

FIELD ECOLOGY OF AQUATIC ORGANISMS

FAS 5276C and FAS 4932, 4 credits

Summer A Semester 2013

Tuesdays and Thursdays - 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Fisheries & Aquatic Sciences Conference Room

Course Description:

This field-oriented course is intended to introduce students to the diverse aquatic habitats found in Florida, their associated flora and fauna, and serve as an introduction to the management issues facing state and federal conservation agencies. Students will gain an understanding of plant and animal community structure across a range of ponds, lakes, rivers, and nearshore coastal systems. Extensive field trips are required and comprise approximately 75% of the total class time. Enrollment includes advanced undergraduates and beginning graduate students.

Prerequisites: None

Course Goals:

Students will gain an appreciation for the diverse aquatic ecosystems in Florida, and an understanding of their complex ecology. Regularly scheduled field trips will allow students to explore and sample freshwater ponds, lakes, streams and springs, estuaries, and nearshore coastal ecosystems. Important themes throughout the course will revolve around: nutrient effects on aquatic ecosystems, the roles of different habitat types in structuring aquatic systems, and water use implications for aquatic ecosystem structure and function. In each field trip, we will identify prominent plants, fishes, and invertebrates that occur and discuss system ecology. Students will also be introduced to some of the basic sampling methods used to study these systems.

Expected Benefits and Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will:

- A. Be able to identify key flora and fauna found in Florida's ponds, lakes, streams, rivers, estuaries, and nearshore coastal waters and have a basic understanding of their ecologies
- B. Be familiar with regularly used sampling gear to collect flora and fauna across a broad range of habitat types
- C. Demonstrate an understanding of important ecological relationships in Florida's diverse aquatic ecosystems
- D. Demonstrate an understanding of the potential consequences of human activities and natural disturbance events on the structure and function of aquatic ecosystems in Florida

Grading:

Weekly class assignments 50%; Class participation 25%; Final Exam 25%

A = 100-90, B = 89-80, C = 79-70, D = 69-60, E = 59 or less

Textbook:

None required, although several field guides are suggested as appropriate supplemental course material (see attached reference list). Additional reading materials will be provided by course instructors.

Instructors

Dr. Mike Allen
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Dr. Daniel E. Canfield
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Teaching Assistants

Ms. Stephanie Shaw slshaw@ufl.edu

Mr. Bryan Matthias bmatthias@ufl.edu

Course schedule

(All classes start at 8:00am - Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Conference Room)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Instructor(s)</u>
14 May –Tues.	Organization of Class	Allen
	Okeechobee and Florida Keys Trip	Allen/Behringer
	Lecture – Overarching themes	Allen/Canfield
	FAS ponds – Phytoplankton, Zooplankton	Mary Cichra/Amanda Croteau
	FAS ponds - Macroinvertebrates	Sharon Fitz-Coy
16 May – Thurs.	St. Johns River / Lake George	Matthias
21 May – Tues.	Rainbow River	Cichra
23 May – Thurs.	Okefenokee Swamp	Ahrens
28 May – Tues.	Ichetucknee River	Ahrens/Pine
30 May – Thurs.	Lower Suwannee River	Ahrens/Pine
2-7 June*	Okeechobee and Florida Keys Trip	Allen/Behringer
11 June – Tues.	No class	
13 June – Thurs.	Small Lakes	Shaw
18 June – Tues.	St. Martin's Aquatic Preserve	Allen/Ahrens
20 June – Thurs.	Final Exam	TBD

* Note that the field trip to Lake Okeechobee and the Florida Keys will take place from Sunday through Friday. This trip will require students to pay some costs for lodging and food. A detailed itinerary and instructions will be provided prior to this trip.

Checklist of Important Items:

1. Bag Lunch and drinks (make sure you bring plenty of water)
2. Sunscreen (hats and sunglasses are also recommended)
3. Insect repellent
4. An extra set of dry clothing and towel (you will get wet in this course)
5. Appropriate shoes (they will get wet and muddy)
6. Mask fins and snorkel for all classes held in June
7. Field notebook

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>.

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/honorcodes/honorcode.php>.

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 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.

1. *University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575, www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/*

Counseling Services
Groups and Workshops
Outreach and Consultation
Self-Help Library
Training Programs

2. *Community Provider Database **Career Resource Center**, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, 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. 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, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/