

# SWS 5235, WIS 6934 – Ecosystems of South Florida

13 May – 28 May 2013 (Summer A) 3 Credits

This field-based graduate course is designed to approach watershed management from biotic, physical, economic, geologic, legal, political, sociological and human health perspectives, using adaptive management explicitly as both a focus for critique, and as an evaluative tool. The course is an intensive, full-immersion experience taught almost entirely “on the road” in south Florida, designed to maximize direct experience with habitats, geography, local experts and user groups, and permit first hand viewing of management action and ecological outcomes. The group will have daily lectures by local experts and UF faculty, and frequent field experiences (boat trips, swamp walks, interpretive tours etc.). An important emphasis of this course is on multidisciplinary synthesis of the information by students working in groups, with a goal of envisioning one or more likely future scenarios for the restoration of south Florida ecosystems.

The group will experience most of the large-scale water restoration and water management projects in south Florida, including the Kissimmee River restoration, management of Lake Okeechobee and downstream effects on the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries, restoration of Picayune Strand, and the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. Together these efforts constitute the largest ecological restoration anywhere in the world. Along the way, the class will visit and consider ecological needs and effects in the urbanized east coast, Big Cypress National Preserve, Everglades National Park, the Florida Keys, Kissimmee River and Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. Along the way, students will have a chance to hear from civic leaders, legal experts, water managers, biologists, geologists, historians, political scientists, engineers, tribal representatives, and restoration planners.

Inexpensive lodging will be reserved. In the past, the cost for shared lodging was approximately \$450 each. Students must also plan to pay for all meals. The group will be eating inexpensively. The estimated cost to individual students will be approximately \$400-450 each for food. We are limited to 18 students in this course, and anticipate that there will be more interest than spaces. **Applicants should send an email to Mark Clark [clarkmw@ufl.edu], describing in one paragraph their background, current student status, and interest in the course by March 29th** (students will be notified by April 5th).

For more information please contact one of the following:

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