ALS 3133 Agriculture & Environmental Quality
Fall 2025, Online, 3.0 Credits

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Office hours: Tuesdays 9:30 – 11:00am, Thursdays 2:30 – 4:00pm

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Course Description
Analysis of effects of agriculture on environmental quality; emphasis on agricultural wastes and practices; potential for using agricultural systems for disposal of other wastes; effects of pollution on the agricultural environment. Gen Ed: Physical science.

Course Prerequisites
• ABE 2062 or BOT 2010C or BSC 2005 or BSC 2010 or BSC 2862 or EVR 2001 or SWS 2008.

Course Learning Objectives
- Predict the movement of nutrients and pesticides based on soil characteristics.
- Sketch the nitrogen and phosphorus cycles and identify transformations in each.
- Describe the components of a basic nutrient management plan.
- Identify best management practices for soil conservation and for maintaining water quality.
- Assess the environmental benefits and concerns with biofuels.
- Compare aerobic and anaerobic composting techniques.
- Discuss current issues with the production and disposal of animal and food waste.

Learning Materials and Supplies
- There is no textbook required for this course.
- Canvas website: https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/540049/

Instructor Interaction Plan

- The instructor will provide weekly updates and reminders of course activities.
- The instructor or TA will respond to emails and Canvas messages within 48 hours.
- Students will contact the UF Help Desk for technical assistance with the Canvas course if/when problems arise (i.e., you cannot upload an assignment) prior to contacting the instructor or TA.
- All Zoom chats will take place on Fridays from 12:30-1:30pm for your use as needed.
  - There will be one mandatory Zoom meeting at the beginning of the semester.
- The instructor will be available for in-person office hours along with Zoom chat sessions.

Required Technology & How to Obtain the Technology

- Computer with audio and video capabilities for exam proctoring and lecture content.
- Reliable internet to access http://elearning.ufl.edu/.
- Adobe, Microsoft and Zoom software.

Technical Support

The 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

Communication Guidelines, Accommodations and Late Submissions

Use **Canvas Inbox (messaging tool)** for questions that are specific to the course. Emails sent directly to the instructor's UF email could result in delays due to inbox congestion.

Please be mindful of everyone's unique schedules and time preferences. "Night owls" cannot expect "early birds" to respond to late evening emails immediately, and vice versa.

  - The instructor checks her emails daily between 9am and 6pm.

A respectful tone is used by all community members in all forms of communication. Written communication, both formal and informal, uses the official language of instruction rather than popular online abbreviations and graphic elements such as those sometimes used in social media.

- Video interactions reflect a respectful tone in verbal communications and body language.
- Spelling, punctuation, and grammar are correct.

Contact the instructor *in advance* if you have a legitimate reason (that is not medically related [i.e., traveling for student club activities, student athletes participating in a competition/game, attending a conference in the Pacific time zone, religious observations]). Accommodation for continuous extensions throughout the semester will be requested through UF CARE at the beginning of the semester, unless an emergency or illness occurs.

Quizzes and HW assignments that are submitted after the deadline will have a 5% deduction per day. Assignment submissions will stay open past the deadline for 5 additional days before closing permanently the following Wednesday. Exams will be open for a week to take at your convenience.

*For unexpected illnesses and emergencies, please also go through the U Matter website for **Requesting Accommodations** and **Instructor Notifications**. Documentation is required for deadline extensions.*
Academic Support | U MATTER, WE CARE

Weekly Course Schedule

You will be notified through Canvas regarding any changes during the semester.

Mod	Week of (Sun - Sat)	Topic	Due Fri	Due Sat
M0	August 21 - 23	• Welcome and Introductions • Orientation		Syllabus Quiz
M1	August 24 - 30	• Global and Florida agriculture • Environmental quality	Quiz M1	
M2	August 31 – Sept 6*	• Watersheds & water quality • Agriculture, pollution, eutrophication	Quiz M2	HW 1
M3	September 7 - 13	• Watershed approach to water quality • CWA: BMPs & TMDLs	Quiz M3	Perusall
M1-3	September 14 - 20			Exam 1
M4	September 21 - 27	• Soil formation & soil type • Soil quality	Quiz M4	
M5	Sept 28 – Oct 4	• Soil texture, WHC, & CEC • Soil orders	Quiz M5	
M6	October 5 – 11	• Soil organic matter & soil quality • Decomposition & composting	Quiz M6	Perusall
M4-6	October 12 – 18*			Exam 2
M7	October 19 - 25	• Nitrogen cycle • Phosphorus cycle	Quiz M7	Perusall
M8	October 26 – Nov 1	• Nutrient management • Irrigation management	Quiz M8	HW 2
M9	November 2 – 8	• Beneficial use of manure in Ag • Waste management & Ag	Quiz M9	
M7-9	November 9 – 15*			Exam 3
M10	November 16 - 22	• Bioenergy and agriculture • Anaerobic digestion & fermentation	Quiz M10	
M11	November 23 – 29*	• Pests & pesticides • Integrated pest management	Quiz M11	HW 3
M12	Nov 30 – Dec 6	• Constructed wetlands for agriculture • BMPs for soil conservation	Quiz M12	Perusall
M1-12	December 7 - 12			Final Exam

