

**SWS 4932 and SWS 6932**  
**Campus & DE**  
**Water, Wetlands and**  
**Watersheds Seminar**

**Fall 2025**

**Co-Instructor**

Mark Clark

[clarkmw@ufl.edu](mailto:clarkmw@ufl.edu)

352-294-3115

G175A McCarty Hall A

**PREREQUISITES:** None

**SEMINAR LOCATION and TIME:** The seminar will be offered both online and in-person this semester. The physical classroom is PHL 0101 (HT Odum Center for Wetlands, seminar room). Seminars will be presented live or virtually and livestreamed on Wednesday's during 5<sup>th</sup> period (11:45-12:35). For zoom access to seminars use the following link, password "cypress"

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/94119880304?pwd=eEdkbEpZL2M4d2Jvd1B3ZWJubi96dz09>

Seminar recordings and livestream will also be available on the following YouTube channel  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPE\\_7aXe-b9fiZYOGvoPiLw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPE_7aXe-b9fiZYOGvoPiLw).

**COURSE WEBSITE:** The Canvas course website can be accessed through e-Learning:  
<http://elearning.ufl.edu>

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND STATEMENT OF GENERAL EDUCATION PURPOSE:**

The Water, Wetlands, and Watersheds Seminar series is a forum where presentations focus on water related issues both locally, nationally, and internationally. Presentations typically cover a wide range of interdisciplinary topics associated with water including hydrology, biogeochemistry, soils, wildlife, vegetation, restoration, and policy issues. Presenters are often existing or previous students and faculty, but also include staff and scientists from state and federal agencies, other academic institutions, local consultants, and other professionals. The seminar is offered as a one credit course through the Soil, Water, and Ecosystem Sciences Department or Environmental Engineering Sciences.

**STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Understand current issues and research being conducted around water, wetlands, and watersheds.
- Experience a science-based forum for the exchange of research findings and debate.
- Compile and summarize a presentation into a concise scientific abstract.
- Critically evaluate and question, if necessary, research methods and findings of presenters.

**COURSE FORMAT:** Weekly seminar presentations will be presented, recorded and then posted to Canvas or YouTube channel. Each week students will be required to summarize the presentation in the form of an "abstract" and submit that abstract electronically to the Canvas website.

**GRADING:** Overall grade will be determined based on a student's submission of a "Summary Abstract". The abstract will be a summary of the seminar presentation and submitted one week after the seminar presentation. Submission of the abstract will be a proxy for attendance, either in person or having reviewed the seminar recording. Abstracts will be graded based on the following grading rubric.

## Wetlands Seminar Abstract Rubric

<b>Abstract Assessment</b> How well has the abstract addressed the following components?				
Abstract Component	<b>Clear</b> <b>0.5 pts</b> Abstract component should be easily understood with no ambiguous words or ideas other than what was presented in the seminar.	<b>Concise</b> <b>0.5 pts</b> Abstract component should be focused, expressing or covering much in few words; brief in form but comprehensive in scope.	<b>Accurate</b> <b>0.5 pts</b> Abstract component should be a precise representation of the seminar and free from errors.	<b>Complete</b> <b>0.5 pts</b> Abstract component should have all the necessary and appropriate parts that were covered in the seminar.
<b>Why</b> <b>2 pts</b> What was the motivation behind the research/subject, what practical, scientific or theoretical gap did the research or project presented fill?	Clear	Concise	Accurate	Complete
<b>What</b> <b>2 pts</b> What problem or issue did the seminar presentation address or try to solve?	Clear	Concise	Accurate	Complete
<b>How</b> <b>2 pts</b> What methods/procedures/approach were used to get the results?	Clear	Concise	Accurate	Complete
<b>Findings</b> <b>2 pts</b> What were the results/findings/product of the research or topic of discussion?	Clear	Concise	Accurate	Complete
<b>Conclusions</b> <b>2 pts</b> What are the conclusions and implications of the findings?	Clear	Concise	Accurate	Complete

### Use of Generative AI

U-M GPT, ChatGPT, and other similar technologies are advancing rapidly and there are many instances where they will be key tools in your schoolwork and career. For the purposes of this class, I am asking all students *not* use these technologies. I believe this is key for this learning environment because I want you to learn how to *critically engage with* the material presented in the seminars, including learning how to synthesize the material. Artificial Intelligence cannot do this learning for you. Students who are confirmed to have used GenerativeAI or the like to complete their assignments will receive a grade of zero for that assignment.

**Final letter grade:** The final letter grade for the course will be based on current UF policies that can be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>, and are outline below.

Letter	Course Grade	Grade Point
A	94-100	4.0
A-	90-93.9	3.67
B+	87-89.9	3.33
B	84-86.9	3.0
B-	80-83.9	2.67
C+	77-79.9	2.33
C	74-76.9	2.0
C-	70-73.9	1.67
D+	67-69.9	1.33
D	64-66.9	1.0
D-	60-63.9	0.67
E	< 60.9	0

**Late assignments:** Abstract submittal will be required weekly. Assignments that are late will result in an initial 5% reduction in grade with an additional 5% deduction in grade for every additional week the assignment is late.

#### **ONLINE COURSE EVALUATION PROCESS:**

Student assessment of the instructor and the course will be available at the end of the semester. Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in the course using a standard set of university and college criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals/Default.aspx>. Evaluations are typically open for students to complete during the last two or three weeks of the semester. You will be notified of the specific times when they are open.

#### **SPEAKER SCHEDULE:**

The speaker schedule for Fall 2024 will be provided at the beginning of the semester. Previous speakers can be found at the following website.

<http://cfw.essie.ufl.edu/seminars/>

#### **UNIVERSITY POLICIES:**

##### **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://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-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.

#### **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 service and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. 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/>)

#### **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. 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, <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>  
Counseling Services, Groups and Workshops, Outreach and Consultation, Self-Help Library, Wellness Coaching
- *Career Resource Center*, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, <https://career.ufl.edu/>

#### **If you have a complaint:**

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit <https://distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/> to submit a complaint.