

# UF in the UK: Coastal Biology, Natural History & Culture

## FAS 4932/6932 (6 credits) Summer A 2023

### Course Description

Course will provide students with a hands-on understanding of the biology, natural history, and culture of coastal England and Wales.

**Prerequisites:** Biology 1 & 2 (or equivalent), **ability to swim, fitness for hiking**

The coast of the United Kingdom has a remarkable history that intertwines its unique cultural and biological characteristics. This course explores coastal and nearshore maritime environments during a 3-week journey around the UK. Students will learn how the coasts were formed and adapted to by a fascinating variety of plants, animals, and human cultures. Some of these organisms and peoples are still around today while others are long gone, leaving behind only their fossilized remains or archaeological evidence. This experiential learning course will begin in London's Natural History Museum, move to the Jurassic Coast and English Channel, the southwest coast of Wales, on to northeast England and the North Sea, then finish back in London. In addition to meeting with local scientists, fishermen, and conservation specialists along the way, students will also engage with their faculty guides and fellow students from the US, Wales and England for maximum cultural immersion.

### Instructors

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## Student Learning Outcomes

*At the end of this course, students will:*

- Understand how cultural and natural history have shaped coastal ecosystems, community structure, and plant/animal populations.
- Appreciate the unique coastal culture and history of England and Wales
- Learn about the structure, function, and connectivity between coastal marine habitats (e.g., shingle beaches and rocky intertidal areas) and coastal land ecosystems (e.g., maritime forests and agroecosystems).
- Gain an appreciation for contemporary issues surrounding coastal ecology in the UK, including the potential effects of climate change, non-native species invasions, and conservation/management issues such as Marine Protected Areas.
- Know the common coastal marine, forest, and agroecosystem taxa and be able to identify common organisms
- Understand the theories, mechanisms, and management actions that drive coastal marine, maritime forest, and coastal agroecosystem structure
- Be more informed and experienced global citizens with an appreciation for the scientific, social, and political perspectives of people from other countries, cultures, and social backgrounds.

## Course Meeting Times

The class will meet online *and* on campus in mid-May (date TBD) to learn background information and prepare for an immersive 3-week trip to the UK from May 30<sup>th</sup> - June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

## Recommended Texts/Readings:

- numerous guidebooks and other literature will be available during the course

## Course Format, Policies on Attendance and Make-up Exams

### Course format:

The format of the course will be an introductory, planning, and discussion meeting on campus (or online) in late May followed by the trip abroad to the UK on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Activities will be centered in and around London, southeastern England, Wales, and northeastern England. The trip will focus on experiential learning guided by faculty from the US, England, and Wales, and punctuated with presentations by local scientists and other professionals. Students will maintain a journal (journal provided; see handout for recording requirements). Students will submit their journals for assessment prior to the end of the trip abroad and take an end of course exam online following their return to the US.

### Attendance Policy:

Attendance is required at all class meetings and the trip to the UK.

### Make-up Policy:

Late assignments **will not** be accepted without prior consent of the instructor.

## Assignments

**Journal:** Students **are required** to keep a field journal to record observations, pose questions, and create a list of the organisms encountered during field excursions. The journal is 150 of the 350 total points of the course grade and is due prior to leaving the UK. Journals will be graded on organization, detail, and content (instructions will be provided). Students will be supplied with a waterproof notebook for keeping the journal.

**Literature Discussion:** Students will be placed into teams of 2-3 and are required to select a paper from those supplied by the instructors. The group must then select one of the available discussion sessions (see detailed itinerary) during which they will provide a brief (5 min) introduction to the paper and then moderate a 30 – 45 min discussion of the paper. All students are required to read the papers and participate in the discussion.

- Presentation of a paper and leading discussion will count for 30 points of the course grade.
- Participation in the discussions will count toward 20 points of the course grade.

**Reflection Essay:** Students will be required to write a reflection essay (50 points). Guidelines for the essay will be provided. The essay may be typed or handwritten.

**Exam:** A written final exam at the end of the course will cover all of the material presented in the course and count for 100 of the 350 total points. It will include multiple choice, short answer questions, and brief essays. The exam will be taken and graded in the UK.

## Evaluation of Student Learning

**Final grades will be assigned based on the percentage of the total points earned.**

150 points	Field journal
30 points	Lead primary literature discussion
20 points	Participate in literature discussions
50 points	Reflection essay
<u>100 points</u>	<u>Final exam</u>
350 points	Total

## Grading Scale

Grades will be assigned using the following scale:

94-100 = A; 90-93 = A-; 87-89 B+; 83-86 = B; 80-82 = B-; 77-79 = C+; 73-76 = C; 70-72 = C-; 67-69 = D+; 63-66 = D; 60-62 = D-; < 60 = E.

