

University of Florida
School of Forest Resources and Conservation
FOR 6665
LANDSCAPE PLANNING FOR ECOTOURISM
3 credits
Fall, 2012

Wednesday Periods 2 – 3 (8:30 – 10:25) and as scheduled
Weimer Hall 1094
<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>

Instructor: Taylor Stein
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Office Hours: Monday from 11:00-12:00 and by appointment

Course Objectives

Through active involvement in ecotourism research and project development, students will improve their understanding of the ecotourism concept and develop skills and knowledge in ecotourism-related fields. In general, students will understand

- The ecotourism concept and major ways it relates to natural resource management;
- The role research can play to improve the management of ecotourism in natural areas;
- Nature-based recreation planning frameworks that can be used in a variety of areas; and
- Strategies and tactics to manage ecotourism in protected natural and developed landscapes.

Course Materials

Readings will be found on the 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

Students are responsible for all materials in reading assignments, handouts, lectures, and discussion papers. Final grades will be based on:

Projects/Exams	Points	Final Points	Grade
Class Participation and In Class Assignments	20	96.7 – 100	A+
Topic Papers (6 papers, 4 points each)	24	93.4 – 96.6	A
Field Diaries (4 diaries, 5 points each)	20	90.0 – 93.3	A-
Presentation	12	86.7 – 89.9	B+
Journal Article	24	83.4 – 86.6	B
Total	100	80.0 – 83.3	B-
		76.7 – 79.9	C+
		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

Class Participation

Regularly attending class and communicating with the instructor are extremely important in this course. Although courses are regularly scheduled every week, the instructor will work with you to adjust meeting times in and out of the classroom. If you fail to come to class and do not communicate with the instructor, you will likely miss a variety of course activities and assignments.

A big part of the class will be going to research areas and participating in research. You will be expected to visit each study location, at least once, and it will be up to you to work with the instructor to identify when and where you will be going. You must conduct at least four visits to study locations, but more visits will help you in your grade for this course. Actually making these trips happen will be difficult, and you will need to work hard to identify when and where you are going to be able to participate. If you cannot work on a few weekends and weekdays, you might want to reconsider taking this course.

Assignments

Throughout the semester you'll have a variety of tasks to complete.

1. **White Papers:** For each of the topics discussed in class, write a two page paper extending that topic to an area of your choosing (but not a class study area). Consider this to be a “white paper” where you will be trying to explain a concept to an agency or

organization that manages natural areas for recreation/ecotourism (you will need to know who/what manages your area when you select the area). You will want to fully explain the topic and how it relates to that area. Your paper must include references to the readings assigned to that topic as well as information pulled from class lecture and discussion. You must show that you understand the topic, but you also should highlight how it relates to management and practice.

Topics include:

- a. Ecotourism and sustainability
- b. Protected area management and outcomes-focused management
- c. Socio-psychology and ecotourism
- d. Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
- e. Limits of Acceptable Change
- f. Recreation management strategies and tactics

The paper will be due the week after the topic is discussed.

2. **Field Diaries:** Complete a trip diary of your field experiences – every time you go out in the field for this class, write a brief summary of your experience. Be sure to record the basics (e.g., where, when, and why), but also provide detail (e.g., how many people did you talk to and how many turned you down to do questionnaires) and your impressions of the experience (e.g., was it difficult to talk to people, did they struggle with some questions as opposed to others, and what could have made the trip better).
3. **Presentation:** For one of the study areas where data was collected, use that data to develop a short presentation on some area of research that you believe is particularly interesting. In your presentation, include the research question, reasons why the research question is important, how data were collected to answer that research question, and what is the ANSWER to the question. This can be a group presentation based on the journal article you are writing, but you must work with the instructor, so he can see how the work is distributed among your group.
4. **Journal Article:** Research should result in publishable papers. You will be doing research in this course, so it should be assumed that this is good enough research to publish a journal article. We are potentially working in up to three study areas, and you will work with other students to develop the framework and draft of a journal article related to one of those study areas. Specifically, you will work with your group and the instructor to define each person's roles and responsibilities, define a research topic (early in the semester), and write the paper (later in the semester). You must ensure you clearly communicate with the instructor, so he can see everybody's progress in writing this paper and assist you all when needed.

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!!! 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

UF Academic Honesty

As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: "I understand 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."

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:

1. University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling;
2. Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 391-1171, personal counseling;
3. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling;
4. 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 the Instructor when requesting accommodation.