional school? (due 21 Oct) |
| 21-Oct | How to prepare cover letters and CVs | Assign 7: Create CV & cover letter for mock job application/professional school (due 18 Nov) |
| 28-Oct | Careers in Wildlife Ecology & Conservation 1: State Natural Resource Agencies | |
| 4-Nov | Careers in Wildlife Ecology & Conservation 2: Federal Natural Resource Agencies | |
| 11-Nov | No Class: Veterans Day | |
| 18-Nov | Careers in Wildlife Ecology & Conservation 3: NGOs, consulting, and other careers | |
| 25-Nov | No class: Thanksgiving break | |
| 2-Dec | Careers in Wildlife Ecology & Conservation 4: Academic and research careers | Assign 8: Career paths and course comments – what did you like, what can we do better (due Wed 4 Dec, 11:59pm) |