EVS 3000L - Environmental Science Lab

SPRING 2022 Online

Instructors

Allison Cauvin

PhD Student, SNRE

Email: acauvin@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Thursdays 4:00PM - 5:00PM
Zoom Meeting ID: 968 8724 2497
Zoom
Link: https://ufl.zoom.us/j/96887242497?pwd=ZTRKSnYzVmN1ekN3c3BtRjBDWGQyUT09 (Links to an external site.)

Passcode: EVS3000L

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. It is recommended that you find a consistent time to work through each week's materials and assignments and to treat it like a regularly scheduled course commitment.

Course Description

Hands-on experience and exposure to data collection and analysis for environmental science, and the many varied professional trajectories in environmental science.

Prerequisites

CHM 2045 (Links to an external site.) or CHM 2047 (Links to an external site.) or CHM 2095 (Links to an external site.)

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 interactions and 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, and much more!

Our objective in this lab is to give you exposure to the diversity in environmental careers, an introduction to some methods and approaches in environmental studies research, and professional development opportunities to help you progress in the field. Lab activities will break roughly into three categories:

- Career exploration activities, where we will either hear from an environmental science professional about their career trajectory, or you will be asked to research an aspect of environmental science careers that interests you.
- Research approaches exercises, where we will introduce you to 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 how to do basic statistical analysis.
- Professional development activities, where we will focus on key practical skills for professional behavior, 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:

- Have gained a basic understanding of the many possible professional trajectories in Environmental science and be able to research environmental career opportunities and evaluate how they fit with students' current skills and long-term training and 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 outside of office hours will be done through Canvas and your UF email. You are responsible for checking both regularly to keep up to date. If you have questions or need help outside of class or office hours, I will try to respond to email and chat messages

quickly. Please allow at least 24 hours to hear back from me - this means you may want to work on your assignments early, so you have time to reach out if you run into any sticking points.

I will be online in Zoom during scheduled office hours. This is a good time to reach out if you have questions or want to dig more into the week's activities. If you are unable to meet during this time, email me and we will find a time that works for all involved.

Zoom Policy

Our sessions may be audio/visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during a Zoom session and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during a Zoom session, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

Weekly Schedule (subject to change):

1 (Jan 5)	Welcome/Introduction
2 (Jan 10)	Ecological Field Methods Part I
3 (Jan 17)	Ecological Field Methods Part II
4 (Jan 24)	Biodiversity Conservation
5 (Jan 31)	Data Analysis
6 (Feb 7)	Land Management & Conservation
7 (Feb 14)	Food, Agriculture, & Waste
8 (Feb 21)	Climate Change & Sustainable Energy
9 (Feb 28)	Wildlife Disease
10 (Mar 7)	Spring Break - No Class

11 (Mar 14)	Social Science
12 (Mar 28)	Science Communication
13 (Apr 4)	Environmental Justice & DEAI
14 (Apr 11)	Careers & Graduate School
15 (Apr 19)	Final Project & Wrap-Up

Weekly assignments

Weekly assignments will be due each week on **Sunday at 11:59pm EST**. It is encouraged that you to work on them early, so you can reach out to me or your classmates if you have questions!

For several assignments, I will ask you to visit a natural area to make natural history observations and collect data about the organisms living there. These exercises have been designed based on the assumption that you will be able to sit in an outdoor area for up to an hour and walk approximately 100m. If this will be difficult or impossible for you, please contact me. I am happy to make adjustments as needed.

Safety is the first priority when doing any kind of field work. Please wear appropriate clothes (long pants, closed toed shoes, a mask, and sunscreen), make sure you have water, a cell phone, and anything else you need with you. Please check the forecast and have rain gear when appropriate. Only make your visits to places and at times when you feel safe. Depending on current local conditions regarding COVID-19, it may be necessary to make additional scheduling arrangements to avoid high-traffic times and places. If you have any concerns or questions about field assignments, don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

Final project

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

Late Policy

Everyone will get **ONE** no-questions-asked, one-week extension on a weekly assignment. To use this, you must 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 change such that you have trouble completing either the final project or multiple weekly assignments on time, I encourage you to get in touch with me.

Course Adjustments

We are all continuing to work with unprecedented situations in all aspects of life this semester, and we expect we will need to continue to adapt as conditions change. For my part, I will keep you informed as decisions are made about the course. Any changes to the schedule or assignments will be announced via Canvas and updated on the Canvas calendar. If you encounter new circumstances or challenges this semester that affect your ability to do the assignments as designed, please reach out to me and I will try to find a solution that supports your well-being and helps you get the most possible out of this course. The sooner you open a line of communication, the better-positioned we will be to figure something out. I understand that these are unpredictable times and you should not hesitate to get in touch with me at any point.

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.)

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/ (Links to an external site.)](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/ (Links to an external site.)](https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at [https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/ (Links to an external site.)](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.)](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/)

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 Resource Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, www.crc.ufl.edu/ (Links to an external site.)

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, 392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/ (Links to an external site.)

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 http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process (Links to an external site.) for more details.