

Wildlife of Florida Lecture—WIS 3402

Spring Semester 2013, University of Florida

- Instructor contacts:** Dr. Steve A. Johnson, Associate Professor
Email: tadpole@ufl.edu (Please email the instructor via Sakai)
Phone: Office—352.846.0557, Cell—813.217.3692
- Contact/office hours:** M, W, F 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in Newins-Ziegler Hall Room 301A;
Feel free to email any time. I will do my best to respond to emails within 24 hours.
- Course TA** Mr. Ben Atkinson, Email: bka@ufl.edu
(Please contact Ben directly using your regular email application)
- Course schedule:** M, W, F Period 3 (9:35-10:25) in Weil Hall Room 270
- Course format:** This is a face-to-face lecture course. Although students will take exams online via the Sakai LMS, course information will be communicated live, in class. Various materials (e.g., syllabus, lecture slides) will be posted for students to download at the course Sakai site. Announcements and email communication will also take place in Sakai.
- Course website:** Course materials, announcements, and grades will be posted at the Sakai site for the course. **All email exchanges with the instructor should also occur in Sakai.** As a UF student registered for the class you should have access to this site “WIS3402: 0835 - Wildlife of FL Lecture, Spring 2013”. You will need your Gatorlink username and password to log into Sakai at <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/> Note: at this site there are numerous links to tutorials and free software downloads that you may need for the course.
- Required course text:** 1) *Priceless Florida: Natural Ecosystems and Native Species* 1st ed., E. Whitney, D.B. Means, and A. Rudloe, Pineapple Press, Inc.

Course objective, description, and format:

The goal of the course is to increase student awareness and appreciation of Florida’s diverse natural communities and vertebrates. The major objective is to provide students with a basic understanding of the natural history, ecology, behavior, habitat affinities, distributions, and identification of many of Florida’s native (some introduced species too) birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles. Conservation and management issues of select species will be covered as well. Students will also learn about Florida’s diverse natural communities, which serve as habitat for the state’s vertebrates. Information delivery will consist of lectures by the course instructor and guest speakers, class discussion, assigned readings, and campus walking tours. Attendance will not be taken, but students are required to attend lectures and participate in class discussions (see Exams and Quizzes below).

Exams and Quizzes:

There will be 4 Semester Exams given during the course. Questions will be derived from information delivered in class lectures (including information presented by guest speakers) and assigned readings from the course text. Semester Exam 1 covers material presented in Course Section 1; exam 2 covers material presented in Course Section 2, and so on (see Lecture Schedule below). Exams are not cumulative and only cover material presented since the last exam. Exam questions will be multiple choice, T/F, and matching. Each exam is worth 100 points. **Exams will be administered online in Sakai** (do not come to class to take the exams), and they will be timed. Each exam will **only be open in Sakai for a limited time** on the specific dates listed below and in the Lecture Schedule.

- Exam 1: Open in Sakai from 7:00-10:30 a.m. on Monday, February 4th
- Exam 2: Open in Sakai from 7:00-10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 27th
- Exam 3: Open in Sakai from 7:00-10:30 a.m. on Monday, April 1st
- Exam 4: Open in Sakai from 7:30-9:30 a.m. on Friday, May 3rd

Missed Semester Exams can only be taken with instructor approval. To make up a missed semester exam students must provide a legitimate, documented excuse as to why the exam was missed. Please make arrangements with the instructor ahead of time or immediately following a missed exam. Depending on the circumstance, students may be required to take a cumulative, written exam at the end of the semester to make up for a missed semester exam.

Although attendance is not taken, there will be 12 unannounced quizzes during the semester that will only be available to students who attend class. Each quiz is worth 10 points, and your lowest two quiz scores will be dropped. Quizzes cannot be made up. If you must miss a class, for whatever reason, and a quiz is announced that day then you simply miss the quiz—no excuses. The two dropped quiz scores are to account for the fact that some students will miss at least one quiz for legitimate reasons (e.g., illness, athletic event, med-school interview, family emergency, etc.). More information regarding quizzes will be presented in class.

Points and Final Grade:

Points:	Semester Exams (4 @ 100 points each):	400 points
	Quizzes* (12 @ 10 points each):	100 points
	*The two lowest scores are dropped	
	Total points for grade:	500 points

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 are not curved. No plus or minus grades are given in this course.

