



**FOR 4664:  
Sustainable Ecotourism Development**

**Fall, 2011  
Room 222 Newins-Ziegler Hall  
Tuesday Period 6 (12:50-1:40)  
Thursday Periods 5-6 (11:45 – 1:40)**



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**Instructor: Taylor Stein**  
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**Office Hours: Mondays 1:00 – 2:00 and by appointment**

**Course Objectives:** Students will learn how the emerging concept of ecotourism and outdoor recreation fits into natural resource management. Specifically, this course will take an approach that natural resource managers are in control of recreation and can actively plan and manage for the individual, social, economic, and environmental benefits associated with recreation and ecotourism. The course will take a practical approach to ecotourism by revolving around three issues fundamental to planning:

1. Defining the desired future condition of a site, region, and landscape;
2. Inventorying and defining the current condition and status of ecotourism areas; and
3. Identifying management strategies and tactics that can transform a natural area into the desired condition.

To achieve these goals, the course will examine several specific issues:

- what is ecotourism and how does it relate to natural resource management;
- developing sustainable ecotourism facilities and services that result in positive outcomes for visitors, local communities, economies, and the environment;
- planning and management frameworks for developing ecotourism opportunities on a site, community, and landscape level;
- how ecotourism activities impact natural areas and communities; and
- strategies and techniques to manage natural areas for recreation and tourism.

**Course Materials:**

Readings will be found on the Sakai E-Learning website (<http://lss.at.ufl.edu/>) and the UF Library's E-Reserve Website (<https://ares.uflib.ufl.edu/>). Please refer to the class schedule to see what and when readings are due.

## Grading

There are 300 points possible in this course. Students are responsible for all materials in reading assignments, handouts, and lectures. Final grades will be based on:

Projects/Exams	Points	Percent	Final Percent	Grade
Course Participation	15	5.0%	96.7 – 100	A+
Exam 1	50	16.5%	93.4 – 96.6	A
Exam 2	50	16.5%	90.0 – 93.3	A-
Exam 3	50	16.5%	86.7 – 89.9	B+
Assignments (6)	75	25.0%	83.4 – 86.6	B
Reading Quizzes (3)	30	10.0%	80.0 – 83.3	B-
Area Analysis Report	30	10.0%	76.7 – 79.9	C+
Total	300	100%	73.4 – 76.6	C
			70.0 – 73.3	C-
			66.7 – 69.9	D+
			63.4 – 66.6	D
			60.0 – 63.3	D-
			Less than 60%	E (Fail)

## Discussion of Grading

### Participation

You must participate in all aspects of this course to get full credit. Specifically, participation will be graded on the following criteria:

1. Class attendance,
2. Class conduct (e.g., arriving on time, contributing to class discussions, and no disruptive behavior),
3. Attending one of the class field trips,
4. Completion of in-class exercises, and
5. Observed participation in group project.

### Exams

The midterm exams will be composed of questions requiring short-essay answers, definitions, and multiple choice. This course is designed to provide more than just basic facts for you to memorize. It is designed to give you a conceptual understanding of the principles and practices of ecotourism. Course topics are related to each other, so it would benefit you to see and understand the connection between different topics discussed in the course.

Exam 3 will be similar to the first two exams, but it will be optional for students who have 85% or more from all grades assigned up to November 23. For students exempt from the final, your final grades will be based on 250 total points.

### Assignments

Six activities will be assigned throughout the semester. Most of the assignments will be worth between 5 and 15 points, but the “Goals and Objectives” paper is worth 25 points. You will have the option of turning a draft of that assignment in early for review, but it is not required. See the sheet describing assignments for details.

## **Reading Quizzes**

You will complete a reading quiz on a few selected readings. Questions will focus on the main ideas and important concepts discussed in the reading. They will be mostly multiple choice and short answer. If you do the readings, you should do well on the quizzes.

## **Area Analysis Report**

To bring the concepts, frameworks, and strategies discussed in class into context, you will apply the course subjects to Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park. It is the biggest and most popular nature-based tourism area in Alachua County and will allow you to apply all concepts, terms, and theories discussed in class to a realistic situation.

I have two days reserved to take you to Paynes Prairie: Thursday, September 23 from 11:45 to 5:00 and Saturday, September 25 from 9:00 – 2:15. You will need to attend one of those two days; otherwise you will struggle with the assignments and final project.

At the end of the semester, you will write a report that describes your ideas for planning ecotourism at Paynes Prairie, which incorporates the major assignments related to the field trip within that paper. More detail about this report will be provided in class.

## **Special Notes**

1. Turn off cell phones and only use laptops for taking notes. E-mailing or surfing websites during class is not permitted. I will require all laptops to be closed if students are found misusing laptops during class.
2. I understand that it might not be possible for you to attend every class, and you might miss an assignment. Therefore, as soon as you know you will miss a class TELL ME or send an email to the TA!!! I will try my best to work with you if I see that you are putting forth the effort to work with me. If you blow my class off, then expect the same consideration from me.
3. Individuals who miss classes are expected to make arrangements with other students in the class to get lecture materials.
4. **Remember, do not plagiarize!** When you use information from a source, tell us where you got that information. Copying information from other documents (whether they are websites, newspaper articles, or anything) is plagiarism and is not tolerated.

## **Other Information**

### Academic Honesty

As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: "I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University."

*We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.*

### UF Counseling Services

Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals which interfere with their academic performance. These resources include

- I. University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling;
- II. Student Mental Health, Student Health Career Center, 392-1171, personal counseling;
- III. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual assault counseling; and
- IV. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling.

### UF Computer Software Usage

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.

### Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

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 an Instructor when requesting accommodation.

### Accepting Diversity

All students have the right to free expression and to study in a supportive atmosphere conducive to academic success. Comments or actions that demean a student for different ideas, customs, habits, or other differences (such as ethnicity, age, or gender) are not helpful nor promote open dialogue.

### Outdoor Ethics

When visiting natural areas, we are guests of the land manager/owner and visitors to the area. We strive to leave no trace of our visit, which includes removing everything we bring, leaving everything we find, minimizing stress to native wildlife, and being respectful and courteous to other visitors.

### Classroom Behavior

Our limited time in class will be used for interaction and learning, not emailing or texting others. It is your responsibility to refrain from disrupting others' learning. Cell phone must be turned off during class. Your instructor may allow you to use a laptop for coursework, but not surfing.