
WIS 3403C: PERSPECTIVES IN WILDLIFE ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION

Lecture Syllabus 2007

Instructor: Dr. Katie Sieving, Associate Professor
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Office Hours: MONDAY 1-2 PM & WEDNESDAY 1-3 PM
Lecture: Room 112 Newins-Ziegler Hall, Wednesdays 4:05 – 4:55 PM
Website Link: <http://www.wec.ufl.edu/faculty/SievingK/>

Date	Topic	Preparation*
<i>Getting the Big Picture</i>		
Aug 29	Course introduction: Three ‘pillars’ of conservation	Ghost Bears intro
Sept 5	Gauging the health of earth: Evidence & environmental science	R1 (Uhl 5)
Sept 12	Deciphering the causes of earth’s degradation	R2 (Uhl 6)
Sept 19	Biological destabilization: Extinction, climate change, & health	R3 (Uhl 7)
<i>Science</i>		
Sept 26	Biodiversity: Types of species and their interactions	R4
Oct 3	Essential wildlife ecology: Niche, habitat, and scale	R5
Oct 10	Evolutionary context: Natural and anthropogenic selection	R6; <u>MT out</u>
Oct 17	The BIG THREE: Habitat loss, pollution, alien invaders	R7
Oct 24	Conservation Biology: Scarcity, diversity, and ‘crisis’ science	R8
<i>Management</i>		
Oct 31	Wildlife legislation: Legalities of conservation	R9; <u>MT in</u>
Nov 7	Wildlife management: Tangles and triumphs	R10
Nov 14	Wildlife management: 3 parts Ecology, 7 parts Human Dimensions	R11
Nov 21	NO CLASS	R12
Nov 28	Ecosystem management: Large and long views	R13; <u>Final out</u>
<i>Ethics</i>		
Dec 5	Environmental ethics: More walking, less talking!	R14

*** Preparation:****Final due on or before Dec 10; 5 PM**

- This column lists readings or homework assignments that need to be done *before* lecture.
- Study the list of Reading Concepts (posted online) while you read the assignment.
- Bring those notes to lecture class (on note cards), because there will be a quiz EVERY LECTURE.
- You will have a choice of several of the concepts to explain – you’ll only have to do one.
- You can use your notes (on cards) during the quiz.
- Readings (& Reading Concepts) are online at www.wec.ufl.edu/faculty/sievingk/sieving-readings.
- At the prompt, type in the word **sieving** (for username) and the word **readings** (for password).
- Click on the folder called **Perspectives 3403C** for folders with course materials.

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LAB SYLLABUS 2007**Lab Location/Day: Room 219 N-Z Hall / TUESDAYS**

SECTION 4559	10:40 - 12:35	TAs: Kristen & Galo (aaltonen@ufl.edu ; galo@ufl.edu)
SECTION 4560	12:50 – 2:45	TAs: Galo & John (galo@ufl.edu ; delucajj@ufl.edu)
SECTION 5753	3:00 – 4:55	TAs: John & Kristen (delucajj@ufl.edu ; aaltonen@ufl.edu)

Lab TA Office HOURS	Location	Times
Kristen Aaltonen	Room 218 Newins-Ziegler	TUESDAY 12:45-2:45
John DeLuca	Room 313 N-Z Hall	MONDAY 10-12
Galo Zapato-Rios	Building 150 (KNOCK!!), Room 4	THURSDAY 8:30-10:30

Date (T)	Topic of Exercise	Preparation*
Aug 28	Major and Minor Perspectives on WEC	HW 1
Sept 4	Sustainability Measures: Carbon Neutrality & Ecological Footprints	HW 2
Sept 11	Barriers to Sustainable Behavior	HW 3
Sept 18	Observing Nature & Keeping Useful Field Notes (field work)	HW 4
Sept 25	Descriptive Science: ID Ecological Patterns (field work)	HW 5
Oct 2	What is your TA doing?: Critiquing research presentations	HW 6
Oct 9	Hypothetical Deduction: The everyday logic of research study design	HW 7; PROJ 1
Oct 16	Scientific Literature: Finding what you need to inform your thinking	HW 8
Oct 23	Testing Hypotheses: Scientific process can reveal truth (field work)	HW 9
Oct 30	Critiquing Conservation Science	HW 10
Nov 6	Behavioral Landscape Ecology (field work)	HW 11
Nov 13	What's your philosophy of Environmental Ethics?	HW 12
Nov 20	NO CLASS	HW 13
Nov 27	Student Presentations: Walking the Talk of Sustainability	HW 14; PROJ 2
Dec 4	Temporary Jobs, Graduate School, & Professional Development	HW 15

*** Preparation:**

- Every Wed at the end of lecture you'll get a homework assignment (HW) for lab on the next Tuesday. It will also be posted on the web after lecture, and before lab.
- Most lab homework assignments are simple exercises that don't take very long to do.
- But you have to have them done when you arrive at lab – to walk in the door.
 - Your lab HW is your **ticket** to lab!
 - You can do it poorly, but you have to do something.
- Each HW will have a brief description of the lab exercise with instructions about what to bring and what to think about before-hand, in addition to the exercise itself.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Course Description: This course introduces students entering the WEC major/minor to key concepts, disciplinary knowledge, and considerations of career options in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. The course develops the foundation and skills for critical reasoning in conservation science and management. Course grade depends heavily on participation (including attendance, preparation, and timely completion of assignments). Offered fall term. 3 credits. Required for WEC Majors.