Lecture Schedule for Wildlife of Florida—Spring 2013

Course Section 1: Mammals and Florida's Interior Upland Ecosystems

Read chapters 1-7 in *Priceless Florida*

- January 7: Course Introduction
- January 9: Introduction to Florida: Climate, Weather, Geology; Linnaean Classification System
- January 11: Introduction to Mammals
- January 14: Florida's Native Mammals
- January 16: Florida's Introduced Mammals
- January 18: Manatees—*Guest Speaker* Dr. Robert Bonde, USGS
- January 21: *CLASS CANCELED—Martin Luther King Day*
- January 23: Florida Ecosystems: Interior Uplands—Pine Dominated Communities
- January 25: *CLASS CANCELED—Lab class trip to snorkel with manatees*
- January 28: Imperiled Mammals of the Florida Keys—*Guest Speaker* Dr. Bob McCleery, UF
- January 30: Black Bears in Florida—*Guest Speaker* Mr. Brian Scheick, FWC
- February 1: Florida Ecosystems: Interior Uplands—Scrub, Dry Prairies, Hammocks
- 👋 February 4: ***Exam 1 Online in Sakai*** (exam only open 7-10:30 a.m. in Sakai)

Course Section 2: Birds and Florida's Interior Wetland Ecosystems

Read chapters 8-14 in *Priceless Florida*

- February 6: Introduction to Birds
- February 8: Florida's Native Birds (Part 1)
- February 11: Florida's Native Birds (Part 2)
- February 13: Florida's Ecosystems: Interior Wetlands/Waters—Swamps and Marshes
- February 15: Florida Scrub Jay—*Guest Speaker* Mr. Craig Faulhaber, FWC
- February 18: Wading Birds—*Guest Speaker* Dr. Peter Fredrick, UF
- February 20: Baldies and RCWs—*Guest Speakers* Ms. R. Boughton & Ms. M. VanDeventer, FWC
- February 22: Florida's Introduced Birds
- February 25: Florida's Ecosystems: Interior Wetlands/Waters—Lakes, Streams, Springs
- 👋 February 27: ***Exam 2 Online in Sakai*** (exam only open 7-10:30 a.m. in Sakai)
- March 1: Campus Birding Walk (bring your binos and field guides)
- March 4-8: *UF Spring Break* (no classes)

Course Section 3: Amphibians and Florida's Coastal Upland Ecosystems

Read chapters 15 & 22 in *Priceless Florida*

- March 11: Introduction to Amphibians
- March 13: Florida's Native Amphibians (Part 1)
- March 15: Florida Frog Songs
- March 18: Florida's Native Amphibians (Part 2)
- March 20: Florida's Introduced Amphibians
- March 22: "Recently Extinct" Florida Wildlife—*Guest Speaker* Mr. Ben Atkinson, UF
- March 25: Florida's Ecosystems: Coastal Uplands
- March 27: Florida's Introduced Amphibians
- March 29: Pleistocene Megafauna—*Guest Speaker* Mr. Ryan C. Means, CPI
- 👉 April 1: ***Exam 3—Online in Sakai*** (exam only open 7-10:30 a.m. in Sakai)

Course Section 4: Reptiles and Florida's Coastal Wetland Ecosystems

Read chapters 16-21 in *Priceless Florida*

- April 3: Introduction to Reptiles
- April 5: Florida's Native Reptiles (Part 1)
- April 8: Florida's Native Reptiles (Part 2)
- April 10: Florida's Native Reptiles (Part 3)—*Guest Speaker* Mr. Ben Atkinson, UF
- April 12: Snapping Turtles—*Guest Speaker* Mr. Travis Thomas, UF
- April 15: Florida's Introduced Reptiles
- April 17: Alligator Behavior—*Guest Speaker* Dr. Kent Vliet, UF
- April 19: Campus Herping Walk (bring your lizard nooses)
- April 22: Florida's Ecosystems: Coastal Wetlands
- April 24: Venomous Snakes of Florida
- 👉 May 3 (Final Exam Period): ***Exam 4—7:30-9:30 a.m. Online in Sakai*** (exam only open during this date and time in Sakai)

This schedule is tentative and may change to meet the needs of the instructor, guest speakers, or students.

Electronic Device Use Policy:

Out of respect for other students in the class, the instructor, and guest speakers the use of electronic devices is not allowed during class. If you chose to use your laptop (or a similar device) to take notes or view the lecture slides please sit in the last row of the classroom. Do not text, surf the web, or make calls on you smart phones, cell phones, PDAs, etc. during class or you will be asked to leave. **Please turn off cell phones during class.**

Getting help with technology:

For IT help regarding issues with the course involving the Sakai site, first check the student FAQ https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help/Student_Faq and tutorial links https://lss.at.ufl.edu/sakai-training/student_index.shtml in Sakai and then try the e-Learning Support Services link https://lss.at.ufl.edu/services/els/stu_intro.shtml or post a question to the Cyber Cafe discussion topic at the course website—some of your classmates may be able to offer you help. If you still need assistance after exploring the above options, contact the UF Computing HelpDesk (352-392-4357, helpdesk@ufl.edu).

