Florida Environments (Lecture)—WIS 4934/6934
Spring Semester 2024, University of Florida

Lecture Lectures are scheduled MWF 10:40 – 11:30 a.m. (Period 4) and will be delivered both in person and online via Zoom. All lectures will be recorded. Students are encouraged but not required to attend lectures during the assigned lecture period. Lectures and PDFs of presentations with notes will be made available on Canvas. Click for lecture Zoom link; Passcode xxxxxx.

Respect for Others It is important that we all treat each other with respect and patience. Respect every question as a good question and refrain from posting a chat message that could be taken as criticism. Every person is valued and language that demeans or dehumanizes any person or group of people is not acceptable. Chat discussions may be posted on Canvas.

Questions/Office hours: Please use Canvas when contacting me by email. I will do my best to respond within 24 hours to email messages. Office hours will be conducted both online and/or in-person by appointment. Office hours are MWF 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Instructor contact: Dr. Martin Main, Professor
Email: Please email me via Canvas
Phone: Office: 352.294.2728
About me: https://wec.ifas.ufl.edu/people/wec-faculty/martin-main/

Prerequisites: UF student in good academic standing.

Course website: Course materials, announcements, and grades will be posted on the Canvas site: “Florida Environments”. You will need your Gatorlink username and password to log into Canvas at elearning.ufl.edu – access via the orange Log In To E-learning box.

Course textbook: None. Course materials (lectures, presentations, and presentation notes) will be posted on Canvas for download.

Course objective, description, and format: To increase student knowledge and appreciation of Florida’s different environments, the diverse plants and animals that live in them, and some of the conservation issues they face. The purpose of this course is to increase your knowledge and appreciation of Florida’s natural environment.

Learning Objectives:
1) Knowledge of Florida coastal, freshwater, and upland environments
2) Familiarity with diverse plants and animals that live in these environments
3) Introduction to conservation issues facing these environments and species
Everyone: Assignments and Exams: This course includes six required assignments, three semester exams, and a final exam that total 600 points. Assignments (25 pts. each) are “open book” questions that you can use your notes to answer and serve both as an important part of your grade and a means for you to prepare for exams. Semester exams (100 pts. each) are derived from information delivered in class lectures for each of the course modules and are closed book. The final exam (150 pts.) will be cumulative and is also closed book.

Extra credit projects may be available at discretion of the instructor.

Everyone: Assignments and exams will be administered online in Canvas. Deadlines for assignments and dates for exams are provided below. Exams are timed and will be open in Canvas for 45 minutes. The exam clock starts ticking when you begin an exam in Canvas 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 study for exams. You are on your honor not to use notes/internet while taking exams and will not have time to look up many answers. Good luck!

Graduate students required to facilitate discussion of virtual field trip videos and deliver at least one lecture in each of coastal, freshwater, uplands modules (lecture and notes provided).

Assignment and Exam Schedule:
- Module 1 – Coastal Systems
  - Assignment 1 (25 pts): Due Tues. 1/23/23 (10 pm)
  - Assignment 2 (25 pts): Due Tues. 2/6/23 (10 pm)
  - EXAM 1 (100 pts): Open in Canvas: 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Weds. 2/7/23
- Module 2 – Freshwater Systems
  - Assignment 3 (25 pts): Due Tues. 2/27/23 (10 pm)
  - Assignment 4 (25 pts): Due Tues. 3/19/23 (10 pm)
  - EXAM 2 (100 pts): Open in Canvas: 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Weds. 3/20/23
- Module 3 – Upland Systems
  - Assignment 5 (25 pts): Due Tues. 4/9/23 (10 pm)
  - Assignment 6 (25 pts): Due Tues. 4/23/23 (10 pm)
  - EXAM 3 (100 pts): Open in Canvas: 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Weds. 4/24/23
- FINAL EXAM (150 pts): Open in Canvas: TBA

Assignment and Exam Points and Final Grade Calculation:
- Assignments (6 @ 25 pts each) = 150 points available
- Semester Exams (3 @ 100 pts each) = 300 points available
- Final Exam (1 @ 150 pts) = 150 points available
- Total from required assignments and exams = 600 points

Grades: A (90%; >540 pts), B (80%; 480-539 pts), C (70%; 420-479 pts), D (360-419 pts), E (<360 pts). Scores on exams are not curved. No plus or minus grades are given in this course.

