

## Wildlife of Florida (Lecture)—WIS 3402

Spring Semester 2017, University of Florida

- Instructor contacts:** Dr. Steve A. Johnson, Associate Professor  
Email: tadpole@ufl.edu (Please email the instructor in Canvas)  
Phone: Office—352.846.0557, Cell—352.300.6119
- Contact/office hours:** Tue. & Thr. 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in Newins-Ziegler Hall Room 322;  
Feel free to email any time. I will do my best to respond to emails within 24 hours. (Please email the instructor in Canvas)
- Course schedule:** M, W, F Period 3 (9:35-10:25) in Weil Hall Room 270
- Course format:** This is a face-to-face lecture course. Although students will take exams online via the Canvas LMS, course information will be mainly be communicated live, in class. However, numerous “natural community” lectures will be posted in Canvas and students are required to view these. Various materials (e.g., syllabus, lecture slides) will be posted for students to download at the course Canvas site. Announcements and email communication will also take place in Canvas.
- 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, Spring 2016”. You will need your Gatorlink username and password to log into Canvas at <http://elearning.ufl.edu>. Be sure to click the *blue button* “e-Learning in Canvas.”
- Course text:** 1) *Guide to the Natural Communities of Florida*. 2010. Florida Natural Areas Inventory (available as a free PDF download at FNAI’s website <http://www.fnai.org/naturalcommguide.cfm>)

### Course objective, description, and format:

The purpose of the course is to increase student knowledge and appreciation of Florida’s diverse natural communities and its vertebrate wildlife. The goal is to provide students with a basic understanding of the natural history, ecology, behavior, habitat affinities, distributions, and identification of many of Florida’s native (some introduced species too) birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles. Conservation and management of select species will be covered as well. Students will also learn about Florida’s diverse natural communities, which serve as habitat for the state’s vertebrates. Information delivery will consist of lectures by the course instructor and guest speakers, class discussion, and assigned readings. Attendance will not be taken, but students are strongly encouraged to attend 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),

assigned readings from the course text, and information presented in pre-recorded “natural community” lectures. 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 will be 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: Open in Canvas from 8:00-11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>

Exam 2: Open in Canvas from 8:00-11:00 a.m. on Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>

Exam 3: Open in Canvas from 8:00-11:00 a.m. on Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>

Exam 4: Open in Canvas from 8:00-11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</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. Depending on the circumstance, students may be required to take a cumulative, written exam at the end of the semester to make up for a missed semester exam.

You are not allowed to use notes or have any form of assistance on the exams. Each exam will be 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 study for exams. Obviously, you are on your honor not to use notes. Be assured, you will not have time to look up many answers in your notes or online.

### **Wildlife Observation Assignment:**

As noted above, developing a greater appreciation for Florida’s wildlife is a goal of this course. To facilitate this, you are required to make observations of local wildlife and share these with your classmates via a discussion in Canvas. You will post a brief summary of your experiences as well as a short narrative about the natural history of the species you observe. You will share this information, along with a “selfie” or short narrated video of you in the field, with your classmates in Canvas. More information will be discussed in class and a detailed assignment sheet will be posted in Canvas. You must post 2 wildlife observations during the semester, each of which is worth 50 points.

### **Attendance:**

Although the PowerPoint slides for each presentation will be posted to the course Canvas site, you are still required to attend class. Attendance will be taken randomly during at least 10 class periods during the semester. You will receive 10 points for each of the days you are present and sign in on the attendance sheet in class. If attendance is taken more than 10 times and you are present each time you still only earn 100 points for attendance. Thus, attendance is worth 100 points total and ~16.5% of your final graded.

### **Reading Assignments:**

The required course text is the *Guide to the Natural Communities of Florida*, which is published by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI). This publication is available as a free PDF download at FNAI’s website. As a matter of convenience to students, the PDF is also posted at the

Canvas site for this course. You are required to read specific sections of text as listed later in this syllabus. There will be questions on the Semester Exams derived from these readings.

### Natural Community Lectures:

Pre-recorded lectures about the various natural communities covered in your assigned reading list will be posted in Canvas. Be sure to view each of these presentations shortly before or after you complete the associated readings. There will be questions on the Semester Exams derived from these lectures.

### Extra Credit:

There are no extra credit assignments planned for the course. However, extra credit may be offered at the discretion of the instructor, but do not count in it.

### Points and Final Grade:

Points:	Semester Exams (4 @ 100 pts each) =	400 points
	Wildlife Observation (2 @ 50 pts each) =	100 points
	Attendance (10 days @ 10 pts each) =	100 points
	<b>Total points for grade =</b>	<b>600 points</b>

Grades: **A** (90%>), **B** (80 - 89.9%), **C** (70 – 79.9%), **D** (60 – 69.9%), **E** (<60%) Final grades are based on percentages of total points possible. Scores on exams are not curved. No plus or minus grades are given in this course.

