EVS 3000L - Environmental Science Lab Spring 2024 (Online)

Number of Credits: 1

Instructor

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Office Hours (online): Wednesdays from 9-10am OFFICE HOURS or by appointment.

Class Meeting Schedule and Format

This lab is an asynchronous online class. This means you can work through the material each week on your own schedule. Each module opens at 12:01 am Sunday EST. It is recommended that you find a consistent time to work through each week's materials and assignments and treat the course as a regularly scheduled commitment.

Course Description

This course introduces students to the many varied professional trajectories in environmental science. It also provides hands-on experience in data collection and analysis for environmental science and management.

Prerequisites

CHM 2045 or CHM 2047 or CHM 2095

Course Materials

There are no required textbooks. Readings will be made available via Canvas.

Course Objectives

Environmental science is an interdisciplinary field of study that combines physical, biological, and information science to understand the effects of natural and anthropogenic processes on the environment. Because of the diversity and interconnectedness of all aspects of human-environment relationships, environmental science careers are equally varied. Environmental scientists work on problems spanning biogeochemical cycles, energy systems, pollution control and mitigation, natural resource management, conservation of ecosystems, and much more!

Our objective in this lab is to expose you to the diversity of environmental careers, introduce you to methods in environmental research, and provide professional development opportunities to help you progress in the field. Lab activities will break roughly into three categories:

·　　　Career exploration activities, where you will either hear from an environmental science professional about their career trajectory, or you will be asked to research a topic in environmental science that interests you.

·　　　Research exercises, where you will learn about common methods for studying environmental problems from different perspectives, including policy, human dimensions, and biology. This will include hands-on sampling projects as well as a basic introduction to data analysis.

·　　　Professional development activities, where we will focus on key practical skills such as finding career opportunities that interest you and preparing compelling application materials.

These activities correspond to the three primary learning outcomes for the course. At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

·　　　Recognize the many possible professional trajectories in environmental science, research environmental career opportunities, and evaluate how they fit with students' current skills and long-term career objectives.

·　　　Plan and execute basic research projects to address questions in the natural and social dimensions of environmental science.

·　　　Generate professional communications and application materials for career opportunities.

Communication

All course communication will be done through Canvas and your UF email. Please check both regularly to keep up to date. If you have questions I will try to respond to email and chat messages as quickly as possible. Please allow at least 24 hours to hear back from me. You may want to work on your assignments early, so you have time to reach out if you run into any sticking points. Office hours are on Wednesdays from 9-10am EST OFFICE HOURS and the passcode is EVS3000L. I will also make myself available on Zoom if needed.

Weekly Schedule (subject to change):

Starting week	Week Number	Topic
8-Jan	1	Welcome / Introduction
15-Jan	2	Biodiversity Research
22-Jan	3	Climate Change and Ecosystems
29-Jan	4	Food, Agriculture, & Waste
5-Feb	5	Land Management & Conservation
12-Feb	6	Ecological Field Methods

Starting week	Week Number	Topic
19-Feb	7	Ecological Field Methods Part II
26-Feb	8	Data Analysis I: Introduction to R
4-Mar	9	Florida Water Use
11-Mar	10	Spring Break
18-Mar	11	Research Skills
25-Mar	12	Science Communication and Environmental Education
1-Apr	13	Environmental Justice
8-Apr	14	Resumes & CVs
15-Apr	15	Careers & Graduate School
22-Apr	16	Final Projects- Course wrap up

Weekly assignments

Weekly assignments will be due each week on **Saturday by 11:59pm EST**. I recommend working on them early so you can reach out to me or your classmates if you have questions! The final project will be due on **April 24 at 11:59pm EST**. For one assignment, I will ask you to visit a natural area to make natural history observations and collect data about the organisms living there. This exercise involves sitting in an outdoor area for about an hour and walking approximately 100 meters on a transect to survey biodiversity. If this activity will not be possible for you, please contact me-- I am happy to make adjustments as needed.

Final project

For your final project, you will write up a short report synthesizing the policy, social, and biological dimensions of an environmental issue of interest to you. More details will be provided by mid-term on the Canvas website.

Course Grading

Component	Percent

Weekly Assignment	70%
Final project	20%
Participation & Professionalism	10%
Total	**100%**

Grading Scale

A	93.0-100%	A-	90.0-92.9%	B+	87.0-89.9%
B	83.0-86.9%	B-	80.0-82.9%	C+	77.0-79.9%
C	73.0-76.9%	C-	70.0-72.9%	D+	67.0-69.9%
D	63.0-67.9%	D-	60.0-62.9%	F	<60.0%

Grades and Grade Points

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see:
 https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx (Links to an external site.)

Late Policy

Everyone will get **one** no-questions-asked, one-week extension on a weekly assignment. To use this, send me a message letting me know that you will not be able to complete the assignment on time. This does **not** apply to the final project.

After that, late assignments will be marked down by 10% and an additional 10% each week they are late. If circumstances arise and you have trouble completing either the final project or multiple weekly assignments on time, I encourage you to get in touch with me.

Online Course Evaluation Process

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

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 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, please see: https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct- honor-code/ (Links to an external site.)

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.

Campus Helping Resources

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general wellbeing 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/ (Links to an external site.)
- Counseling Services
- Groups and Workshops
- Outreach and Consultation
- Self-Help Library
- Training Programs

·   U Matter We Care, **www.umatter.ufl.edu/** (Links to an external site.)

·   *Career Connections Center:* Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

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. 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, https://disability.ufl.edu/

Student Complaints

Each online distance learning program has a process for, and will make every attempt to resolve, student complaints within its academic and administrative departments at the program level. See https://distance.ufl.edu/state-authorization-status/#student-complaint for more details.