

ALS 6942 Plant Pest Risk Assessment and Management

Spring, 2026

In-Person, 3 Credits

M, W, F, 4:05pm-4:55pm, Steinmetz Hall

Instructor Dr. Amanda Hodges

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In-Person, 3:00pm-3:50pm, Fridays, or by appointment

Course Description

Learners uniquely explore dynamic plant health regulatory issues through lectures, reading materials, engaging assignments, one substantial written assignment, and two course exams. By the conclusion of the course, student learners will be more familiar with policies and procedures related to plant health regulation, key case study examples, and learners will have specifically developed their own pest risk assessment. This course will also assist students in critical scientific thinking and the pursuit of career opportunities related to plant pest regulation.

Course Learning Objectives

At the end of this course, students will be able to...

1. Understand the importance of plant health, international trade, and plant pest regulation.
2. Explore invasive species issues related to plant health from a Florida, U.S., and international perspective.
3. Synthesize and relate plant pest regulatory concepts to real-world case studies.
4. Apply plant pest regulatory terminology to scenarios.
5. Apply terminology to problem-solving, pest risk assessment, and the development of a survey and a response plan.

Course Prerequisites

Integrated Principles of Biology 1 and Laboratory (BSC 2010 and 2010L) and Integrated Principles of Biology 2 and Laboratory (BSC 2011 and 2011L) or equivalent.

Textbooks, Learning Materials, and Supply Fees

Use of University of Florida, Canvas e-learning software is required. Use of the University of Florida library system for access to literature is also required.

Required Textbook: Plant Pest Risk Analysis: Concepts and Application, C. Devorshak (ed.), 2012, ISBN-13: 978-1-78064-036-5, CABI. Some of the textbook chapters can be found on the WWW (via a Google search). You can also read the textbook as an e-book through Kindle. The textbook is also available for purchase in the UF Bookstore.

Recommended Materials

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

Week	Topic	Assessment	Due Dates
1	Syllabus Overview and Course Expectations. Plant Biosecurity and International Trade. Read Chapter 1, 2	Class participation and attendance.	N/A
2	History of Plant Quarantine, Invasive Species, Use of Risk Analysis, and the International Framework. Read Chapter 3, 4	Class Participation and Attendance	N/A
3	Terminology and Basic Concepts Related to Pest Risk Analysis. Read Chapter 5, 6	Class Participation and Attendance	N/A
4	Economics and Types of a Pest Risk Analysis, Read Chapter 7, 8, Exam 1	Class Participation and Attendance	February 6, 2026
5	Wood Packing Material and Firewood, Read Chapter 19	Class Participation and Attendance	N/A
6	Commodity Example: Citrus, First Group Presentations	Class Participation and Attendance	February 20, 2026
7	Pest Risk Assessment, Pest Lists, and Pest Risk Analysis, Read Chapter 9, 10, 11	Class Participation and Attendance	N/A
8	Surveillance and International Standards in Florida and the U.S. Second group presentations	Class participation and attendance	March 6, 2026
9	Additional Information about Surveillance Strategies, Exam 2	Class participation and attendance	March 13, 2026
10	Pest Risk Management Background and Practices, Read Chapter 13, Third Group Presentations	Class participation and attendance	March 27, 2026

Week	Topic	Assessment	Due Dates
11	Pest Risk Management Application, Practices, and Uncertainty, Read Chapter 14, 15	Class participation and attendance	N/A
12	Weed Risk Assessment Issues, Read Chapter 18, Final Group Presentations	Class participation and attendance	April 10, 2026
13	Uncertainty in Pest Risk Analysis, Read Chapter 16	Class participation and attendance	N/A
14	Risk Communication in Pest Risk Analysis, Read Chapter 15, Exam 3, Pest Risk Assessment Due	Class participation and attendance	April 22, 2026

Grading Policy

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

Course Grading Structure

[Required, methods by which students will be evaluated and their grade determined.]

Assignment Type	Point Value	Percent of Final Grade
Class Attendance and Participation	100	21.05%
Quizzes	50 (5 quizzes throughout the semester at 10 points each)	10.53%
Exams (three)	150 (three exams at 50 points each)	31.58%
Student Group Presentation	75	15.79%
Pest Risk Assessment	100	21.05%
	475	100%

Grading Scale

[scale is required; plus and minus grades may be used but are not required]

Grade	Points	Percentage
A	4.00	92.5-100.0
A-	3.67	89.5-92.4
B+	3.33	86.5-89.4
B	3.00	82.5-86.4
B-	2.67	79.5-82.4

Grade	Points	Percentage
C+	2.33	76.5-79.4
C	2.00	72.5-76.4
C-	1.67	69.5-72.4
D+	1.33	66.5-69.4
D	1.00	62.5-66.4
D-	0.67	59.5-62.4
E	0.00	0-59.9

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 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.

Privacy and Accessibility Policies

[required for online courses, list all technology used]

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

Additional information

Students with extenuating circumstances may be excused from two in-person classes. Students may join via Zoom with advanced communication to the instructor for appropriate circumstances, such as illness. In the event of illness or an unexpected family emergency, students may attend classroom sessions via Zoom. As attendance and participation is required for class, the student is expected to communicate in advance with the instructor.