*Represents a week with a holiday

Fall 2025 Holidays: September 1, October 17-18, November 11, November 24-29

Mandatory Zoom Orientation Meeting Dates (select one on your syllabus quiz):

Option 1 (Mon., 8/25 at 6:00pm), Option 2 (Wed., 8/27 at 12:00pm) or Option 3 (Thurs., 8/28 at 9:30am)

Grading Policy

All assignments will be graded within a week of the submission deadline, except for late submissions. All grades will be "hidden" until grading is completed, to allow the instructor and TA to review all submissions to fairly and provide constructive feedback. All written assignments (that are originally by the deadline) may be resubmitted for additional credit after reading the feedback comments. Your two lowest quiz scores will be dropped at the end of the semester.

FINAL Exam: If your final exam score is higher than one of your midterm exam scores, the higher final exam score will replace the lowest one. This opportunity does not apply if a student does not complete a midterm exam and lacks an excused letter of absence.

- For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/
- Requirements for class attendance, make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with UF policies: https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/.

Assessment Type	Description	Percent of Final Grade
Perusall Discussions (3)	Group reflections of topics based on the modules to allow for student engagement	15%
Writing Assignments/HW (3)	Individual written assignments to apply the skills learned in the modules.	20%
Quizzes (12)	Timed: Multiple choice, matching, fill in the blank; 1 attempt each	25%
Exams (4)	Timed: 3 midterms and 1 final, proctored by Honorlock. Based on course assignments	40%

Grading Scale

Grade	Percentage	GPA Points
A	89.5 – 100%	4.0
B+	84.5 – 89.4%	3.5
B	79.5 – 84.4%	3.0
C+	74.5 – 79.4%	2.5
C	69.5 – 74.4%	2.0
D+	64.5 – 69.4%	1.5
D	59.5 – 64.4%	1.0
E	0 – 59.4%	0

Academic Honesty

University of Florida students are bound by the Honor Pledge. 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 by abiding by the Student Honor Code." 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 Student Conduct Code Process.

In-Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or guest lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To "publish" means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student

Course Evaluation Process

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. 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 the GatorEvals site. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at GatorEvals Public Data.

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.

Services for Students with Disabilities

A statement related to accommodations for students with disabilities such as:
Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester.

Campus Resources

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being 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.

Health and Wellness

- *U Matter, We Care*: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or https://umatter.ufl.edu/ to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- *Counseling and Wellness Center*: Visit https://counseling.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- Student *Health Care Center*: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit https://shcc.ufl.edu/
- *University Police Department*: Visit https://police.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:* For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; visit https://ufhealth.org/locations/uf-health-shands-emergency-room-trauma-center
- *GatorWell Health Promotion Services*: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit https://gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu/ or call 352-273-4450.

Academic Resources

- *E-learning technical support*: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 https://it.ufl.edu/helpdesk/ or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- *Career Connections Center*: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
- *Library Support*: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- *Teaching Center*: 1317 Turlington Hall, 352-392-2010. General study skills and tutoring.
- *Writing Studio*: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- *Student Concern*: Report Student Concerns or Conduct

Student Complaints:
- Residential Course: https://www.sfa.ufl.edu/written-student-complaints/
- Online Course: https://pfs.tnt.aa.ufl.edu/state-authorization-status/#student-complaint

Privacy and Accessibility Policies
- Adobe
    - Adobe Privacy Policy
    - Adobe Accessibility

- Honorlock
    - Honorlock Privacy Policy
    - Honorlock Accessibility
- Instructure (Canvas)
    - Instructure Privacy Policy
    - Instructure Accessibility
- Microsoft
    - Microsoft Privacy Policy
    - Microsoft Accessibility
- Perusall
    - Perusal Accessibility
    - Perusal Privacy
- YouTube (Google)
    - YouTube (Google) Privacy Policy
    - YouTube (Google) Accessibility
- Zoom
    - Zoom Privacy Policy
    - Zoom Accessibility