

# Issues in Forest Health and Management- FOR 6934

## 1 Overview

This online course is designed to expose students to invasive and native forest and tree health issues and their management in the southeastern U.S. For each forest health topic, students will learn the biology, ecology, and management strategies. There is no required textbook, but additional readings will be provided.

- 3 credits
- Summer C
- 100% online
- <http://elearning.ufl.edu/>

**Course Prerequisites:** none

**Instructor Info:**

Name:	Dr. Jess Hartshorn	Office:	864.656.4861
Skype:	jessica.hartshorn	Cell:	937.654.6719
Email:	<a href="mailto:jhartshorn@ufl.edu">jhartshorn@ufl.edu</a>	Office Hours:	<a href="#">M 9-10 am (Skype), by appt.</a>

**Textbook(s) and/or readings:** There is no required text for the course. Online readings will be provided for each learning topic.

## 2 Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, each student will be able to:

- Describe forest health pests of concern, including insects, fungi, plants, and abiotic issues
- Make appropriate management recommendations in response to forest pest issues via fact sheets
- Analyze research on a major forest health issue and present in a scientific format

## 3 Course Logistics

Modules include pre-recorded webinars followed by a brief quiz. Additional assignments such as online discussions, fact sheets, and a scientific review paper will expose students to various forms of technology transfer regarding these issues.

**Technology Requirements:**

- A computer or mobile device with high-speed internet connection.

- A headset and/or microphone and speakers; a web cam is suggested.
- Latest version of web browser. Canvas supports only the two most recent versions of any given browser. [What browser am I using?](#)

### 3.1 Assignments & Deliverables

#### Learning Modules

You will have 12 learning modules consisting of recorded webinars available through the Southern Regional Extension Forestry website (<http://southernforesthealth.net/webinars>). After watching each webinar you will complete a five-question quiz through Canvas that includes multiple choice, short answer, and fill-in-the-blank questions.

#### Participation

There will be weekly online discussions through Canvas. You are required to post a new comment or other form of discussion (e.g. link to a relevant video along with your own commentary) on that week's topic. For full credit you should be original and creative in your discussion/comment thread. There are 12 total discussions worth 15 points each (see rubric), three of which will be online web conferences. Online web conferences will be recorded and put on Canvas for those who cannot attend. Dr. Hartshorn will send out a Doodle poll before the start of the semester to find a time that works for the greatest number of people.

#### Fact Sheets

Each student will produce two extension-style fact sheets for pests they choose. The audience will be non-scientific laypeople without forestry, wildlife, or pest knowledge. They do not need to be professionally formatted, but all text, tables, figures etc should contain relevant information which is properly cited (citation style does not matter but should be consistent). A rubric and examples are available on Canvas. Please examine these before creating your own!

#### Pest Review Paper

Prior to the midterm, you will select a pest on which to write a review paper. The paper should be 5-pages (or fewer), double spaced, 12-point times new roman font, with 1-inch margins. In the paper you will cover biology, ecology, economic impacts, control methods, common misconceptions or any other relevant information. You should include at least five peer-reviewed sources and, beyond that, other academic or agency, non-peer reviewed sources (e.g. fact sheets) are allowed.

### 3.2 Grades & Grading Scale

25%	Learning module quizzes
35%	Fact sheets
25%	Pest review paper
15%	Participation/Discussions

*I will grade assignments on Mondays. Please do not email, call, Skype etc about grades until I've had a chance to look at assignments.*

#### Grading Scale (%)

A 90-100  
 B 80-89  
 C 70-79  
 D 60-69  
 E < 60

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

## 4 Course Content

Date	Webinar	Online Discussion	Assignment
Week 1 May 11	Heterobasidion root disease	*Introductions Course Expectations	Canvas quiz
Week 2 May 18	Oak wilt	Forest pathogens	Canvas quiz
Week 3 May 25	Laurel wilt	Insect vectors	Canvas quiz
Week 4 June 1	Emerald ash borer	Invasive species transport	Canvas quiz
Week 5 June 8	Hemlock woolly adelgid	Plant breeding	Fact sheet 1 due, Canvas quiz
Week 6 June 15	Fall cankerworm	*Fall cankerworm	Canvas quiz, *Choose pest*
Weeks 7-8 June 22-July 3	*Summer Break*	*Summer Break*	-
Week 9 July 6	Gypsy moth	Herbivores, plant defenses	Canvas quiz
Week 10 July 13	Southern pine beetle	Cyclical outbreaks	Canvas quiz
Week 11 July 20	Weather variability	Climate change	Canvas quiz
Week 12 July 27	Firewood movement	Pest impacts	Canvas quiz
Week 13 August 3	Cogongrass	Weedy plants	Pest review paper, Canvas quiz
Week 14 August 10	Wildlife and forest health	*Synthesis/review	Fact sheet 2 due, Canvas quiz

*\*Indicates online web conference discussion.*

## 5 Policies and Requirements

This syllabus represents current plans and objectives for this course. As the semester progresses, changes may need to be made to accommodate timing, logistics, or to enhance learning. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.

### 5.1 Late Submissions & Make-up Requests

It is the responsibility of the student to access on-line lectures, readings, quizzes, and exams and to maintain satisfactory progress in the course.

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>

Computer or other hardware failures, except failure of the UF e-Learning system, will not excuse students for missing assignments. Any late submissions due to technical issues **MUST** be accompanied by the ticket number received from the Helpdesk when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You **MUST** e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request consideration.

For computer, software compatibility, or access problems call the HELP DESK phone number—352-392-HELP = 352- 392-4357 (option 2).

### 5.2 Semester Evaluation Process

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning.

**At approximately the mid-point of the semester**, the School of Forest Resources & Conservation will request anonymous feedback on student satisfaction on various aspects of this course. These surveys will be sent out through Canvas and are not required, but encouraged. This is not the UF Faculty Evaluation!

**At the end of the semester**, 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/>.

### 5.3 Netiquette: Communication Courtesy

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. Failure to do so may result in loss of participation points and/or referral to the Dean of Students' Office. <http://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.docx>

## 5.4 Academic Honesty Policy

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 or 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>.

## 5.5 Inclusive Learning Environment

This course embraces the University of Florida's Non-Discrimination Policy, which reads,

*The University shall actively promote equal opportunity policies and practices conforming to laws against discrimination. The University is committed to non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act.*

If you have questions or concerns about your rights and responsibilities for inclusive learning environment, please see the instructor or refer to the Office of Multicultural & Diversity Affairs website:

<http://multicultural.ufl.edu>.

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

## 5.7 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.

## 6 Campus Helping Resources

For issues with technical difficulties for e-learning in Canvas, please post your question to the Technical Help Discussion in your course, or contact the UF Help Desk at:

- [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu) | (352) 392-HELP - select option 2 | <http://elearning.ufl.edu>
- Library Help Desk support <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>
- SFRC Academic Hub <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/303721>

### 6.1 Student Life, Wellness, and Counseling Help

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.

- Counseling and Wellness resources <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>
- U Matter, We Care <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>
- Career Connections Center <http://career.ufl.edu/>
- Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for online students.

### 6.2 Student Complaint Process

The School of Forest Resources & Conservation cares about your experience and we will make every effort to address course concerns. We request that all of our online students complete a course satisfaction survey each semester, which is a time for you to voice your thoughts on how your course is being delivered.

If you have a more urgent concern, your first point of contact should be the SFRC Academic Coordinator or the Graduate/Undergraduate Coordinator for the program offering the course. You may also submit a complaint directly to UF administration:

- Students in online courses: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>
- Students in face-to-face courses: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>