Approach: *Lectures* will highlight the scientific (ecological), social (management), and ethical aspects of biodiversity conservation. Material presented in lecture will be directly relevant for completion of 1 midterm (take home) and a final (also a take home test). *Lab* sections are activity oriented, and will introduce students to basic field skills, scientific method, critical analysis of conservation science, information research skills, environmental ethics, and career opportunities in WEC and will reinforce key aspects of lecture and reading concepts. Students will complete 2 independent projects and various group/team projects in class. Students will be required to prepare *brief* homework assignments every week in order to participate in lab exercises and discussions.

Core Learning Objectives:

1. A general understanding of the conceptual and applied aspects of the scientific, social, and ethical arenas comprising the diverse field of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Biology.
2. Attainment of a basic set of field skills including, keeping organized and detailed field notes, using a GPS, quantitative and qualitative observational skills, and species identification.
3. A general understanding of the basic principles of ecology as they relate to wildlife conservation.
4. Understanding of the range of job and career opportunities in the field of wildlife ecology and conservation.
5. Understanding of appropriate application of the following critical reasoning skills; analysis, evaluation, inference, explanation, intellectual self-regulation, interpretation.

Course Philosophy: This is a ‘**seeding**’ class, not a ‘**weeding**’ class – we hope by spending time in class with you that seeds of interest will be planted and that you’ll stay in WEC or a related major. Conservation is a growth industry; our environment will only need **more** help from talented people, not **less**, during your lifetimes. There is a place for you in Conservation! The more time we spend together, the better chance we have to connect you up with something you want to do. So, lots of participation is required, questions are encouraged! And we don’t pound you with tons of difficult work (your other classes in WEC are a lot more challenging in that way.).

Course Pre-Requisites: Must be a WEC major or minor.
Required Text: NONE: All course readings are available online.
Class Meetings: All students will meet for one 50 min session (lecture) and for one double-period lab/discussion session with 1/3 of the class in each of 3 sections.

Grading:

600 points are available. To get an A,

1. Attend class and participate (you can skip sometimes – but do the math and plan).
2. Complete homework assignments, take-home exams, reading preparation, and lab projects on time.
-- A 3-credit course requires up to 9 hours of preparation per week outside of class (yup, it's true!).

Grade Calculations:

A > 89 % (> 534 pts); **B+** = 89 – 87 % (534 – 522 pts); **B** = 86 – 80 % (521 – 480 pts);
C+ = 79 -77 % (479 – 462 pts); **C** = 76 -70 % (461- 420 pts); **D+** = 69 - 67 % (419 – 402 pts);
D = 66 – 60 % (401 - 360 pts); **E** = < 60 % (< 360 pts). An '**T**' (incomplete) is not available in this class.

Graded Work:

Lecture Exams:

- Take home Mid-term Lecture Exam: 100 points.
- Take home Lecture Final Exam: 100 points.

Lab Projects:

- Independent Lab Projects (2): 50 points each (100).

Attendance and Preparation:

- Every lecture is worth 10 points; 5 for being there, and 5 for a good answer on the daily quiz.
 - We'll know you're there if you hand in a quiz answer.
 - 15 lectures x 10 = 150 points.
- Every lab is worth 10 points for being there and for participating fully (incl. preparation).
 - If you haven't done something on your homework, you can't get full credit for lab.
 - Homework has to be handed in at the beginning of class (within the first 10 minutes; **you can't drop it off at the end**). I.e., you can't come to class and then do your homework.
 - If you come and hand in a bad homework, you'll still get 5 points for being there (but you have to hand something in). If your homework shows decent effort, you get all 10 points.
 - If you come, and drop off homework of any quality, and then leave lab before the end – you get a goose egg for lab (that means 0 points).
 - 15 labs x 10 = 150 points.

Make-up Policy:

- Exams and Lab Projects: Since both lecture exams are take-home and projects are independent, there are no make-ups. If handed in late, 10% of points will be lost each day late.
- Attendance / Preparation: There is no way to make up points lost missing a lecture, a lecture quiz, a lab, or lab homework. Period. Forget about it. No way. Not in your lifetime. Not ever.
- How to calculate what you can afford to miss: 535 points is the minimum to get an A. That = up to 6 missed labs or lectures, OR one missing lab project plus a skipped lab OR perfect attendance and projects and an F on either the lecture midterm or the final. If you only want a B, well – you can do the math! AND – near the end of class, we will tell you what you need to get on the final for the grade you want (or the best grade you can still get...).

Announcements to All UF Students

Academic Honesty: As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the statement: "I understand that 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."

UF Counseling Services: Resources are available on campus for students have personal problems or difficulty with determining career and academic goals that interfere with academic performance. These resources include:

1. University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling;
2. Student Mental Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling;
3. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual assault counseling and
4. Career Resources Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling.

Software Use: All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal arguments 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.

Rules of Behavior during Lectures and Laboratory Sessions: Every community has modes of behavior that allow people to function together. Our class is going to be a small but interactive community – you can facilitate this dynamic:

1. Be respectful of yourself, your peers, and teachers -- in all your interactions as a UF Student, and a classmate.
2. If it goes beep, ring or otherwise makes noise, turn it off before you come into class.

Students with Disabilities: 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.

We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold our peers and ourselves to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.