

# Wildlife Ecology & Conservation Colloquium

## WIS 2920 (1 Credit)

### Fall 2018

**Lecture:** Monday, Period 3 (9:35 – 10:25 a.m.); Room 105, Fine Arts B (FAB)  
**Instructor:** Christina Romagosa  
**Office:** 312 Newins-Ziegler Hall  
**Office Hours:** Monday 11:00am – 1:00pm; Thursday 1:00pm – 2:00pm  
**Phone:** 352-273-3996  
**Email:** cmromagosa@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 come to my office hours, 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>. There is a copy in both my office, and Claire Williams’ office (102 NZ) if want to look it over.

**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 <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>), MS Word, and/or MS PowerPoint to access and print.

<b>Grading:</b>	Attendance & Participation	600 pts
	Class Assignments (8 @ 50 pts each)	400 pts
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1000 pts</b>

**Grades:** A (≥900 pts; ≥90.0%), B (800-899 pts; 80.0%-89.9%), C (700-799 pts; 70.0%-79.9%), D (600-699 pts; 60.0%-69.9%), & E (≤599 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:** You are expected to attend and participate in every class. You are allowed to miss one class without penalty. For each unexcused class missed after the first, 50 points will be deducted from your Attendance Grade. Attendance is not taken for the first class meeting. Attendance and Participation are recorded by signing the daily sign-in sheet. If you do not sign the sheet, you are assumed absent. It is your responsibility to sign the attendance sheet each class. If you leave class early after signing the sign-in sheet, you will be counted as absent that day. If you sign another student in on the sign-in sheet, you will automatically have 200 points taken from your grade. Approved/excused absences are arranged before the absence and you have a note from a medical doctor or an appropriate University official.

**Class Assignments:** A ≤2 page (unless otherwise stated), single-spaced response (typed; 12 pt font; 2.5 cm margins) of various questions posed by the Instructor on wildlife ecology and conservation as a major and career will be due before the beginning of the class following its assignment (i.e., you have a week to complete the assignment). Reviews are uploaded at the course website at <https://elearning.ufl.edu/> as a .doc or .docx file only, unless otherwise stated on the assignment. These questions are designed to allow you to demonstrate your understanding of the wildlife program and educational requirements, qualifications, typical responsibilities and duties, and other aspects of pursuing various program-related careers. 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). Turnitin antiplagiarism software will check all assignments.

**Class Demeanor:** Students who come to class late, have ringing cell phones, read the newspaper or other non-class-related materials, play games, sleep, or who talk during class (on cell phones or to others in the class when it is not part of a class-related discussion), disrupt the class; for each such disruption, 10 pts will be deducted from the final course grade.

**Behavior in class:** Students are required to be professional in all facets of this course. Disruptive or rude behavior will not be tolerated. The classroom projects sound very well, so 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. 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.

**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 unless you tell us. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the few weeks of the semester, and you will be given the specific time(s) when these evaluations are open. Summaries of previous evaluations are available to all students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

**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 (<http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>): If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto: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.
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS): Student Health Care Center, 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 or e-mail to [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu); <https://elearning.ufl.edu/student-help-faqs/>
- 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://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/>

**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. Contact info: 0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, [accessuf@ufsa.ufl.edu](mailto:accessuf@ufsa.ufl.edu) [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://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/>.

<b>Tentative Course Schedule</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignments - all assignments are due on Mondays <i>before</i> class (date specified)</b>
27-Aug	Course Intro: Welcome to the Wildlife Ecology & Conservation Program	Assign 1: Find your WEC faculty advisor (due Sep 10)
3-Sep	<b>No Class: Labor Day</b>	
10-Sep	Overview of the Wildlife Ecology & Conservation Program	Assign 2: Start thinking about your focus area and discipline of interest (due Sep 17)
17-Sep	Navigating the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences & University of Florida	
24-Sep	Wildlife Ecology & Conservation, outside the classroom 1: Study abroad and research opportunities	Assign 3: Find study abroad courses or a faculty member whose research interests you (due Oct 1)
1-Oct	Wildlife Ecology & Conservation, outside the classroom 2: Internships	Assign 4: Find an internship, old or new, that interests you (due Oct 8)
8-Oct	Graduate Programs in Wildlife Ecology & Conservation & Professional Schools	Assign 5: Graduate and professional degrees, why, how, and what to look for (due Oct 15)
15-Oct	Careers in Wildlife Ecology & Conservation 1: Non-governmental Organizations	
22-Oct	Careers in Wildlife Ecology & Conservation 2: State Natural Resource Agencies	
29-Oct	Careers in Wildlife Ecology & Conservation 3: Federal Natural Resource Agencies	
5-Nov	How to prepare cover letters and CVs	Assign 6: Create CV and cover letter for mock job application/professional school (due Nov 19)
12-Nov	<b>No class Veteran's Day</b>	
19-Nov	Careers in Wildlife Ecology & Conservation 4: Academics and Research Positions	Assign 7: Reflect on careers in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation (due Nov 26)
26-Nov	Interviewing hints	
3-Dec	What have we learned & where are we going?	Assign 8: Evaluate the course (due Dec 10)