

Foundations of Natural Resources and Conservation – FOR3200C – 1 credit

1 Course Overview

Course description:

Overview of current and historical views of forest conservation, utilization and policy; principles of forest biology, ecology, Silviculture and management relevant to future courses and careers; basic field research, communications and computer skills.

- Semester: Summer B
- Format: face-to-face
- Mondays Periods 1-3 (8:00 am – 12:15 pm), 112 Newins-Ziegler Hall
- Tuesdays Periods 1-2 (8:00 am – 10:45 am), 112 Newins-Ziegler Hall

Course Prerequisites: 3FY or instructor permission

Instructor:

Dr. Tim Martin (he/him)
359 Newins-Ziegler Hall
tamartin@ufl.edu
352-846-0866

- Please use the Canvas message/Inbox feature for fastest response.
- Office hours: in-person or virtual (Zoom) office hours Mondays 12:15-1:30, or by appointment

Textbook(s) and/or readings: There is no required text for the course. Readings will be provided for each learning topic.

2 Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, each student will be able to:

- Apply foundational concepts in natural resources and conservation to subsequent courses in their curriculum, and to their professional careers.

3 Course Logistics

Monday field trips, 8:00am – 12:15am; attendance required on first and last Monday of class and for a field trip on one other Monday, 112-Newins-Ziegler Hall

Tuesdays, 8:00am – 10:45 am, 112 Newins-Ziegler Hall. Attendance required.

Students may access lectures, assignments, readings, and supporting materials through the course Canvas site as they become available.

Technology Requirements:

- A computer or mobile device with high-speed internet connection.
- A webcam, headset and/or microphone, and speakers.
- Latest version of web browser. Canvas supports only the two most recent versions of any given browser. [What browser am I using?](#)
- Installation of proctoring software may be required and will be provided if so.

Synchronous online sessions may be recorded. By sharing your video, screen, or audio during any synchronous online class sessions, you are consenting to being recorded for the benefit of students who cannot attend live as well as for class review during the current semester. If you have special circumstances or concerns about privacy, it is your responsibility to discuss it with your instructor.

3.1 Description of Assessments & Activities

Weekly Quizzes - over material covered in lecture. Posted weekly at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, and due by 11:59 p.m. on the following Sunday. The lowest quiz score will be dropped.

In-class Activities and Assessments - In-class activities or assessments that accompany each lecture will require you to answer questions or brainstorm solutions to natural resource management challenges.

Each student independently submits answers to in-class activities during class. If you do not attend class or do not participate by answering a question, you will not receive credit for that week's activity. Due at the end of class. The lowest in-class assessment score will be dropped.

Professional Panel – At four different times during the semester, outside of class time, we will have an online (Zoom) live panel with natural resource professionals. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions of the panel. It's a great chance to learn about different natural resource careers. You must REGISTER FOR and ATTEND on Zoom at least one professional panel, but you are welcome to attend all panels. For your registered panel, you must view/read the introductory material for each speaker and then submit at least one thoughtful question for each speaker on Canvas by 11:59 p.m. the night before the panel. If you are unable to attend any of the scheduled professional panels, contact the instructor during the first week of class.

Pick your Project – A final course project will allow you to explore, demonstrate, and/or apply concepts learned during class. You may choose one of several formats for your final project:

- Natural resource site (park, forest, etc.) video or brochure
You're in this major to get into nature, right? This project will allow you to do that, for credit!

Prepare a 5-7 minute video or a two page (letter paper size pages) brochure which describes important elements of a natural resource site that you visit. The video or brochure must include:

- Name and location of the site
- Name of agency or entity which manages the site
- Objective or mission of the agency
- Description of how the site and the natural resource management activities there are helping the agency or entity fulfill its mission
- Photos, videos, maps, and other visual information which illustrate your points, with most photos taken by you during your visit to the site
- Limited use of photos or maps from agency materials may be used, but they should be minimal and their source must be cited
- At least one photo or video shot must include your face to show that you visited the site

- Natural resources art project

If you are feeling creative, this may be the project for you.

Create an original piece of art which reflects some aspect of natural resource management. This could be a painting, sculpture, woodwork, cartoon, drawing, illustrated map, fiber art, or any other medium which you choose, EXCEPT, for the purposes of this project, photography is excluded. You can illustrate an event in natural resource management history, the work of a particular person, a meaningful natural resource location, etc. Here are the requirements:

- The art must illustrate some concept that we covered in class this semester
- You must include a PowerPoint slide file which includes
 - Bullet points or short paragraph describing your art and explaining its connection to a concept that we discussed in class
 - Photos of you with your piece of art during at least three phases of its creation so that I can be sure you created the art
 - A photo of the final piece

- Natural resources road trip

Feel like hitting the road? Then start your engines and do this project.