## Lecture Schedule—Spring 2017

### Course Section 1: Mammals

- W Jan. 4: Course Introduction
- F Jan. 6: Introduction to Florida: Climate, Weather, Geology; Linnaean Classification System
- M Jan. 9: Introduction to Mammals
- W Jan. 11: Florida's Mammals: Part 1
- F Jan. 13: Florida's Mammals: Part 2
- 👋 M Jan. 16: **CLASS CANCELED**—*Martin Luther King Day*
- 👋 W Jan. 18: TBA (FL mammals)—*Guest Speaker* Dr. Bob McCleery, UF
- F Jan. 20: The Florida Manatee—*Guest Speaker* Dr. Bob Bonde, USGS
- M Jan. 23: Florida's Mammals: Part 3
- 👋 W Jan. 25: Florida Bats—*Guest Speaker* Dr. Liz Braun de Torrez, UF
- 👋 F Jan. 27: **CLASS CANCELED**—*Lab class trip to snorkel with manatees*
- 👋 M Jan. 30: Black Bears in Florida—*Guest Speaker* Mr. Brian Scheick, FWC
- ☺ W Feb. 1: **Exam 1 Online in Canvas** (exam only open 8-11 a.m. in Canvas)

## **Course Section 2: Birds**

- F Feb. 3: Introduction to Birds
- M Feb. 6: Florida's Birds: Part 1
- 👉 W Feb. 8: Florida Scrub Jay—*Guest Speaker* Mr. Craig Faulhaber, FWC
- 👉 F Feb. 10: Florida's Bald Eagles—*Guest Speaker* Ms. Ulgonda Kikpatrick, USFWS
- M Feb. 13: Florida's Birds: Part 2
- W Feb. 15: Florida's Birds: Part 3
- 👉 F Feb. 17: **CLASS CANCELED**—*Lab birding trip to Merritt Island NWR*
- 👉 M Feb. 20: Swallow-tailed Kites —*Guest Speaker* Dr. Ken Meyer, ARCI
- W Feb 22: Florida's Birds: Part 4
- 👉 F Feb. 24: Tufted Titmice Talk—*Guest Speaker* Dr. Katie Sieving, UF
- ☺ M Feb. 27: **Exam 2 Online in Canvas** (exam only open 8-11 a.m. in Canvas)

## **Course Section 3: Amphibians**

- 👉 W Mar. 1: **CLASS CANCELED**—Dr. J. out of town
- F Mar. 3: Introduction to Amphibians
- M-F Mar. 6 - Mar. 10 UF Spring Break (no classes)**
- M Mar. 13: Florida's Amphibians: Part 1
- W Mar. 15: Florida's Amphibians: Part 2
- 👉 F Mar. 17: Pleistocene Megafauna—*Guest Speaker* Mr. Ryan C. Means, CPI
- M Mar. 20: Florida's Amphibians: Part 3
- W Mar. 22: Florida Frog Songs
- ☺ F Mar. 24: **Exam 3—Online in Canvas** (exam only open 8-11 a.m. in Canvas)

## **Course Section 4: Reptiles**

- 👉 M Mar. 27: Recently Extinct Species—*Guest Speaker* Dr. Ben Atkinson, Flagler College
- W Mar. 29: Introduction to Reptiles
- 👉 F Mar. 31: Alligator Behavior—*Guest Speaker* Dr. Kent Vliet, UF
- M Apr. 3: Florida's Reptiles: Part 1
- W Apr. 5: Florida's Reptiles: Part 2
- F Apr. 7: Florida's Reptiles: Part 3

- 👉 M Apr. 10: Tegus Lizards—*Guest Speaker* Ms. Tessie Offner, UF
- W Apr. 12: Florida's Reptiles: Part 4
- F Apr. 14: Venomous Snakes of Florida
- 👉 M Apr. 17: Snakes Alive—live snakes in the classroom
- ☺ W Apr. 19: **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.*

## **Assigned Readings & Pre-recorded Lectures—Spring 2017**

Read the following sections of the *Guide to the Natural Communities of Florida (GNCF)* and view the accompanying pre-recorded lectures posted in Canvas for the Semester Exams indicated.

