

REUSABLE LEARNING OBJECTS (RLOs)

SWS 6932 Special Topics Course

INSTRUCTOR:

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TIMES: Spring and Summer, even and odd years

CREDIT HOURS: 1

ENROLLMENT CAP: 20

FORMAT: Distance education (online) course; open also for on-campus students

Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday 9:30 to 10:30 am (office: McCarty Hall 2171)

DELIVERY MODE:

- Course material is provided via Online Education Portal: <http://swsde.ifas.ufl.edu>
- For this course the EcoLearnIT RLO System is used: <http://ecolearnit.ifas.ufl.edu>. EcoLearnIT provides access to RLOs and authoring tools to develop learning material shared in open-access mode

PREREQUISITES:

Basic knowledge in Windows operating system; web browsing; Power Point; and environmental sciences. Robust/high-speed Internet connection.

REUSABLE LEARNING OBJECTS (RLOs)

BACKGROUND:

An Reusable Learning Object (RLO) is a type of online instruction that provides a digital educational resource that can be reused, scaled, and shared from a central online repository in the support of instruction and learning. Each RLO supports a single learning objective, which is streamlined into a digital library of RLOs (EcoLearnIT). RLOs vary in size, scope and level of granularity ranging from small chunks of instruction to a series of combined resources to provide a more complex learning experience. They are available in open-access mode and shared with a global community of learners. Each RLO is an online publication which is peer-reviewed similar to a research publication. In this course you will learn how to develop effective learning material considering content, presentation style, and reusability.

Learning material can be implemented in various digital formats including text, artwork (various graphics formats and Power Point), video and audio, and Flash animations to add interactive features. To mix different digital media provides an opportunity to create stimulating learning material that engages learners.

Potential topics for RLOs can be selected from the following disciplines: Environmental sciences (including soil, water, climate, policy, and ecosystem services), ecology, natural resources, and agricultural management.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- (1) Develop one RLO (individually authored RLO)
- (2) Develop one RLO jointly with other co-authors (group RLO)
- (3) Learn how to review RLOs

GRADING:

Each Reusable Learning Object will be evaluated at the end of the course and graded.

Review criteria include:

- (1) Learning Objectives
- (2) Content Quality
- (3) Implementation of RLO Components (objectives, knowledge and assessment)
- (4) Complexity of Learning
- (5) Target Audience
- (6) Presentation Design
- (7) Stimulation of Learning
- (8) References
- (9) Reusability

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GRADING SCHEME:

A 90 - 100
B+ 85 - 90
B 80 - 85
C+ 75 - 80
C 70 - 75
D+ 65 - 70
D 60 - 65
E < 60

COURSE MODULES:

1. What are RLOs?
2. Introduction to the EcoLearnIT RLO System
3. Content development (scripting)
4. Learn how to build an RLO (components of RLOs: Learning objective, knowledge, and assessment components)
5. Produce stimulation learning material (presentation style and instructional design)
6. Digital media to implement RLOs
7. Granularity and instructional context
8. Open education & e-tools (engage with global community of online learners)

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

In fall 1995 the University of Florida 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 the students:

Preamble: 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. A student-run Honor Court and faculty support are crucial to the success of the honor code. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon community acceptance and enforcement of the honor code.

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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 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."

Matters of violations of academic honesty are adjudicated by the Student Honor Court, the Health Center Student Conduct Standards Committee, the Student Conduct Committee, the College of Law Honor Committee and faculty.

See a current Undergraduate/Graduate Catalog for definitions of Plagiarism, Bribery, Misrepresentation, Conspiracy, and Fabrication.

UF COUNSELING SERVICES:

Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals. These resources include:

1. University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling;
2. SHCC Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling;
3. Center for Sexual Assault/Abuse Recovery and Education (CARE), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual assault counseling; and
4. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

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.

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.