

ALS5156 Agricultural Ecology

Spring, 2026

Online Asynchronous, 3 credits

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Tuesdays 1-2 pm, Wednesdays 11-12 pm

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Course Description

This course introduces students to agricultural systems as ecosystems governed by the same ecological processes governing natural systems. Students will learn about the ecological processes controlling soil-water-plant interactions as well as the capture and use of solar energy in the biosphere. Students will also examine biotic interactions in agricultural systems and a variety of farming practices in the context of sustainability.

Course Learning Objectives

1. Examine how general ecological principles apply to agricultural systems.
2. Identify how crops interact with biotic and abiotic factors in the environment.
3. Analyze the interactions between agriculture and natural systems.
4. Assess practices, technology, and research that represent possibilities for long term sustainability in agriculture.
5. Evaluate potential issues in agricultural settings and create solutions.
6. Research and review a topic in agricultural ecology using the primary literature.

Course Prerequisites

none

Textbooks, Learning Materials, and Supply Fees

Gliessman, S.R. 2015. Agroecology: The Ecology of Sustainable Food Systems. Third Edition. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press.

Communication Guidelines

Please reach out via the Canvas email system to reach the instructor or TA. All assignments must be turned in via Canvas and will not be accepted via email.

Technical Support

UF Computing Help Desk & Ticket Number: All technical issues require a UF Helpdesk Ticket Number. The UF Helpdesk is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/> | 352-392-4357

Weekly Course Schedule

[required, but format can be adapted for each unique course]

Week	Topic	Assessment	Due Dates
1 Jan 12	Tenets of Modern Agriculture	Intro Discussion Syllabus Quiz	1/18 1/18
2 Jan 19	Ecosystem Organization, Carbon and Energy	Quiz 2 Perusall 1	1/25 1/25
3 Jan 26	Light and Temperature, Nutrients	Quiz 3 Lit Review Topic	2/1 2/1
4 Feb 2	Wind and Fire	Quiz 4 Perusall 2	2/8 2/8
5 Feb 9	Water in Agriculture, Dryland Agriculture	Exam 1 Quiz 5	2/9-/2/11 2/15
6 Feb 16	Fertilizer and Fertilizer in the Environment	Quiz 6 Perusall 3	2/22 2/22
7 Feb 23	Soils, Decomposition, Soil Organisms	Quiz 7 WQ Assignment	3/1 3/1
8 Mar 2	Biotic Interactions: The Processes	Exam 2 Quiz 8	3/2-3/4 3/8
9 Mar 9	Biotic Interactions: 1	Quiz 9	3/15
10 Mar 16	Spring Break		
11 Mar 23	Biotic Interactions: 2	Quiz 10	3/29
12 Mar 30	Biotic Interactions: Case Studies	Quiz 11 Perusall 4	4/5 4/5
13 Apr 6	Landscape, diversity, fragmentation, polyculture	Exam 3 Quiz 12 Perusall 5	4/6-4/8 4/12 4/12
14 Apr 13	Agroforestry, crop rotation, IPM, HPR Animals in Ag, Genetic Engineering	Quiz 13 Quiz 14 Insect Assignment	4/19 4/19 4/19
15 Apr 20	No topics	Exam 4 Lit Review	4/20-4/22 4/22

Grading Policy

Course grading is consistent with [UF grading policies](#).

Course Grading Structure

Assignment Type	Point Value	Percent of Final Grade (approx.)
Introduction in Discussion	10	1
Syllabus Quiz	10	1
13 Quizzes	25 (300 total)	27
2 Assignments	50 (100 total)	9
6 Perusall Assignments	30 (180 total)	17
4 Exams	100 (400 total)	36
Literature Review Meeting	10	1
Literature Review	90	8

Grading Scale

Grade	Points	Percentage
A	1023	93
A-	990	90
B+	957	87
B	913	83
B-	880	80
C+	847	77
C	803	73
C-	770	70
D+	737	67
D	693	63
D-	660	60
E	<660	<60

Academic Policies and Resources

Academic policies for this course are consistent with university policies. See

<https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>

Campus Health and Wellness Resources

Visit <https://one.uf.edu/whole-gator/topics> for resources that are designed to help you thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally at UF.

Please contact [UMatterWeCare](#) for additional and immediate support.

Software Use

All faculty, staff and students at 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.

Privacy and Accessibility Policies

- Instructure (Canvas)
 - [Instructure Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Instructure Accessibility](#)
- Zoom
 - [Zoom Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Zoom Accessibility](#)