Plan a road trip in the continental United States which visits natural resource sites managed by at least three different types of entities: local, state, and federal. The road trip should have a theme that you state up front. The theme is completely up to you, but could be something like, “big trees” or “endangered species” or “indigenous history” or “scenic trails” or “wild rivers” or anything else you can think of that makes sense given your planned stops. Your project should be in the form of a PowerPoint file which includes:

- A neat and professionally done map which shows the route and sites for your road trip. The total travel mileage should be 2,500 miles or less. Your trip must start and end at the same location, but you can make that starting location any city that you choose, as long as it has a population over 100,000 (meaning it would probably have an airport).
- An agenda slide(s) for each day of the trip which includes travel details (e.g. driving from point A to point B), locations to visit, and identification of one or two features that you will visit at the location and how those features meet the theme that you chose.
- A summary slide for each site visited which includes
 - Name and location of the site
 - Name of agency or entity which manages the site
 - Objective or mission of the agency
 - Description of how the site and the natural resource management activities there are helping the agency or entity fulfill its mission
- Any photos, videos, maps, and other visual information which illustrate your points from agency materials may be used, but their source must be cited

Field Trips – Field trips to natural resource management entities enable students to see and interact with natural resources and natural resource managers. Students are required to register for and attend at least one field trip.

3.2 Grades & Grading Scale

Weekly Quizzes – 30% of course points – lowest quiz score dropped

In-Class Activities and Assessments – 30% of course points – lowest in-class activity score dropped

Participation in Professional Panel and Question Submission – 10% of course points

Pick Your Project – 15% of course points

Field Trip Attendance – 15% of course points

Final grades will be assigned as: 89.5-100% A, 86.7-89.4% B+, 83.4-86.6% B, 79.5-83.3% B-, 76.7-79.4% C+, 73.4-76.6% C, 69.5-73.3% C-, 66.7-69.4% D+, 63.4-66.6% D, 59.5-63.3% D-, < 59.5% E

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

3.3 Learning Content

Week of	Monday	Tuesday	Professional Panel Topic and Time
July 3	Classroom: Class orientation "You are here" – Scott Sager (8:45) Professional and Student Organizations History of NR Management	NO CLASS – Independence Day	July 5, time tbd Optional prescribed fire participation, Austin Cary Forest
July 10	Field trip: Longleaf flatwoods / Lochloosa restoration (Crandall, Doig, Kinslow, others)	Fundamentals of NR Management Adaptive Management Measuring Natural Resources	Fri, July 14, 12:30-1:30 Government agencies Jennifer Hart (FFS) Liz Ramirez (USFS) Josh Havird (US FWS)
July 17	Field trip: Sweetwater Wetlands Park (Martin, Stein)	Weather, Climate, and Climate Change	Wed, July 19, 1:00-2:00 Terry Baker, SAF CEO
July 24	Field trip: Natural Resource Consulting (Erick Smith, Kestrel Ecological Services)	Land ownership and stewardship	Fri, July 28, 12:30-1:30 Private forestry Josh McCafferty (Weyerhaeuser) Kari Hurst (NRPS) Marshall Hilton (F4 Tech)
July 31	Field trip: Rayonier (Joe Geisel, Charlie Dunn, Terri Hall)	NR management in other countries	Wed, Aug 2, 1:00-2:00 NGOs & Extension Shannon Carnevale (IFAS Extension) Stephanie Ley (Friends of Acadia NGO) Ad Platt (Longleaf Alliance NGO)
August 7	Classroom: Professional communication	Flex day	

Due Dates:

Quizzes – Open 1:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, due 11:59 p.m. on Sunday

In-Class Activities and Assessments – At the end of each Tuesday lecture

Questions for professional panel – 11:59 p.m. the night before the panel for which you signed up

Pick your Project – 11:59 p.m. Friday, August 11

4 Policies and Requirements

This course plan and syllabus are subject to change in response to student and instructor needs. Any changes will be clearly communicated in advance through Canvas.

4.1 Late Submissions & Make-up Requests

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).

4.2 Communication Courtesy and Professionalism

Just as in any professional environment, meaningful and constructive dialogue is expected in this class and requires a degree of mutual respect, willingness to listen, and tolerance of opposing points of view.

Respect for individual differences and alternative viewpoints will be maintained in this class at all times. All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy, decency, and civility in all interactions. Failure to do so will not be tolerated and may result in loss of participation points and/or referral to the Dean of Students' Office.

4.3 Semester Evaluation Process

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning.

At approximately the mid-point of the semester, the School of Forest, Fisheries, & Geomatics Sciences will request anonymous feedback on student satisfaction on various aspects of this course. These surveys will be sent out through Canvas and are not required but encouraged. This is not the UF Faculty Evaluation!

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/>.

4.4 Academic Honesty Policy

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 or 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>.

4.5 Inclusive Learning Environment

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 inclusive learning environment, please see the instructor or refer to the Office of Multicultural & Diversity Affairs website:

<http://multicultural.ufl.edu>.

4.6 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, <http://www.disability.ufl.edu>

4.7 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.

5 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 | (352) 392-HELP - select option 2 | <http://elearning.ufl.edu>
- Library Help Desk support <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>
- SFFGS Academic Hub <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/303721>

5.1 Student Life, Wellness, and Counseling Help

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.

- Counseling and Wellness resources <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>
- U Matter, We Care <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>
- Career Connections Center <http://career.ufl.edu/>
- Student Success Initiative <http://studentsuccess.ufl.edu>
- Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for online students.

5.2 Student Complaint Process

The School of Forest, Fisheries, & Geomatics Sciences cares about your experience and we will make every effort to address course concerns. We request that 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. You can also [submit feedback anytime](#).

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

- <https://distance.ufl.edu/getting-help/>
- <https://registrar.ufl.edu/complaint.html>