

Field Ecology of Aquatic Organism

FAS 4932/5276C

Summer A Semester 2018

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

Fisheries & Aquatic Sciences Conference Room

INSTRUCTORS

Robert Ahrens rahrens@ufl.edu (352) 273-3630

Bill Pine bpine@ufl.edu (352) 273-3650

Don Behringer behringer@ufl.edu (352) 273-3634

Charlie Martin charles.martin@ufl.edu

TEACHING ASSISTANT

TBD

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.

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:

- 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
- Be familiar with regularly used sampling gear and methods to collect flora and fauna across a broad range of habitat types

- Demonstrate an understanding of important ecological relationships in Florida's diverse aquatic ecosystems
- 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

Grading will be evaluated based on class participation (25%), 3 exams (60% - 1 field ID midterm, 1 field ID final, 1 written final), mini video (3-5 mins) project on the ecology of a fish species (15%). Given the importance of field trips to the class participation is based on attendance. 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. Additional reading materials will be provided by course instructors.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Classes start at 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Conference Room

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Instructor(s)</u>
May 15 –Tues.	Organization of Class Seahorse Key Trip Lecture – Overarching themes	All Ahrens
	Rum Island – Santa Fe River	Ahrens/Pine
May 17 – Thurs.	Okefenokee Swamp	Ahrens
May 22 – Tues.	Ichetucknee River	Ahrens/Pine
May 24 – Thurs.	Lower Suwannee River	Ahrens/Pine
May 29 – Tues.	Chassahowitzka River	Ahrens/Pine/Martin
May 31 – Thurs.	St. Martin's Aquatic Preserve	Ahrens/Pine/Martin
June 7 – June 8*	Seahorse Key	Behringer/Martin
June 12 – Tues.	Newnans	Ahrens/Pine
June 14 – Thurs.	Santa Fe River	Ahrens/Pine
June 19 – Tues.	Lake Santa Fe – Plant and Fish ID Exam	Ahrens/Pine
June 21 – Thurs.	Final Written Exam	Ahrens

* Note that the field trip to Seahorse Key will take place Thursday and Friday with an overnight stay on the Thursday.

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/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, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/

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/: Counseling Services, Groups and Workshops, Outreach and Consultation, Self-Help Library, Wellness Coaching*
- U Matter We Care, www.umatter.ufl.edu/
- *Career Resource Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, www.crc.ufl.edu/*

STUDENT COMPLAINTS

- Residential Course: https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf
- Online Course: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>