

## Wildlife of Florida (Lecture)—WIS 3402

Spring Semester 2025, University of Florida

- Instructor contacts:** Dr. Steve A. Johnson, Professor  
Email: [tadpole@ufl.edu](mailto:tadpole@ufl.edu) (Please email Dr. J in Canvas)
- Contact/office hours:** Wednesdays 11:00-noon & 1:00-4:00PM in Newins-Ziegler Hall Room 216; Feel free to **email any time in Canvas**. I will do my best to respond to emails within 24 hours.
- Course schedule:** M, W, F Period 3 (9:35-10:25) in Weil Hall Room 270
- Course format:** **This is a live, face-to-face lecture course.** Course information will be communicated in class via lectures from the instructor and guest speakers. Various materials (e.g., syllabus, lecture slides, etc.) will be posted for students to download at the course Canvas site. Students will take exams online via Canvas. Announcements and email communication will also take place in Canvas.
- Prerequisites:** UF student in good academic standing. There are no course prerequisites, but BSC 2010 is encouraged.
- Course website:** Course materials, announcements, and grades will be posted at the Canvas site for the course. **All email exchanges with the instructor should also occur in Canvas.** As a UF student registered for the class you should have access to this site: "WIS3402 - Wildlife of Florida Lecture Spg 2025". You will need your Gatorlink username and password to log into Canvas at [elearning.ufl.edu](http://elearning.ufl.edu). Be sure to click the *orange Log In To E-learning box*.
- Course text:** The course does not have a text—PP slides of lectures will be posted in Canvas for download.

### UF Course Catalog description:

The diversity of wildlife species in Florida with emphasis on amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and birds.

### Course objectives, description, and format:

The purpose of the course is to increase student knowledge and appreciation of Florida's diverse vertebrate wildlife. The objectives are to provide students with a basic understanding of the natural history, ecology, behavior, habitat affinities, distributions, and identification of many of Florida's native (numerous introduced species too) birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles. Conservation and management of select species will be covered as well. Information delivery consists of lectures by the course instructor, guest speakers, and graduate TA's, as well as class discussion. Students are strongly encouraged to attend all lectures and participate in class discussions.

### Exams:

There are 4 Semester Exams given during the course. Exam questions are derived from information delivered in class lectures (including information presented by guest speakers). Semester Exam 1 covers material presented in Course Section 1; exam 2 covers material presented in Course Section 2, and so on (see Lecture Schedule below). Exams are not cumulative and only cover material presented since the last exam. Exam questions are multiple choice, T/F, and matching. Each exam is worth 100 points. **Exams will be administered online in Canvas** (do not come to class to take the exams), and **they will be timed**. Each exam will **only be open in Canvas for 45 minutes** on the specific dates listed below.

Exam 1-Mammals: Open in Canvas from 8:00-11:00 a.m. on Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>

Exam 2-Birds: Open in Canvas from 8:00-11:00 a.m. on Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>

Exam 3-Reptiles: Open in Canvas from 8:00-11:00 a.m. on Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>

Exam 4-Aphibians: Open in Canvas from 8:00-11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>

Missed Semester Exams can only be taken with instructor approval. To make up a missed semester exam, students must provide a legitimate, documented excuse as to why the exam was missed. Please make arrangements with the instructor ahead of time or immediately following a missed exam. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

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

### Attendance:

Attendance is not taken, but regularly attending class will likely result in higher scores on exams. Lectures by Dr. J and guest speakers will **not** be recorded, but a copy of each lecture's PowerPoint presentation will be posted in Canvas. You are strongly encouraged to get notes from a classmate for any days you miss class.

### Extra Credit:

No extra credit assignments are planned for the course.

### Points and Final Grade:

Points:	Semester Exams (4 @ 100 pts each) =	400 points
	<b><u>Total points for grade =</u></b>	<b><u>400 points</u></b>

Grades: **A** (360 or > pts), **B** (320–359 pts), **C** (280–319 pts), **D** (240–279 pts), **E** (<240)  
Scores on exams are not curved. No plus or minus grades are given in this course.

