

**ALS 4932/5932 Plant Communities of the Florida Panhandle (1 Credit)**  
**Fall 2024**  
**Web-based Lecture**



**Course Description:** This course will guide students through Florida's natural communities utilizing the community descriptions of the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (2010) and video lectures, video “field trips”, and narrated PowerPoints in Canvas. Lectures will cover community structure, indicator species, soils and hydrology, as well as fire ecology and other important ecological processes as well as identification characterizations of key plants.

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

- Identify and characterize major terrestrial and associated wetland natural 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 Ecology, 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  
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Cell phone: 850-240-2135  
Office hours: Monday 2-4:00 CST

Dr. Mack Thetford  
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Phone: 850-983-7130  
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## Communication

**Office hours:** Dr. Miller will be available most Mondays 2-4:00 PM CST by zoom. Students are welcome anytime but in addition to scheduled office hours students should schedule office visits on an individual, by-appointment basis to be sure we are available. For Distance students and after hours contact, Canvas 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 Support:** In case of technical issues please contact the UF Help Desk online at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu) or by phone (352) 392-HELP – select option 2.

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

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

**Class lecture material:** Available through Canvas and consists of videotaped lectures and 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 narrated PowerPoints and videos 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.

## Assignments:

### Lecture Quizzes (8 total): 200 points

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

Weekly quizzes will cover material in video lectures, 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.**

**Complete lectures 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 are due on Mondays at 8 AM EST (except for observed holidays, in which case quizzes are due on the following Monday at 8 AM). Lectures are found within modules in Canvas.

### PowerPoint Presentation (Graduate Students Only): 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: November 18th 2024.

### Total course points:

**Graduate students (ALS5932): 225 points**

**Undergraduate students (ALS4932): 200 points**

**Grading:** Letter grade based on the following grade scale:

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

**Grades and Grade Points:** For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

**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.ua.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.ua.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/](http://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/](http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/)
- Career Connections Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, <https://career.ufl.edu/> .
- Student Success Initiative, <http://studentsuccess.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>

### Student Resources

- [E-learning technical support](#): Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto: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 2024**

Date	Topic	Quiz
Weeks 1-2	<b>Module 1:</b> Intro to Plant Communities (Parts 1-3)	<b>MOD. QUIZ 1</b> <b>Due September 9</b> <b>8:00 AM (EST)</b>
Week 3	<b>Module 2:</b> Barrier Island Communities (Lowlands 1) Readings – FNAI Guide – pgs. 77-85 and 91-93	<b>MOD. QUIZ 2</b> <b>Due September 16</b> <b>8:00 AM (EST)</b>
Week 4	<b>Module 3:</b> Flatlands – Scrub and Flatwoods (Lowlands 2) Readings – FNAI Guide – pgs. 55-67 and 49-53	<b>MOD. QUIZ 3</b> <b>Due September 23</b> <b>8:00 AM (EST)</b>
Week 5	<b>Module 4:</b> Flatlands – Associated Wetlands (Lowlands 3) Readings – FNAI Guide – pgs. 116-120; 125-127; 129-144 and 157-169	<b>MOD. QUIZ 4</b> <b>Due September 30</b> <b>8:00 AM (EST)</b>
Week 6	<b>Module 5:</b> High Pine - Upland Pine and Associated Wetlands Readings – FNAI Guide pgs. 37- 48	<b>MOD. QUIZ 5</b> <b>Due October 7</b> <b>8:00 AM (EST)</b>
Week 7	<b>Module 6:</b> Sandhills and Associated Wetlands Readings – FNAI Guide pgs. 113-115 and 125-127	<b>MOD. QUIZ 6</b> <b>Due October 14</b> <b>8:00 AM (EST)</b>
Week 8-9	<b>Module 7:</b> Steepheads and Associated Wetlands Readings – FNAI Guide pgs. 17-28 and 33-35	<b>MOD. QUIZ 7</b> <b>Due October 28</b> <b>8:00 AM (EST)</b>
Week 10	<b>Module 8:</b> Hardwood Forests Readings – FNAI Guide pgs. 177-192	<b>MOD. QUIZ 8</b> <b>Due November 4<sup>th</sup></b> <b>8:00 AM (EST)</b>
Week 11-12	<b>Graduate students only – PowerPoint Presentation</b>	<b>Due Friday</b> <b>Due November 18</b> <b>8:00 AM (EST)</b>