

WIS 4443
Wetland Wildlife Ecology (4 Credits)
Spring Semester 2006
University of Florida—IFAS Plant City Campus

- Instructor:** Dr. Steve A. Johnson, johnsons@wec.ufl.edu,
Office 813-757-2273, Cell 352-256-1749
- Office hours:** By appointment, or walk in (I maintain an 'open door' policy)
- Office location:** IFAS—Plant City Campus (HCC), Florida Studies Bldg., Rm 110
- Class Schedule:** Tuesday 6:00-9:00 p.m., Room 130
- Course Text:** *Wetlands (Third Edition)*, W.J. Mitsch and J.G. Gosselink, John Wiley and Sons, Inc. (ISBN 0-471-29232-X)
Supplemental readings will be distributed during the semester.

This syllabus is tentative and may change during the semester to meet the needs of the instructor and students, and to accommodate modifications to class field outings.

Course description, objectives, and format:

This course covers the ecological principles underlying the conservation and management of wildlife in wetland environments. It emphasizes the ecology of vertebrates that live in and around wetland habitats. The course includes a survey of the structure, function, and identification of major wetland types globally, with an emphasis on wetlands in North America and Florida. Laws regulating wetlands, wetland creation and restoration, and human impacts to wetlands are also covered.

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- 1) Identify major wetland types globally, and specific wetland types in Florida;
- 2) discuss the ecology of birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles that inhabit wetlands;
- 3) explain the principles underlying conservation and management of wildlife in wetlands;
and
- 4) list major values of wetlands to wildlife and people.

Information delivery will consist of lectures, class discussion, assigned readings, guest speakers, and field outings. Attendance will not be taken, but students are required to attend lectures, participate in discussions, and attend (and participate in) field outings.

Exams and assignments:

Your course grade will be based on individual technical papers, a PowerPoint presentation, participation in field outings, as well as two exams.

Technical paper: You will choose a species of waterfowl and write a species account following guidelines that will be distributed in class.

PowerPoint presentation: Based on your species account, you will present a 20 minute lecture to the class to teach them about your waterfowl species.

Field outings: To expose students to some of Florida wetlands and the wildlife that inhabit them, there will be 4 class field outings. During these trips you are expected to immerse yourself in the experience. Attendance and participation in field outings is required and each trip is worth 10 points. There may be optional trips to allow you to make up missed, scheduled trip.

Exams: There will be two semester exams, which may consist of short answer, multiple choice, fill in the blank, true/false, and essay questions. Exam 1 will cover material presented in class up to the lecture prior to the exam. Exam 2 will cover material presented following exam 1—exam 2 is not cumulative.

Points and Final Grade:

Points:	1) PowerPoint Presentation	20 points
	2) Technical paper	40 points
	3) Exam 1	100 points
	4) Exam 2	100 points
	5) Field Outing Participation	40 points
Total possible points:		300 points

Grades: **A** (90%>), **B+** (87-89.9%), **B** (80-86.9%), **C+** (77-79.9%), **C** (70-76.9%), **D** (60-69.9%), **E** (<60%) Final grades are based on percentages of total points possible. The exam scores are not curved.

Class Field Outings:

To provide first-hand experience with various wetland types and wetlands wildlife, there will be 4 class field outings. These field outings are required as the lab component of this 4 credit course. Additional opportunities for optional field outings may be scheduled during the semester.

Trip 1) Tue., 7 Feb.: Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Titusville

We will see freshwater marsh, tidal marsh, and observe many species of wading birds and waterfowl.

Trip 2) Tue., 28 Feb.: Mosaic Fertilizer, Mulberry

This trip is to visit wetlands created to mitigate losses of wetlands due to mining.

Trip 3) Fri.-Sun., 7-9 Apr.: Katharine Ordway Preserve, Melrose

During this trip we will sample a variety of wetlands for amphibians and reptiles. This is a combination trip with the Natural Resource Sampling class.

Trip 4) Wed., 29 Mar.: Corkscrew Swamp, Naples

You will see some fabulous, old cypress trees and hopefully an active bird rookery.

Class Schedule for Wetland Wildlife Ecology

<u>Week</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Readings*</u>
1	10 Jan.	Course introduction; Student introductions; Defining wetlands; Water's Journey DVD	M&G: 25-34
2	17 Jan.	Survey of wetlands globally and in North America History of wetlands in the US	M&G: 35-104
3	24 Jan.	Wetland values, structure & function, regulations	M&G: 3-23, 571-609, 639-652
4	31 Jan.	Florida's wetlands	
5🖐	7 Feb.	<i>Merritt Island NWR field outing—<u>No lecture</u></i>	
6	14 Feb.	Creating, restoring, and augmenting wetlands	M&G: 653-686
7	21 Feb.	Florida Everglades	
8🖐	28 Feb.	Wading bird ecology and management <i>Mosaic Fertilizer field outing</i>	
9🖐	7 Mar.	Exam 1 Waterfowl ecology and management	
10	14 Mar.	Spring Break!	
11🖐	21 Mar.	Mammal ecology and management in wetlands	
12🖐	28 Mar.	<i>Corkscrew Swamp field outing on 29 Mar.—<u>No lecture on the 28th</u></i>	
13🖐	4 Apr.	Student PowerPoint presentations; <i>KOP field outing Fri-Sun</i>	
14	11 Apr.	Reptile ecology	
15	18 Apr.	Amphibian ecology	
16	25 Apr.	Amphibian and reptile management and conservation in wetlands	
17🖐	2 May	Exam 2 (meet at regular class time)	

*Supplemental materials will be distributed in class.

🖐Dates of class outings, holidays, and class presentations

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.