Missed exams: Students wishing to take a missed exam must provide a legitimate, documented excuse as to why the exam was missed. Please discuss with me ahead of time or immediately following a missed exam. Requirements for make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/.
Special accommodations: The UF 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. Contact the Disability Resource Center by phone: (325) 392-8565, the UF Gainesville campus, Room 0001 Reid Hall, or online at: www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/.

WIS4934/6934 Ecosystems of Florida - Lecture Schedule Spring 2024

Module 1: Florida’s Coastal Systems

Week 01
- M Jan. 8: Welcome and Introduction to Florida’s Coastal Systems
- W Jan. 10: Florida’s Marine and Estuarine Environments
- F Jan. 12: Virtual tour (video) of Florida’s Nearshore Environments; discussion

Week 02
- M Jan. 15: **UF Holiday—Martin Luther King Day**
- W Jan. 17: Virtual tour (video) of Florida’s Estuarine environments; discussion
- F Jan. 19: Florida’s Coastal Upland Environments

Week 03
- M Jan. 22: Virtual tour (video) of Florida’s Coastal Upland Environments; discussion
- **Assignment 1: Florida’s Coastal Environments (due Tues. 1/23 - 10 pm)**
- W Jan. 24: Coastal Invertebrates
- F Jan. 26: Coastal Fish

Week 04
- M Jan. 29: Coastal Amphibians and Reptiles
- W Jan. 31: Coastal Birds
- F Feb. 2: Coastal Mammals
- **Assignment 2: Florida’s Coastal Species (due Tues. 2/6 - 10 pm)**

**COASTAL FIELD TRIP (OPTIONAL) – SAT FEB 3 - TBA**

Week 05
- M Feb. 5: **Review Day**
- W Feb. 7: **EXAM 1: Florida’s Coastal Systems** (Online in Canvas 8am-10pm; no class)
Module 2: Florida’s Freshwater Systems

F Feb. 9: Introduction to Florida’s Freshwater Systems

Week 06

M Feb. 12: Florida’s Herbaceous Wetlands (marshes)
W Feb. 14: Virtual tour (video) of Florida’s Herbaceous Wetlands; discussion
F Feb. 16: Florida’s Forested Wetlands

Week 07

M Feb. 19: Virtual tour (video) of Florida’s Forested Wetlands; discussion
W Feb. 21: Florida’s Permanent Wetlands
F Feb. 23: Virtual tour (video) of Florida’s Permanent Wetlands; discussion

- Assignment 3: Florida’s Freshwater Environments (due Tues. 2/27 - 10 pm)

Week 08

M Feb. 26: Freshwater Invertebrates
W Feb. 28: Freshwater Fish
F Mar. 1: Freshwater Amphibians

Week 09

M Mar. 4: Freshwater Reptiles
W Mar. 6: Freshwater Birds
F Mar. 8: Freshwater Mammals

- Assignment 4: Florida’s Freshwater Species (due Tues. 3/19 - 10 pm)

FRESHWATER FIELD TRIP (OPTIONAL) – SAT MAR 9 - TBA

Week 10 – Spring Break (Mar. 11-15)

Week 11

M Mar. 18: Welcome back - Guest Lecture - TBA
W Mar. 20: Review Day

F Mar. 22: EXAM 2: Florida’s Freshwater Systems (Online in Canvas 8am-10pm; no class)
Module 3: Florida’s Upland Systems

Week 12
M Mar. 25: Introduction to Florida’s Upland Systems  
W Mar. 27: Florida’s Pineland Habitats  
F Mar. 29: Virtual tour (video) of Florida’s Pineland Habitats; discussion

Week 13
M Apr. 1: Florida’s Hardwood Habitats  
W Apr. 3: Virtual tour (video) of Florida’s Hardwood Habitats; discussion  
F Apr. 5: Florida’s Scrub/Rangeland Habitats

- Assignment 5: Florida’s Upland Environments (due Tues. 4/9 - 10 pm)

Week 14
M Apr. 8: Virtual tour (video) of Florida’s Scrub/Rangelands; discussion  
W Apr. 10: Upland Invertebrates  
F Apr. 12: Upland Amphibians

Week 15
M Apr. 15: Upland Reptiles  
W Apr. 17: Upland Birds  
F Apr. 19: Upland Mammals

- Assignment 6: Florida’s Upland Species (due Tues. 4/23 - 10 pm)

UPLANDS FIELD TRIP (OPTIONAL) – SAT MAR 9 - TBA

Week 16
M Apr. 22: Review Day  
W Apr. 24: EXAM 3: Florida’s Upland Systems (Online in Canvas 8am-10pm; no class)

*Lecture schedule may change to meet the needs of the instructor, guest speakers, or students.

