

WIS 4934/WIS 6934
Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles

Fall Semester 2012

Dr. Steve A. Johnson, University of Florida

- Instructor contacts:** Email: tadpole@ufl.edu
Office: 352-846-0557, Cell: 813-217-3692
- Office Hours/Location:** Thursdays 1:00-4:00 p.m. (please make an appointment)
Newins-Zeigler Hall, Room 301A
- Class Schedule:** Thursdays 5:15-8:15 p.m.
Newins-Zeigler Hall, Room 219
- Course Text:** There is no course text. Assigned readings will be distributed via the course Sakai site.

Course description, objectives, and format :

This course is designed to familiarize students with many of the major issues affecting conservation of amphibians and reptiles on local, regional, and global scales. It is not a course to learn how to identify amphibians and reptiles, although students will be exposed to a variety of species via lectures and assigned readings. Students will also learn about general ecology, global diversity, and distribution of amphibians and reptiles. By the end of the class students will understand many of the issues that impact herpetofauna in Florida, the US, and the world. Students will build critical thinking skills via literature synthesis and class discussions, and enhance their public speaking skills through oral presentation.

Information delivery will consist of lectures/presentations, class discussion, and assigned readings. Lectures/presentations will be given by the course instructor, guest speakers, and students in the course. Attendance will not be taken, but students are required to attend lectures and participate in discussions.

Exams and Assignments :

There will be 2 exams given during the course. Exam questions will come from material in lectures/presentations and from assigned readings. There will also be 11 quizzes. Your total quiz points will be based on your best 10 quizzes. Quizzes are to ensure you have completed the assigned readings before class. Questions for the quizzes will come directly from the assigned reading for each topic. Exam and quiz format will include multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank, short answer, and essay questions. Exams and quizzes will be administered at the start of class. If you are late showing up for class you could miss a quiz—there are no make-up quizzes. Exams can only be made up if a legitimate reason for missing class can be documented (i.e., documented illness, death in the family, etc.).

Each student will also give a PowerPoint presentation in class. Your presentation will be based on an article you read for one of the topics covered in lecture. Students will have access to PDFs of all papers for the course via the course Sakai site. You are required to read one paper most weeks before class (quiz material) as well as the paper you are assigned for your

presentation. You are strongly encouraged to read all of the papers for each week so you can better contribute to class discussions. A detailed assignment sheet outlining the presentation dates and a list of citations for papers on the Sakai site will be distributed in class. Student presentations may not be made up, but may be rescheduled if the student contacts the instructor well in advance of the student's presentation date. More details can be found in the assignment sheet that will be distributed in class.

In addition to the exams, quizzes, and presentations, students will also be graded on participation in discussions. Discussions will focus on the assigned reading for each class and the class lectures. It is your responsibility to actively participate in class discussions!

Course Sakai Site:

Go to <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/> and click the orange button on the upper left of the e-Learning Support Services page to log into the Sakai system. The link for this course should appear at the top of the page—"WIS4934/WIS6934: 02E8/1836-Herp Conservation (Johnson), Fall 2012". PDFs for assigned readings will be posted in Sakai as will your course grades. PowerPoint slides for the course lectures will also be posted in Sakai as they become available.

Points and Final Grade:

Points:	Lecture exams (2 @ 100 pts. each)	200 pts.
	Quizzes (10 best @ 10 pts. each)	100 pts.
	PowerPoint presentation	50 pts.
	Discussions	50 pts
	Total	400 pts

Grades: **A** (90%>), **B** (80 - 89.9%), **C** (70 – 79.9%), **D** (60 – 69.9%), **E** (<60%) Final grades are based on percentages of total points possible. Scores on exams and quizzes are not curved.

WIS 4934 Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles Lecture Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Speaker
1	Aug 23	Course Intro, Instructor and Student Intros	Dr. J, students
2	Aug 30	Herp Diversity, Distribution, Ecology	Dr. J
3	Sep 6*	Reptile Declines Overview	Dr. J
4	Sep 13*	Amphibian Declines Overview	Dr. Susan Walls
5	Sep 20*	Herp Harvest/Regulations in FL	Mr. Kevin Enge
6	Sep 27*	Invasive Species	Dr. J
7	Oct 4	Exam 1	-----
8	Oct 11*	Turtle Conservation	Mr. George Heinrich
9	Oct 18*	Disease Issues	Dr. Betsie Rothermel
10	Oct 25*	Roads and Fragmentation	Dr. Kimberly Andrews
11	Nov 1*	Forest Management	Graduate Students
12	Nov 8*	Translocations	Graduate Students
13	Nov 15*	Crocodylian Conservation	Mr. Matt Shirley
14	Nov 22	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>	-----
15	Nov 29*	Global Climate Change	Dr. Jason Rohr
16	Dec 12	Exam 2, 10:00 a.m.	-----

* = dates for quizzes

University of Florida Policy Statements

Academic Honesty

In 1995 the UF student body enacted a new honor code and voluntarily committed itself to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. When students enroll at the university, they commit themselves to the standard drafted and enacted by students. In adopting this honor code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the university community. Students who enroll at the university commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the honor code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the honor code is bound by honor to take corrective action. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon community acceptance and enforcement of the honor code. **The Honor Code: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.** On all work submitted for credit by students at the university, the following pledge is either required or implied: **“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”** The university requires all members of its community to be honest in all endeavors. A fundamental principle is that the whole process of learning and pursuit of knowledge is diminished by cheating, plagiarism and other acts of academic dishonesty. In addition, every dishonest act in the academic environment affects other students adversely, from the skewing of the grading curve to giving unfair advantage for honors or for professional or graduate school admission. Therefore, the university will take severe action against dishonest students. Similarly, measures will be taken against faculty, staff and administrators who practice dishonest or demeaning behavior. Students should report any condition that facilitates dishonesty to the instructor, department chair, college dean or Student Honor Court. *(Source: 2007-2008 Undergraduate Catalog)* It is assumed all work will be completed independently unless the assignment is defined as a group project, in writing by the instructor. This policy will be vigorously upheld at all times in this course.

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 wellbeing are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. Both the Counseling Center and Student Mental Health Services provide 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. The Counseling Center is located at 301 Peabody Hall (next to Criser Hall). Student Mental Health Services is located on the second floor of the Student Health Care Center in the Infirmary.

- *University Counseling Center*, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, www.counsel.ufl.edu
- *Career Resource Center*, CR-100 JWRU, 392-1602, www.crc.ufl.edu/
- *Student Mental Health Services*, Rm. 245 Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, www.shcc.ufl.edu/smhs/
 - Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program (ASAP)
 - Center for Sexual Assault / Abuse Recovery & Education (CARE)
 - Eating Disorders Program
 - Employee Assistance Program
 - Suicide Prevention Program

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. 0001 Reid Hall, 392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/