

WIS 4934
Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles
Spring Semester 2007
University of Florida—Gainesville and IFAS Plant City Campus

- Instructors:** Dr. Steve A. Johnson: tadpole@ufl.edu, office: 813-757-2273,
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Ms. Betsy Roznik: eroznik@ufl.edu
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Ms. Kris Hoffmann: krishoff@ufl.edu
cell: 978-660-7991
- Office Hours:** Johnson: Wednesdays 1:30-3:30 p.m., or by appointment
Roznik: Thursdays 2:00-4:00 p.m., or stop by
Hoffmann: Tuesdays 9:30-11:30 p.m.
- Office Location:** Johnson: IFAS—Plant City Campus, PEPC Bldg., Rm 110
Roznik: Gainesville, Building 150, Room 7
Hoffmann: Gainesville, McCarty Hall C, Room 108
- Class Schedule:** Wednesdays 6:15-8:10 p.m.
Plant City Campus: Conference Room 130
Gainesville Campus: Rogers Hall, Room 122
- Course Text:** There is no course text. Assigned readings will be distributed on a CD and in class.

Course description, objectives, and format :

This course is designed to familiarize students with some of the 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 field experiences. 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 herpetofuana in Florida, the Southeast, and the world. Students will also build their critical thinking skills via literature research and oral presentation skills.

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

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 13 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 may miss a quiz—there are no make-up quizzes.

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. The paper you are assigned to summarize in your presentation will be assigned randomly. All students will receive a CD of papers for the course. You are required to read one paper each week 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 and a list of citations for papers on the CD will be distributed in class.

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.

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.

Class Field Outings:

There will be several field outings scheduled to provide students with opportunities to observe amphibians and reptiles in natural settings and to see conservation/research projects in action. These trips are not mandatory, but you are strongly encouraged to attend. The trips will be fun and you will learn a lot. To reward students that attend class trips, there will be bonus questions on the exams and occasionally the quizzes that you will be only able to answer if you attend the field outings. Details for the field outings will be discussed during the class prior to the trip. Please make arrangements now to attend the field outings.

Field Outing Schedule:

- February 2, Friday—Snorkeling for turtles in Rainbow Run
- March 26, Monday—Visit to Gopher Tortoise and Gopher Frog relocation project
- April 5, Thursday—Trip to Marion Creek WMA to conduct a herp inventory
- April 21-23, Saturday, Sunday, Monday—Trip to Ordway Biological Station to observe herps

WIS 4934 Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles Lecture Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Speaker
1	Jan 10	Course Intro, Instructor and Student Intros	Steve, Betsy, Kris
2	Jan 17*	Amphibian and Reptile Biology/Ecology	Betsy Roznik
3	Jan 24*	Amphibian Diversity and Distribution	Steve Johnson
4	Jan 31*	Reptile Diversity and Distribution	Kris Hoffmann
5	Feb 7*	Amphibian Declines	Ken Dodd
6	Feb 14*	Pond-breeding Amphibian Conservation	Steve Johnson
7	Feb 21*	Reptile Declines	Kurt Buhlman
8	Feb 28*	Forest Management and Herpetofauna	Steve Johnson
9	Mar 7	Exam 1	-
10	Mar 14	Spring Break	-
11	Mar 21*	Gopher Tortoise Management	Joan Berish
12	Mar 28*	Invasive Species/Pet Trade	Kevin Enge
13	Apr 4*	Rattlesnake Roundups/Herp Harvest	John Jensen
14	Apr 11*	Global Climate Change and Herps	Betsy Roznik
15	Apr 18*	Turtle Conservation	Kris Hoffmann
16	Apr 25*	Crocodylian Conservation	Perran Ross
17	May 2	Exam 2 (5:30-7:30 p.m.)	

* = dates for quizzes

Policies on academic honesty, UF counseling services, and software use

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."* Furthermore, on work submitted for credit by UF students, the following pledge is either required or implied: *"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."*

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:

1. University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 352-392-1575, personal and career counseling;
2. Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 352-392-1171, personal counseling;
3. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 352-392-1161, sexual counseling;
4. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 352-392-1601, 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.

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office in Peabody Hall. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.