

FOR 5157

Ecosystem Restoration Principles and Practice

3 credits

Instructor

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Communication with the instructor

I check email frequently, so this is a good way to ask me a quick question. Please use the Canvas message function. You can expect a response within 48 hours. I'm also happy to discuss any course issues over the phone, though I am less accessible that way (greenhouse experiments and field work often keep me from my desk!), and we may need to schedule a "phone appointment".

Catalog course description

Application of ecological theory and economic and political constraints to restoration practice. Emphasis on regional, national, and international case studies.

Learning Objectives

1. Describe theoretical and technical knowledge from ecology, soils and other bio-physical sciences that form the scientific foundation for ecological restoration.
2. Discuss the socio-economic and policy and political dimensions of ecological restoration.
3. Examine examples of restoration case studies from critical ecosystem types across the U.S. and around the globe.

Course Format

The format for this course is entirely distance education-oriented. Course content is presented via lectures, video field trips, guest lectures, and required readings.

Readings

Weekly readings are posted on the course website. Do the readings prior to viewing lectures, I will assume that you are familiar with the required readings prior to the lecture for that date. Readings support course material and are covered by quizzes.

Lectures

Lectures form the basis of content delivery for this course. The lectures are provided weekly, and are given by myself, Shibu Jose, or a guest lecturer. We have provided PDFs of lecture slides for you to print and take notes if you would like.

GRADED COMPONENTS OF THE COURSE (more detail available in canvas under "assignments").

Online discussion

Weekly online discussion provides an opportunity for students to interact and share ideas regarding material presented. These posts also give students an opportunity to think critically about the course material, and to share analysis and comprehension of the material with the instructor and classmates. Opportunity to post begins weekly on Mondays at 10am, and closes the following Monday at 10am.

Leading the online discussion

Students are required to lead one online discussion, in groups, for the semester. This includes

1. posting a question and the personal inspiration for it (must be posted by 10am on Monday morning of that week)
2. posting a summative comment on the discussion (must be posted by 10am on Monday of the following week)

Participating in the online discussion

Students are required to comment on the online discussion with at least one post each week. Posts must respond to the initial question posed or build on another peer's post. All posts should focus on class material, lecture or readings, but can be expanded to include personal experience or other helpful references. Limit all initial posts to 3-4 sentences. Posts that follow the initial post have no maximum or minimum limit. You will be graded each week on your discussion posts

Quizzes

There will be five quizzes that cover basic concepts from the readings and lectures, and application and synthesis of course concepts, consisting of multiple choice, essay, and short-answer questions. Look for class-authored quiz questions from reading postings on the quizzes (see "Readings" above) for a helpful review for quizzes.

Principles to Practice (P2P) Assignment

Teaching a topic that you see as critical to applying restoration Principles to Practice will elevate your comprehension of course material and demonstrate your mastery of it. In consultation with the instructor, each student will choose a topic for a P2P Presentation. Preliminary topic choices should be submitted to the instructor during week 3 of the semester; after the instructors provide feedback to refine the topic choice, topics will be approved the following week, and presentations will be submitted during week 10. A minimum of 5 relevant *journal articles* should be used in preparing your presentation.

Grading

Quiz 1	10
Quiz 2	10
Quiz 3	10
Quiz 4	10
Quiz 5	10
Leading Online Discussion	10
Participation in Online Discussion	20
P2P Presentation Assignment	20
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	100

Letter grades will be assigned as follows (note: 89.5 will be rounded to 90, 84.5 will be rounded to 85, etc) according to <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx> :

94% and above	A	74% - 76	C
90-93%	A-	70-73%	C-
87 - 89%	B+	65% - 69	D+
84 - 86%	B	60% - 64	D
80-83%	B-	Below 60%	E
77 - 79%	C+		

Make-up Quiz and Late Assignments Policy

Make-up quizzes will only be offered to those who obtain permission from me in advance, and who have a legitimate excuse. If you are unsure whether or not your situation qualifies, come see me immediately. I will generally require independent verification for emergencies that arise after the class meeting prior to the quiz (e.g. doctor's note). The same policy holds for assignments.

For assignments not turned in on time, 10 percentage points will be subtracted from the original grade for each day that the assignment is late. An assignment is considered late if it is not handed in by 8pm on the day the assignment is due. No extensions will be granted.

Students are responsible for keeping track of dates of quizzes and assignment due dates as presented in the syllabus. Changes to these major dates will not be made, or if they do need to be altered, a class-wide ELearning "Announcement" will be made with email notification.

I (Incomplete)

An incomplete will be assigned at the discretion of the instructor when, due to extraordinary circumstances, a student is prevented from completing the work of the course on time. A written agreement between the instructor and student prior to the end of the semester is necessary to arrange for completion of the course.

Course Schedule

Week #	Topic
1	Course introduction, Principles of ecosystem restoration Part I
2	Principles of ecosystem restoration Parts II, and III
3	Principles of ecosystem restoration Part IV: Population/Communities/Ecosystems
4	Quiz 1
5	Basic soils and biogeochemistry and Reference ecosystems
6	Ecosystems: Wetlands
7	Quiz 2
8	Ecosystems: Coastal and river Ecosystems: Forests and succession, Mid-semester evaluations
9	Revegetation: invasive species, site preparation, herbicides, plant material
10	Quiz 3
11	Fire ecology to meet restoration goals
12	Species reintroductions: animals, genetic considerations
13	Quiz 4
14	Restoration Planning and Restoration Success
15	P2P Presentations by the class
16	Quiz 5

Academic Honesty, Software Use, UF Counseling Services, Services for Students with Disabilities

In 1995 the UF student body enacted a new honor code and voluntarily committed itself to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. When students enroll at the university, they commit themselves to the standard drafted and enacted by students.

In adopting this honor code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the university community. Students who enroll at the university

commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the honor code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the honor code is bound by honor to take corrective action. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon community acceptance and enforcement of the honor code.

The Honor Code: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

On all work submitted for credit by students at the university, the following pledge is either required or implied: **“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”**

The university requires all members of its community to be honest in all endeavors. A fundamental principle is that the whole process of learning and pursuit of knowledge is diminished by cheating, plagiarism and other acts of academic dishonesty. In addition, every dishonest act in the academic environment affects other students adversely, from the skewing of the grading curve to giving unfair advantage for honors or for professional or graduate school admission. Therefore, the university will take severe action against dishonest students. Similarly, measures will be taken against faculty, staff and administrators who practice dishonest or demeaning behavior.

Students should report any condition that facilitates dishonesty to the instructor, department chair, college dean or Student Honor Court.

(Source: 2007-2008 Undergraduate Catalog)

It is assumed all work will be completed independently unless the assignment is defined as a group project, in writing by the instructor.

This policy will be vigorously upheld at all times in this course.

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 well-being are encouraged to utilize the university’s counseling resources. Both the Counseling Center and Student Mental Health Services provide 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. The Counseling Center is located at 301 Peabody Hall (next to Criser Hall). Student Mental Health Services is located on the second floor of the Student Health Care Center in the Infirmary.

- *University Counseling Center*, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, www.counsel.ufl.edu
- *Career Resource Center*, CR-100 JWRU, 392-1602, www.crc.ufl.edu/
- *Student Mental Health Services*, Rm. 245 Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, www.shcc.ufl.edu/smhs/

Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program (ASAP)

Center for Sexual Assault / Abuse Recovery & Education (CARE)

Eating Disorders Program

Employee Assistance Program

Suicide Prevention Program

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.

0001 Reid Hall, 392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/