## Lecture Schedule—Spring 2025

### Course Section 1: Mammals

- M Jan. 13: Course Introduction
- W Jan. 15: Introduction to Florida: Climate, Weather, Geology; Linnaean Classification System
- F Jan. 17: Introduction to Mammals
- ☺M Jan. 20: **UF Holiday**—*Martin Luther King Day*
- \*W Jan. 22: **Recorded Lecture** Florida's Mammals: Part 1 (*Dr. J. out of town*)
- ☺F Jan. 24: **CLASS CANCELED**—*Dr. J. out of town*
- M Jan. 27: Florida's Mammals: Part 2
- 📺W Jan. 29: Florida's Mammals: Part 3
- 📺F Jan. 31: Black Bears in Florida—*Guest Speaker* Mr. Brian Scheick, FWC
- M Feb. 3: Free-ranging Domestic Cats
- W Feb. 5: The Florida Manatee—*Guest Speaker* Dr. Bob Bonde, USGS-Retired
- 👋F Feb. 7: **Exam 1 Online in Canvas** (exam only open 8-11 a.m. in Canvas)

### Course Section 2: Birds

- M Feb. 10: Introduction to Birds
- W Feb. 12: Florida's Birds: Part 1
- 📺F Feb. 14: Secretive Rails!—*Guest Speaker* Criag Faulhaber, USFWS
- ☺M Feb. 17: **CLASS CANCELED**—*Lab class trip today—Birding at MINWR*
- W Feb. 19: Florida's Birds: Part 2
- F Feb. 21: Florida's Birds: Part 3
- 📺M Feb. 24: Swallow-Tailed Kites—*Guest Speaker* Dr. Ken Meyer, ARCI
- 📺W Feb. 26: Florida Scrub Jay—*Guest Speaker* Dr. Karl Miller, FWC
- F Feb. 28: Florida's Birds: Part 4—Introduced Species
- 👋M Mar. 3: **Exam 2 Online in Canvas** (exam only open 8-11 a.m. in Canvas)

### Course Section 3: Reptiles

- W Mar. 5: Introduction to Reptiles
- F Mar. 7: Florida's Reptiles: Part 1—Crocs & Lizards

M Mar. 10: Florida's Reptiles: Part 2—Nonvenomous Snakes  
 📺 W Mar. 12: Alligator Biology—*Guest Speaker* Dr. Kent Vliet, UF-Retired  
 ☺ F Mar. 14: **CLASS CANCELED**—*Enjoy an early start to Spring Break*  
 ☺ **M-F Mar. 17 - Mar. 22 UF Spring Break (no classes)**  
 M Mar. 24: Florida's Reptiles: Part 3A—Turtles  
 W Mar. 26: Florida's Reptiles: Part 3B—Turtles  
 📺 F Mar. 28: Alligator Snappers—*Guest Speaker* Mr. Kevin Enge, FWC  
 M Mar. 31: Florida's Reptiles: Part 4—Introduced Species  
 W Apr. 2: Venomous Snakes of Florida  
 F Apr. 4: **Exam 3—Online in Canvas** (exam only open 8-11 a.m. in Canvas)

### **Course Section 4: Amphibians**

M Apr. 7: Introduction to Amphibians  
 W Apr. 9: Florida's Amphibians: Part 1—Frogs  
 F Apr. 11: Florida's Amphibians: Part 2—Salamanders  
 📺 M Apr. 14: Ice Age Florida—*Guest Speaker* Mr. Ryan C. Means, CPI  
 W Apr. 16: Florida's Amphibians: Part 3—Introduced Species  
 📺 F Apr. 18: Introduced Caecilians In Florida—*Guest Speaker* Dr. Coleman Sheehy, FLMNH  
 M Apr. 21: Florida Frog Songs  
 🖐 W Apr. 23: **Exam 4—Online in Canvas** (exam only open 8-11 a.m. in Canvas)

*This schedule is tentative and may change to meet the needs of the instructor, guest speakers, or students.*

# University of Florida Policy Statements

## Grades and Grade Points

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>.

## Attendance and Make-Up Work

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>.

## 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.bluer.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: [Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code – Regulation and Policy Hub \(ufl.edu\)](#).

## 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 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.

- *University Counseling & Wellness Center*, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575, [www.counseling.ufl.edu](http://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/](http://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-student-conduct-code/>
- Online Course: <https://pfs.tnt.aa.ufl.edu/state-authorization-status/#student-complaint>