EVS 3000L - Environmental Science Lab

Spring 2026
Online Asynchronous, 1 Credit

Instructor

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Office Hours (online): Mondays 1:00pm

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.

Course Learning 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 read about a topic in environmental science and participate in an online discussion.

• 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 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.

Course Prerequisites

CHM 2045 or CHM 2047 or CHM 2095

Textbooks, Learning Materials, and Supply Fees

There are no required textbooks or supplies. Materials will be made available for free via Canvas.

Course 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 weekly module is due by 11:59pm Saturday ET. 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.

Weekly Assignments

Weekly assignments will be due each week on Saturday by 11:59pm ET. I recommend working on them early so you can reach out to me or your classmates if you have questions.

Final Project

Instead of a final exam, students in this course will complete a final project. More details about the activity will be made available on Canvas by mid-semester. Your final project is due on Saturday by 11:59pm ET following the last week of class.

Communication

All course communication will be done through Canvas. Please check Canvas regularly to keep up to date. If you have questions, I will try to respond to Canvas messages within 48 hours. 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 held on Zoom. Please reach out to me on Canvas to schedule an appointment.

Weekly Course Schedule

(Subject to change)

Week	Dates	Topic	Read or Watch	Assignment
1	January 12-17	Welcome and Introductions	N/A	Discussion Post
2	January 18-24	Environmental Science Careers	Forbes or LinkedIn Article	Discussion Post and Comments
3	January 25-31	Should I Apply to Graduate School?	Video: Discussion Panel with SNRE Graduate Students	Discussion Post and Comments
4	February 1-7	Land Grant, Sea Grant, and Extension Careers	Video: Lecture by Dr. Savanna Barry	Response Questions

5	February 8-14	Federal and Government Careers	Video: Lecture by Kristie Killam, USFWS	Discussion Post and Comments
6	February 15-21	Environmental Consulting Careers	Video: Lecture by Nadia Lombardero	Discussion Post and Comments
7	February 22-28	UF Career Center, Job Searches, and Resumes	Video: Lecture by Gabby Diaz-Portalatin, M.A.Ed.	Resume First Draft & Job Selection Assignment Due
8	March 1-7	Insect Declines and Conservation	Video: Lecture by Dr. Sarah Steele Cabrera	Discussion Post and Comments
9	March 8-14	Environmental Justice Part I	Video: Come Hell or High Water	Discussion Post and Comments
	March 15-21	No Class: Spring Break	N/A	N/A
10	March 22-28	Environmental Justice Part II	EJ Case Study Articles	Discussion Post and Comments & Resume Peer Reviews Due
11	March 29-April 4	Developing a Cover Letter	Article: How to Write a Cover Letter that Will Get You a Job	Cover Letter First Draft Due
12	April 5-11	Environmental and Water Law	Video: Lecture by Professor Mary Jane Angelo, J.D.	Response Questions
13	April 12-18	Food and Agriculture	Article: What is Sustainable Agriculture?	Discussion Post and Comments
14	April 19-25	Climate Science	Video: Lecture by Dr. Esther Mullins	Discussion Post and Comments & Cover Letter Peer Reviews
15	Finals Week	Final Projects	N/A	Final Projects Due

Grading Policy

Course grading is consistent with [UF grading policies.](#)

Course Grading Structure

Component	Percent
Weekly Assignments	85%
Final project	15%
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%

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.

Artificial Intelligence Statement

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is an incredible technology that is transforming how we access and process information, similar to the impact of computers, the Internet, and mobile phones in previous decades. AI can be a useful tool to assist (but NOT replace) writers with tasks such as brainstorming, spellchecking, and editing. All work submitted for credit in this class must be your own. Copying and pasting AI outputs, either entirely or in part, into your submitted work (even if you later edit that output) constitutes academic dishonesty (as it would if you did so from another author's work) unless explicitly permitted for the assignment by the instructor.

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 Policies and Resources

Academic policies for this course are consistent with university policies. See https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/

Campus Health and Wellness Resources

Visit https://one.uf.edu/whole-gator/topics for resources that are designed to help you thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally at UF.

Please contact UMatterWeCare for additional and immediate support.

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.

Technical Support

UF Computing Help Desk & Ticket Number: All technical issues require a UF Helpdesk Ticket Number. The UF Helpdesk is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/ | 352-392-4357

Privacy and Accessibility Policies

- Instructure (Canvas)
    - o Instructure Privacy Policy
    - o Instructure Accessibility
- Zoom
    - o Zoom Privacy Policy
    - o Zoom Accessibility

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 departments at the program level. See https://distance.ufl.edu/state-authorization-status/#student-complaint for more details.