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *How do I access the online learning management system used for this course?*

Portions of this course are delivered in the UF Sakai e-learning course platform. You will need a Gatorlink account to log on to E-Learning in Sakai. To log on to E-Learning in Sakai, go to <http://lss.at.ufl.edu/> and click on the orange 'e-Learning Login' button in the left column; you will be prompted to enter your Gatorlink username and password. Once you have entered your Gatorlink username and password your Sakai page will load and all of the Sakai courses you are registered for will be available to you. If you are in multiple courses, all of them may not show up in the grey arear at the top of the page. If this is the case, choose the dropdown menu associated with the 'My Active Sites' link to see the rest of your courses and choose the correct one. This course will appear as "WIS3402: 0835 - Wildlife of FL Lecture, Spring 2013".

2. *Where do I get the required text and instructional materials for this course?*

The required course text can be acquired in a variety of ways (copies are available at the UF Book Store). You may also purchase the book through Amazon.com or the Publisher (Pineapple Press <http://www.pineapplepress.com/>). PDFs of lecture slides will be posted in Sakai.

3. *Do I have to have Internet access at home?*

No, but you are strongly encouraged to have reliable Internet access at home. The University also has many student computer labs available to students who wish to use them.

4. *What computer programs will I need to use in this course?*

Adobe Acrobat reader is free software required to view and print course materials that are available in Sakai as PDF files. To download the free reader, go to: <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

E-Learning in Sakai is the centrally-supported course management system at UF. It is the online source for the lecture slides and exams/quizzes in this course. For a tutorial regarding E-Learning Sakai functionality, go to https://lss.at.ufl.edu/sakai-training/student_index.shtml

A **Web Browser** is essential and not all web browsers are compatible with Sakai. It is recommended that you use Firefox (Mozilla) to access Sakai, especially for taking quizzes and exams.

The Firefox web browser can be downloaded for free at <http://www.mozilla.org/>

4. *Where do I get help with computer problems and other technical help?*

If you have a question or problem using technology required for this course, including using Sakai, here are the steps you should take.

1. Consult the student tutorial page in Sakai https://lss.at.ufl.edu/sakai-training/student_index.shtml
2. Consult the student FAQ page in Sakai https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help/Student_Faq
3. Post a question to the Cyber Café discussion topic at the course Sakai page
4. Call the UF Help Desk (call the Help Desk for urgent questions)
5. Email the course instructor
6. Call the course instructor

The UF Computing Help Desk is available by phone or email at: (352) 392-HELP (4357) and helpdesk@ufl.edu . The hours of operation are: Monday-Thursday: 7:30am-10:00pm, Friday: 7:30am-5:00pm and Weekends: 12:00pm-6:00pm. Before calling the UF help desk try to figure out the issue yourself by visiting the Sakai Student FAQ https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help/Student_Faq and Tutorial Pages https://lss.at.ufl.edu/sakai-training/student_index.shtml. See the 'Getting help with technology' section on page 4 of this syllabus for more information.

5. *What is the University policy on 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. *What if I need special accommodations to take the course?*

The UF 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.

Contact the Disability Resource Center by phone: (325) 392-8565, the UF Gainesville campus, Room 0001 Reid Hall, or online at: www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/

7. How long will I have to wait for a response from the instructor to my e-mail?

On weekdays, your instructor should respond to emails within 24 hours, but this may not always happen due to meetings and research obligations. Emails sent on weekends will not be answered until Monday.

Below are some **Best Practices** provided by the UF Help Desk for taking quizzes and exams in Sakai.

- Know exactly when quizzes/exams must be completed and plan accordingly—be sure to block out exam/quiz periods on your schedule and ensure you have a reliable computer and internet access during that time.
- Make sure you have a dependable internet connection; WIRED rather than wireless.
- Use Firefox or Internet Explorer browser with the latest updates. NOTE: If your instructor has created your exam using the “Assessments” tool and you’re on a Windows 7 machine, use Firefox only. (Note: Quizzes and exams are created with the Assessments tool in this course.)
- Make sure you read any instructions carefully before beginning an exam or quiz.
- If you lose internet connection, or your browser crashes, the timer will continue to count down. Log back in as quickly as possible and resume the test!
- If you encounter any unexpected behavior (error messages, inability to log in, etc.,) take a screen shot of the problem (**Print Scrn**) and paste (**CTRL+V**) into a program like Word or PowerPoint. Save this file. This is important so that your instructor knows your problem is legitimate, and to assist the UF Computing Help Desk in helping you fix the problem.
- If you encounter problems that prevent you from taking the exam, immediately call the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357. Keep the ticket number for future reference.
- When you are done with your exam or quiz, *be sure you submit it!* If you do not see a successful submission message, your test is still in progress. You will not get a grade until you submit.

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/