### **Course Section 1: Introduction & Upland Communities 1**

**Introduction** (readings only, no lectures)

1. Preface—*GNCF* page 1
2. Introduction—*GNCF* pp. 7-8

**Upland Communities** (readings and pre-recorded lectures)

1. Slope Forest & Upland Hardwood Forest—*GNCF* pp. 17- 23
2. Mesic Hammock & Xeric Hammock—*GNCF* pp. 25-28 & 33-35
3. Rockland Hammock—*GNCF* pp. 29-23

### **Course Section 2: Upland Communities 2**

**Upland Communities—continued** (readings and pre-recorded lectures)

1. Upland Pine & Sandhill—*GNFC* pp. 41-49
2. Scrub—*GNCF* pp. 49-53
3. Wet, Mesic, Scrubby Flatwoods—*GNCF* pp. 55-67
4. Pine Rockland—*GNCF* pp. 69-72
5. Dry Prairie—*GNCF* pp. 73-75
6. Beach Dune, Coastal Grassland, Coastal Strand & Maritime Hammock—*GNCF* pp. 77-93

## **Course Section 3: Wetland/Aquatic Communities 1**

### **Wetland/Aquatic Communities (readings and pre-recorded lectures)**

1. Seepage Slope, Wet Prairie, Marl Prairie & Shrub Bog—*GNCF* pp. 113-127
2. Depression, Basin, Floodplain Marshes & Interdunal Swale—*GNCF* pp. 129-144
3. Slough and Glades Marshes & Slough—*GNCF* pp. 145-155
4. Dome, Basin, Strand and Floodplain Swamps—*GNCF* pp. 156-175

## **Course Section 4: Wetland/Aquatic Communities 2**

1. Baygall, Hydric Hammock, Bottomland Forest & Alluvial Forest—*GNCF* pp. 176-192
2. Salt Marsh & Mangrove Swamp—*GNCF* pp. 194-204
3. Clastic Upland, Flatwoods/Prairie, Marsh, River Floodplain, Swamp & Sinkhole Lakes—*GNCF* pp. 208-210, 215-221
4. Alluvial, Blackwater, Seepage & Spring-run Streams—*GNCF* pp. 222-229

### **Getting help with technology:**

For IT help regarding issues with the course involving the Canvas site, first check the student Help Desk Wiki page at <https://wiki.helpdesk.ufl.edu/FAQs/E-Learning>. You can also get to this page by clicking the “Student Help” link in the blue, Student Links box at the left on the UF e-Learning Support Services page at <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/> and scroll down to the specific FAQs for Canvas. (This is the same page where you log into e-Learning in Canvas.). 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](mailto: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. *Where do I get the required text and instructional materials for this course?*

The required course text can be downloaded as a PDF from the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (see Course Text above) or at the link provided in Canvas.

3. *Do I have to have Internet access at home?*

No, but you are strongly encouraged to have reliable Internet access at home. The University also has many student computer labs available to students who wish to use them.

#### 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/>.

**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 a tutorial regarding E-Learning Canvas functionality, go to <https://wiki.helpdesk.ufl.edu/FAQs/E-Learning>.

A **Web Browser** is essential and Canvas supports most browsers. However, it is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that you use the most recent version of the browser: **Internet Explorer** 10 and 11, **Chrome** 35 and 36, **Firefox** 30 and 31, and **Safari** 6 and 7.

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?*

If you have a question or problem using technology required for this course, including using Canvas, here are the steps you should take.

1. Consult the Help Desk Wiki for Canvas <https://wiki.helpdesk.ufl.edu/FAQs/E-Learning>
2. Consult the UF e-Learning Canvas FAQ page [https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help/Canvas\\_FAQ](https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help/Canvas_FAQ)
3. Email the UF Help Desk [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu)
4. Call the UF Help Desk [352-392-HELP (4357) call the Help Desk for urgent questions]
5. Email the course instructor [tadpole@ufl.edu](mailto:tadpole@ufl.edu)
6. Call the course instructor 352-846-0557

The UF Computing Help Desk is available by phone or email at: (352) 392-HELP (4357) and [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu). The hours of operation are: Monday-Thursday: 7:30am-10:00pm, Friday: 7:30am-5:00pm and Weekends: 12:00pm-6:00pm. Before calling the UF help desk try to figure out the issue yourself by visiting the websites listed under number 1 & 2 above. See the 'Getting help with technology' section on page 9 of this syllabus for more information.

#### 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/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/).

#### 8. *How long will I have to wait for a response from the instructor to my e-mail?*

On weekdays, your instructor should respond to emails within 24 hours, but this may not always happen due to meetings and professional obligations. Emails sent on weekends will not be answered until Monday.

Below are some **Best Practices** provided by the UF Help Desk for taking quizzes and exams in Canvas.

- 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/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

### Absences 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/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

### 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. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open for students to complete during the last two or three weeks of the semester; students will be notified of the specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/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: <https://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.

### Campus Helping Resources

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general wellbeing 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/](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/)  
Counseling Services  
Groups and Workshops  
Outreach and Consultation  
Self-Help Library  
Training Programs
- U Matter We Care, [www.umatter.ufl.edu/](http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/)
- Career Resource Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, [www.crc.ufl.edu/](http://www.crc.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. 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, 392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)