READING DAYS: April 25-26, 2024

FINAL EXAM: TBD (Online in Canvas)
Getting help with technology:
For help with Canvas, go to https://elearning.ufl.edu/keep-learning/. Within Canvas you can also get help by clicking the “Help” link in the upper right of the blue Canvas header. This will open a box with several choices—try the “Search the Canvas Guides” option. If you still need assistance after exploring the sites listed above, contact the UF Computing Help Desk (352-392-4357, helpdesk@ufl.edu).

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do I access the online learning management system used for this course?

Portions of this course are delivered in the Canvas learning management system. You will need a Gatorlink account to log on to e-Learning in Canvas. To log on to UF’s e-Learning in Canvas site, go to http://lss.at.ufl.edu/ and click on the blue “Log In To E-Learning” at the right of the page; you may be prompted to enter your Gatorlink username and password. Once you have entered your Gatorlink username and password your Canvas page will load, and all of the Canvas courses you are registered for will be available to you. You may need to click the “Courses” link at the left, then the All Courses link. This course will appear as WIS 3402: Wildlife of Florida--LECTURE, Spring 2014.

2. Is there a text or instructional materials for this course?

There is no required course text. Lectures and course materials are available on the Canvas site.

4. What computer programs will I need to use in this course?

Adobe Acrobat reader is free software required to view and print course materials that are available in Canvas as PDF files. To download the free reader, go to http://get.adobe.com/reader/.

You may also need Flash Player, which you can download free at http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/.

5. Where do I get help with computer problems and other technical help?

e-Learning in Canvas is the centrally-supported course management system at UF. It is the online source for the learning resources and assignments in this course. For assistance, go to https://elearning.ufl.edu/.

UF help desk:

- Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- (352) 392-HELP (4357)
- helpdesk@ufl.edu

If there are other problems or questions that cannot be resolved, Email the course instructor mmain@ufl.edu.

6. What is the University policy on 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.

7. What if I need special accommodations to take the course?

The UF 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.

Contact the Disability Resource Center by phone: (325) 392-8565, the UF Gainesville campus, Room 0001 Reid Hall, or online at: www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/.
8. Must exams be taken online?

All exams will be online, unless the UF Disability Resource Center instructs otherwise to accommodate special needs students. Below are some Best Practices provided by the UF Help Desk for taking quizzes and exams in Canvas.

- Don’t try to take the exam on your phone!
- Don’t wait until the last minute. Know when the quiz/exam must be completed and leave yourself plenty of time.
- Take your quiz/exam during Help Desk hours so that if you encounter problems there will be someone available to help you. Make sure you have a dependable internet connection; WIRED rather than wireless.
- Be sure you are using the most recent version of your web browser when logging into Canvas.
- Make sure you read all instructions carefully before beginning the exams.
- If you lose internet connection, or your browser crashes, the timer will continue to count down. Log back in as quickly as possible and resume the test! You may need to click the “Resume Quiz/Exam” button.
- If you encounter any unexpected behavior (error messages, inability to log in, etc.) take a screen shot of the problem (Print Scrn) and paste (CTRL+V) into a program like Word or Paint. Save this file. This is important so that your instructor knows your problem is legitimate, and to assist the UF Computing Help Desk in helping you fix the problem.
- If you encounter problems that prevent you from taking an exam, immediately call the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357. Keep the ticket number for future reference.
- When you are done with an exam, be sure you submit it!

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.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/

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 with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodations. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

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/cwc/
  o Counseling Services
  o Groups and Workshops
  o Outreach and Consultation
  o Self-Help Library
  o Wellness Coaching

U Matter We Care, www.umatter.ufl.edu/

Career Resource Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, www.crc.ufl.edu/

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