

ALS5932: JOURNAL COLLOQUIUM IN INTERDISCIPLINARY ECOLOGY

Course Syllabus

Course Instructor: Dr. Vaughn M. Shirey,
Assistant Curator of Lepidoptera
Florida Museum of Natural History
Department of Natural History

any/all/none | Von Shy-ree

Office Location: McGuire Center 214
(or virtually)

Email: vaughnshirey@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Monday 12:00 - 2:00 PM.

Course Meeting Location: TBD.

Course Meeting Time: Monday 8th Period (3:00 PM - 3:50 PM)

Course Overview: The ability to read, understand, and present discipline-specific research to a generally informed audience is a necessary skill for interdisciplinary research. At the same time, the breadth of multidisciplinary research related to ecology is growing at a rapid pace. This course will introduce students to strategies for reading, understanding, and presenting peer-reviewed literature to an audience of natural and social scientists. The course aims to develop a friendly, non-judgmental, and helpful community focused on broadening perspectives in interdisciplinary ecology work. We also focus on strategies for keeping up with recent literature beyond the course. This is a course where you should feel comfortable saying "I don't know."

Course Prerequisites: This course has no prerequisites or major of study restrictions. This course is open to graduate students.

Course Credit: 1 credit unit.

Learning Objectives: By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Read and critically assess peer-reviewed publications in various disciplines related to interdisciplinary ecology.
- Communicate discipline-specific research to a broadly trained audience of natural and social scientists, among other professional disciplines.
- Understand the potential avenues for conducting interdisciplinary research related to ecology as a central discipline of focus.
- Develop strategies for keeping up with recent peer-reviewed literature beyond the course.
- Foster a baseline understanding of how interdisciplinary research might be conducted in ecology.

Course Text and Materials: You will receive readings, lectures, and other materials via e-learning (Canvas).

Grading and Assessment: This course is entirely discussion-based. As a result, your grade will come from leading a discussion of a paper, an in-progress manuscript, or a grant proposal of your

choosing. The remaining portion of your grade will come from discussing others' contributions to the group.

- **Discussion Leader (30% of grade):** You will be expected to lead at least one discussion of a peer-reviewed or in-progress manuscript/grant/fellowship application paper of your choosing. Your goal in leading a discussion should not be to emphasize your knowledge in the field, but to bring other discussion participants into a greater understanding of your disciplinary approaches and major motivating questions.
- **Discussion Participant (70% of grade):** Your attendance and participation in paper-discussions is the largest portion of your grade. Please make an effort to be actively engaged in asking questions, providing insight, and critique of work presented in this class. If you anticipate missing a class due to any circumstance, please let the instructor know in advance.

Policy on Missing or Late Work: Please contact me at least 24 hours in advance if you anticipate submitting work late; if you do not, I will deduct 2.5% from the assignment for each day you do not turn in the work. Work that is missing by the end of the semester will receive a 0% grade.

FULL COURSE SCHEDULE

Please note that adjustments to this course schedule may be made depending on the total enrollment for the course.

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>READINGS AND TASKS</u>
Week One	August 25, 2025	<i>Syllabus Community Compact Student Reading Sign-up</i>
Week Two	September 1, 2025	<i>LABOR DAY HOLIDAY</i>
Week Three	September 8, 2025	<i>Instructor Assigned Reading</i>
Week Four	September 15, 2025	<i>Student 1 Reading + Discussion</i>
Week Five	September 22, 2025	<i>Student 2 Reading + Discussion</i>
Week Six	September 29, 2025	<i>Instructor Assigned Reading</i>
Week Seven	October 6, 2025	<i>Student 3 Reading + Discussion</i>
Week Eight	October 13, 2025	<i>Student 4 Reading + Discussion</i>
Week Nine	October 20, 2025	<i>Student 5 Reading + Discussion</i>

Week Ten	October 27, 2025	<i>Student 6 Reading + Discussion</i>
Week Eleven	November 3, 2025	<i>Student 7 Reading + Discussion</i>
Week Twelve	November 10, 2025	<i>Student 8 Reading + Discussion</i>
Week Thirteen	November 17, 2025	<i>Student 9 Reading + Discussion</i>
Week Fourteen	November 24, 2025	<i>Student 10 Reading + Discussion</i>
Week Fifteen	December 1, 2025	<i>Instructor Assigned Reading</i>

REQUIRED ACADEMIC POLICIES

Students Requiring Accommodation: Students with disabilities who would benefit from academic accommodations for this course should connect with the Disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. Please note that it is easier for me to facilitate accommodations with prior or early notification in the semester, but that you should feel free to start the process of requesting such accommodations at any time.

UF Evaluations Process: Professional and respectful feedback on the course and instructor can be provided toward the end of each semester by completing course evaluations on GatorEvals. Guidance on how to provide constructive feedback to improve the course can be found at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. You will be invited to submit an evaluation through email.

University Honesty Policy: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students 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.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel.

RELEVANT RESOURCES

Honors Program: The Honors Program office is found at 201 Walker Hall, 352-392-1519. Questions for an Honors advisor can be directed to advisor@honors.ufl.edu. You may also schedule an Honors advising appointment via Microsoft Bookings at <https://bit.ly/ufhonorsadvising>.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

The Writing Studio: The writing studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online at <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> or in 2215 Turlington Hall for one-on-one consultations and workshops.