

ALS 4932/5932 Plant Communities of the Florida Panhandle (1 Credit)
Web-based Lecture
Fall 2021



Course Description: This course will guide students through Florida's natural communities utilizing the community descriptions of the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (2010) and narrated Power Points in Canvas. Lectures will cover community structure, indicator species, soils and hydrology as well as fire ecology and other important ecological processes.

Learning Objectives: At the conclusion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Identify and characterize major terrestrial and associated wetland communities of the panhandle of Florida.
- Use vegetative and floral characteristics to identify key indicator plant species of the characteristic plant communities.
- Identify environmental characteristics (soils, hydrology) associated with each plant community.

Prerequisites:

Prior coursework in Environmental Sciences, Soils, Biology, and/or Botany will be beneficial. Students should have familiarity with basic biological and botanical vocabulary to facilitate understanding of plant and community identification.

Instructors:

Dr. Debbie Miller
Office: 4917 Building: 4900
Phone: 850-983-7128
Email: dlmi@ufl.edu
Cell phone: 850-240-2135

Dr. Mack Thetford
Office: 4921 Building: 4900
Phone: 850-983-7130
Email: thetford@ufl.edu

Communication:

Office hours: Students are welcome anytime but should schedule office visits on an individual, by-appointment basis to be sure we are available. For Distance students and after hours contact via email (Canvas or UF email) is encouraged and preferred. Do not use social media sites, such as Facebook or use texting to ask questions about the course. If you have an emergency related to class or need additional assistance, please call Dr. Miller (850-240-2135).

Technical issues:

In case of technical problems please contact the HELP desk @ (352)-392-4357.

Teaching Assistant:

Gina Mangold
Office: 4803 Milton Campus
Phone: 850-983-7141
Email: gmangold@ufl.edu

Textbook: None required. Class materials will be provided on Canvas. Download Guild to the Natural Communities of Florida 2010 edition Florida Natural Areas Inventory linked provided in Canvas.

Class Website

Canvas (for narrated Power Points, lecture quizzes, print-outs, additional readings, assignments, etc.); <https://elearning.ufl.edu/>

Class lecture material: Available through Canvas and consists of narrated PowerPoints. Please complete the lectures and quizzes as indicated on the schedule below.

Additional reading and resources are found within the course modules.

PowerPoint lecture handouts can be downloaded or printed.

Attendance and Participation: Students are expected to view Power Points and complete quizzes before the closing date and time (Eastern Standard Time). See class schedule. Submission of late work requires permission from instructor. Late work will be assessed a 10% penalty for the first day and a 5% penalty for each subsequent day.

Grade:

PowerPoint Quizzes (8 total): 200 points

Weekly quizzes will be taken in Canvas. (25 points each)

Weekly quizzes will cover material in narrated PowerPoints and may consist of short answer, multiple choice, true false. **Please do not wait until the last**

minute to complete online quizzes. This is to prevent incomplete or late submissions in the event of a situation that may occur (e.g. internet outage, computer problems). These quizzes are timed. **Notes or PowerPoints or any other resources are not to be used when completing a quiz.**

(Graduate Students Only) PowerPoint Presentation: 25 points

Develop a 15-minute narrated PowerPoint providing additional information on one of the plant communities presented in lecture and using local photographs to illustrate features of the chosen community type and associated plants.

Due: July 19, 2021.

Total course points:

Graduate students (ALS5932): 225 points

Undergraduate students (ALS4932): 200 points

Grading: Letter grade based on the following grade scale:

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Grade	Range
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-63
E	< 60

Complete a lecture and quiz before the due date. All quizzes must be completed by the due date as listed on the syllabus schedule. Completing Module Quizzes early is highly encouraged. Quizzes close on Mondays at 8 AM EST. Lectures are found within modules in Canvas.

Grades and Grade Points

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Attendance and Make-Up Work

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>.

Online Course Evaluation Process:

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at:

<https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/> . Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/> . Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at: <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/> .

Academic Honesty:

As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity." You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code> .

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.

In-Class Recording: Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student

Services for 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. 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

0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu>

Campus Helping Resources

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general wellbeing are encouraged to utilize the university’s counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides 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. If you are at the Milton campus, call the University Counseling & Wellness Center if you need help after 5:00 EST.

- *University Counseling & Wellness Center*, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575, www.counseling.ufl.edu/

- Counseling Services
 - Groups and Workshops
 - Outreach and Consultation
 - Self-Help Library Wellness Coaching

- U Matter We Care, www.umatter.ufl.edu/

Student Complaints:

- Residential Course: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-studentconduct-code/>.
- Online Course: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>

E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Computers, Internet, and Web browsers: Canvas runs on Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS, Android, or any other device with a modern web browser. It is recommended to use a computer less than five years old with at least 1GB of RAM. It is recommended to have a minimum Internet speed of 512kbps. It is **strongly recommended** to not use a wireless connection, phone, tablet, or notepad for critical course tasks such as exams and discussions.

Canvas currently supports the following browsers: Chrome, Safari, Firefox, Edge. Canvas supports the last two versions of most browsers. It is **highly recommend** updating to the **newest version** of whatever browser you are using. Note that your computer's operating system may affect browser function. Failure to use one of these browsers will cause problems.

For more information on approved computers and browsers please visit:

<https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Canvas-Basics-Guide/What-are-the-browser-and-computer-requirements-for-Canvas/ta-p/66> On this web page there is an area titled "Is My Browser up to Date?" Use it to check each computer and browser you may use in this course. There is another important area on "Browser Privacy Settings." Read the section(s) for any browser intended for use. For example, **Note that:** In browsers such as Safari, insecure content will never be displayed in the browser. Return to the page to check for updates on technology issues in Canvas.

If you encounter technical difficulties in this course, **contact the UF Computing Help Desk** right away to troubleshoot. <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/> or (352) 392-HELP. If the problem cannot be fixed immediately, **notify your instructor, and provide them with the Help Desk ticket number**.

Tentative Course Schedule – Summer 2021

Date	Topic	Quiz
Week 1	Module 1: Introduction to Plant Communities Module 2: Barrier Island Communities (Lowlands 1) Readings – FNAI Guide – pgs. 77-85 and 91-93	MOD. QUIZ 1 MOD. QUIZ 2 Due Sept. 7th 8:00 AM (EST)
Week 2	Module 3: Flatlands – Scrub and Flatwoods (Lowlands 2) Readings – FNAI Guide – pgs. 55-67 and 49-53	MOD. QUIZ 3 Due Sept. 20th 8:00 AM (EST)
Week 3	Module 4: Flatlands – Associated Wetlands (Lowlands 3) Readings – FNAI Guide – pgs. 116-120; 125-127; 129-144 and 157-169	MOD. QUIZ 4 Due Oct 4 8:00 AM (EST)
Week 4	Module 5: High Pine - Upland Pine and Associated Wetlands Readings – FNAI Guide pgs. 37-48	MOD. QUIZ 5 Due Oct 18 8:00 AM (EST)
Week 5	Module 6: Uplands – Sandhills and Associated Wetlands Readings – FNAI Guide pgs. 113-115 and 125-127	MOD. QUIZ 6 Due Nov1 8:00 AM (EST)
Week 6	Module 7: Steepheads and Associated Wetlands Readings – FNAI Guide pgs. 17-28 and 33-35	MOD. QUIZ 7 Due Nov 15 8:00 AM (EST)
Week 7	Module 8: Hardwood Forests Readings – FNAI Guide pgs. 177-192	MOD. QUIZ 8 Due July 29th 8:00 AM (EST)
Weeks 8-13	No lecture.	