For additional information on the university grading policy please see:  
<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

## Schedule of Class Activities and Topics

Course Introductory Lectures and other Logistics	May (date TBD)
Depart US	May 30 <sup>th</sup>
Depart UK	June 19 <sup>th</sup>

### SEE ATTACHED ITINERARY FOR DETAILS ON DAILY ACTIVITIES FOR 2023

Scheduling of lectures and activities will be contingent upon weather and sea conditions so will be subject to change. BLD = Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner meal cost included where noted.

## Other Information

### POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS

This syllabus represents current plans and objectives for this course. As the semester progresses, changes may need to be made to accommodate timing, logistics, or to enhance learning. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.

### ABSENCES AND MAKE-UP WORK

It is the responsibility of the student to access on-line lectures, readings, quizzes, and exams and to maintain satisfactory progress in the course.

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/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Computer or other hardware failures, except failure of the UF e-Learning system, will not excuse students for missing assignments. Any late submissions due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from the Helpdesk when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request consideration.

For computer, software compatibility, or access problems call the HELP DESK phone number—352-392-HELP = 352- 392-4357 (option 2).

### SEMESTER EVALUATION PROCESS

We are always looking to improve the course experience and student assessments of instruction is an important part of our efforts to improve teaching and learning. We want to ensure your ideas are heard, so please be encouraged to fill out the student assessments offered for the course.

**At the end of the semester**, 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 AND STUDENT CONDUCT**

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."* The principles guiding the UF honor and conduct codes are guided by principles of respect for people, property, fairness, laws, regulations, and academic 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 process, please see <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code> and for the most up-to-date version of the student honor code and student conduct code, please see <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>.

**Netiquette (Communication Courtesy):** All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats, guided by the UF principles of respect. Failure to do so may result in loss of participation points and/or referral to the Dean of Students' Office. <http://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.docx>

## **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. Misuse of software is outlined in the student conduct code found here <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

## **SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

If you have any kind of disability, whether apparent or non-apparent, learning, emotional, physical, or cognitive, and you need some accommodations or alternatives to lectures, assignments, or exams, please reach out to the Disability Resource Center to discuss reasonable accommodations for your access needs. 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 instructors when requesting accommodation. You are also encouraged to reach out to the instructors to discuss ideas for reasonable accommodations for your access needs.

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

## **CAMPUS HELPING RESOURCES**

For issues with technical difficulties for e-learning in Canvas, please post your question to the Technical Help Discussion in your course, or contact the UF Help Desk at:

- [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu) | (352) 392-HELP - select option 2 | <http://elearning.ufl.edu>
- Library Help Desk support <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>
- SFRC Academic Hub <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/303721>

## **INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

We strive to develop and maintain a classroom that values and includes people with diverse backgrounds, beliefs, and life experiences, promote equitable opportunities through the work we conduct, and make continuous efforts to review, self-critique, adapt, and improve. This course embraces the University of Florida's Non-Discrimination Policy, which reads,

*The University shall actively promote equal opportunity policies and practices conforming to laws against discrimination. The University is committed to non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act.*

If you have questions or concerns about your rights and responsibilities for an inclusive learning environment, please speak with any of the instructors or TA or refer to the Office of Multicultural & Diversity Affairs website: <http://multicultural.ufl.edu>.

## **LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

This course is taught in the historic territories of the Timucua, Seminole, and crossroads of the Native American peoples who long inhabited this land. We honor and acknowledge the land and waters themselves as well as the people who have stewarded it for generations. We are called to continue to learn about the history of the systems we study as well as consider their future.

## **STUDENT LIFE, WELLNESS, AND COUNSELING HELP**

We encourage students to take care of their health and wellness. Mental health and wellness can affect how we think, feel, and act as we cope with life and may impact success as a student. Struggles with mental health are common—more than half of all Americans will be diagnosed with a mental disorder at some time in their life. Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being 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.

- *University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575, [www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/): 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 Resource Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, [www.crc.ufl.edu/](http://www.crc.ufl.edu/)*
- Student Success Initiative, <http://studentsuccess.ufl.edu>.

## **STUDENT COMPLAINT PROCESS**

The School of Forest Fisheries & Geomatics cares about your experience and we will make every effort to address course concerns. We request that all of our online students complete a course satisfaction survey each semester, which is a time for you to voice your thoughts on how your course is being delivered.

If you have a more urgent concern, your first point of contact should be the SFRC Academic Coordinator or the Graduate/Undergraduate Coordinator for the program offering the course. You may also submit a complaint directly to UF administration:

- Students in online courses: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>
- Students in face-to-face courses: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>