

# Issues in Southeastern Forest Health – FOR6625

## 1 Course Overview

### Course description:

This online course is designed to expose students to invasive and native forest and tree health issues and their management in the southeastern U.S. For each forest health topic, students will learn the biology, ecology, and management strategies. Modules include pre-recorded lectures, videos, and/or webinars followed by a brief quiz. Additional assignments such as online discussions, fact sheets, and a scientific review paper will expose students to various forms of technology transfer regarding these issues. 3 Credits

- Summer 2024
- Online, asynchronous
- <http://elearning.ufl.edu/>

### Course Prerequisites: none

**Instructor:** Jeffrey Eickwort

- Contact via email ([eickwort@ufl.edu](mailto:eickwort@ufl.edu)) or through the Canvas message/Inbox
- Office hours: virtual (Zoom) scheduled date and times

**Textbook(s) and/or readings:** There is no required text for the course. Required readings will be provided.

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

- Describe forest health pests of concern, including insects, fungi, plants, and abiotic
- Make appropriate management recommendations in response to forest pest issues via fact
- Analyze research on a major forest health issue and present in a scholarly format.

## 2 Course Logistics

Students may access lectures, assignments, readings, and supporting materials through the course Canvas site as they become available. To facilitate discussions by keeping everyone on a similar schedule, each week's module will be published at the beginning of that week (Sunday night or Monday morning).

### Technology Requirements:

- A computer or mobile device with high-speed internet

- A webcam, headset and/or microphone and speakers.
- Latest version of web Canvas supports only the two most recent versions of any given browser.
- 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.

## 2.1 Description of Assessments & Activities Course Structure

### *Modules*

The course is split into 10 modules, each covering a different topic relevant to forest protection. Your understanding of the material will be assessed through brief quizzes, participation in discussions, two fact sheets, and a scientific review paper on a forest pest. You will select **two** emergent forest health issues for your fact sheets and scientific review paper: one issue for fact sheet 1, and one issue for both the fact sheet 2 and scientific review paper.

The course is largely self-paced with the exception of the first fact sheet (due the week before summer break). Quizzes and discussions have “due dates” but this is simply to add it to the Canvas calendar. You will not lose points if you take a quiz after that “due date”.

### *Assessment*

- **Quizzes:** Each module will have a brief quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
- **Discussions:** Each module will also have a discussion.
  - Discussions may include external materials (e.g., TED talks).
  - There will be 1-3 questions or scenarios for you to respond
  - You are welcome to use photos, links, in your responses.
  - Be sure to cite any materials you use or reference in your
- **Fact Sheets:** You will produce **two** extension-style fact sheets on a forest pest or pathogen.
  - Assume a lay audience without an academic background in forestry, entomology, or pathology.
  - Fact sheets not need to be professionally formatted (e.g., logos, borders etc.), but they do need to be neat and organized.
  - Should contain relevant information (e.g., life cycle, impacts) but this may be different depending on the type of pest.
  - Should include at least 3 citations are included in the fact sheet in terms of formatting, length In-text citations are okay to include but not required.
  - Be sure to cite photos as well.

- There is no specific citation format you need to follow but they should be consistent throughout.
- I will provide detailed feedback on your first fact sheet which you are expected to incorporate into your second fact sheet.
- I will not take off points for these issues on fact sheet 1 but, if I provide feedback and you do not incorporate them into fact sheet 2, you will lose points.
- Examples are provided on the course Canvas page.

• **Pest Review Paper**

- 5-pages (or fewer), double spaced, 12-point font (times new roman, arial, calibri), 1- inch margins.
- You should cover biology, ecology, economic impacts, control methods, common misconceptions or any other relevant information.
- Include proper in-text citations however, you do not have to follow a certain format as long as you're consistent.
- References can include “grey literature”, newspaper articles etc but should include at least 5 peer-reviewed publications.

## 2.2 Grades & Grading Scale

<b>Modules (quiz + discussion)</b>	25%
<b>Fact Sheet 1</b>	10%
<b>Fact Sheet 2</b>	10%
<b>Pest Review Paper</b>	15%
<b>Midterm</b>	20%
<b>Final Exam</b>	20%

### Grading Scale (%)

Grading Scale (%)	
A	100% to 94%
A-	93.99% to 90%
B+	89.99% to 87%
B	86.99% to 84%
B-	83.99% to 80%
C+	79.99% to 77%
C	76.99% to 74%

C-	73.99% to 70%
D+	69.99% to 67%
D	66.99% to 64%
D-	63.99% to 61%
E	60.99% to 0%

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see

Undergraduate: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Graduate: <https://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/graduate/regulations/>

### 3 Learning Content

Wk	Date	Topic	Assignment
1	13-May	Introduction to forest health	Quiz 1, intro discussion
2	20-May	Native forest pests (bark beetles)	Quiz 2, pest selection, discussion
3	27-May	Native forest diseases	Quiz 3, disease complexes
4	3-Jun	Invasive pests and pathogens	Quiz 4, forest health highlights
5	10-Jun	Invasive plants	Fact sheet 1, Quiz 5
6	17-Jun	<b>Midterm</b>	<b>Midterm</b>
7	24-Jun	<b>Summer Break</b>	<b>Summer Break</b>
8	1-Jul	Abiotic disorders, declines	Quiz 6, urban tree mgmt.
9	8-Jul	Integrated pest management	Quiz 7, technology in forest health
10	15-Jul	Climate change	Quiz 8, soil amendments
11	22-Jul	Forest health and fire	Quiz 9, fire suppression
12	29-Jul	Government policies & programs	Fact sheet 2
13	5-Aug	<b>Final Exam (cumulative)</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>