



SWS2008 Land and Life

Spring 2025, 3.0 Credits
Online Course

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Course Website: <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/525180>

Course Description

This course introduces students to the supporting physical characteristics and functions of the land that make life possible. Land and Life is composed of five main topic areas: (1) fundamentals of land and life, (2) biological resources, (3) geological resources, (4) soils as a resource, and (5) urban land use. This course focuses on supporting ecological processes and ecosystem services within a natural environment and culminates with urban modifications to natural systems. This course meets the Gen Ed – Biology requirements.

Course Prerequisites

There is no prerequisite for this course.

Course Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to...

- describe Earth’s natural processes, including biological, chemical and physical;
- connect soil formations and geological processes with the land and ecosystem services;
- explain how humans interact with and utilize the land in their daily lives, including urban areas;
- reflect on the impacts and challenges of the many uses of natural resources, in addition to consequences and solutions.

Learning Materials and Supplies

No materials, textbooks or additional fees required.

Instructor Interaction Plan

- The instructor/TA will respond to emails and Canvas message within 48 hours, during weekdays.
- All chat sessions will be available through Zoom for 30-minutes on Wednesdays at 5:30pm and Fridays at 12:30pm. Chat sessions are optional but will result in extra credit for attendance.
- In-person meeting opportunities are also available on Thursday mornings in McCarty Hall.

Required Technology & How to Obtain the Technology

Access to a computer with audio capabilities and stable internet.

Technical Support

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

Weekly Course Schedule

Module	Week	Topic	Discussions	Quizzes	Assignments
M0	1/13 – 1/18	Introductions & Syllabus	Introduce Yourself, 1/18	Syllabus	
M1 – L1	1/21 – 1/25	Fundamentals of Land		L1 Quiz	
M1 – L2	1/21 – 1/25	Fundamentals of Life	Group Reflection 1/24	L2 Quiz	
M1 – L3	1/27 – 2/1	Introduction to Ecosystems		L3 Quiz	
M1 – L4	1/27 – 2/1	Introduction to Ecosystem Services	Group Reflection 1/31	L4 Quiz	M1 Assignment
M2 – L1	2/3 – 2/8	Basics of Biological Resources		L1 Quiz	
M2 – L2	2/3 – 2/8	Vegetated Land Cover		L2 Quiz	
M2 – L3	2/10 – 2/15	Cropland Resources	Group Reflection 2/14	L3 Quiz	
M2 – L4	2/10 – 2/15	Animal Resources		L4 Quiz	
M2 – L5	2/17 – 2/22	Invasive Species	Group Reflection 2/21	L5 Quiz	M2 Assignment
M3 – L1	2/24 – 3/1	Basics of Geological Resources	Group Reflection 2/28	L1 Quiz	
M3 – L2	2/24 – 3/1	Mineral Resources		L2 Quiz	
M3 – L3	3/3 – 3/8	Energy Resources & Supplies		L3 Quiz	
M3 – L4	3/3 – 3/8	Pros & Cons of Resource Use	Group Reflection 3/7	L4 Quiz	M3 Assignment
M4 – L1	3/10 – 3/15	Basics of Soils	Group Reflection 3/14	L1 Quiz	
M4 – L2	3/10 – 3/15	Soil Formation		L2 Quiz	
	3/17 – 3/22	SPRING BREAK			
M4 – L3	3/24 – 3/29	Soil Quality		L3 Quiz	
M4 – L4	3/24 – 3/29	Soil Management		L4 Quiz	
M4 – L5	3/31 – 4/5	Soils Around the World	Group Reflection 4/4	L5 Quiz	M4 Assignment
M5 – L1	4/7 – 4/12	Urban Ecosystems		L1 Quiz	
M5 – L2	4/7 – 4/12	Urban Land Cover		L2 Quiz	
M5 – L3	4/14 – 4/19	Green Infrastructure		L3 Quiz	
M5 – L4	4/14 – 4/19	Urban Agriculture		L4 Quiz	
M5 – L5	4/21 – 4/23	Urban Planning		L5 Quiz	M5 Assignment

Grading Policy

Assignment Type	Points/Assignment	Total Point Value	Percent of Final Grade
Orientation/Syllabus Quiz (1)	25	25	2.5%
Quizzes (23)	20	460	46%
Group Reflection (8) + Intro (EC)	30	240 (Up to 3 EC)	24%
Assignments (5)	50	275	27.5%
Chat Session Attendance (EC)	Up to 1 weekly	Up to 12	0%
<i>EC = Extra Credit = Up to 15 total</i>		1000 Total Points	100%

Students have the entire week starting on Sunday morning (when the module opens) until 11:59pm on Saturdays to review the materials and complete their assignments. Group reflections are due on Fridays, while quizzes and assignments are due on Saturdays, all by 11:59pm EXCEPT for the Module 5 Assignment, which is due the last day of class. All have an 11:59pm deadline. Perusall will be used for the group reflections. Students will receive up to 15 extra credit points throughout the semester, including the introduction discussion post (3) along with chat attendance (12). You may attend both chat sessions each week, but will only receive extra credit for one per week.

Online quizzes will represent the greatest percentage of your final grade. Every quiz will allow you 15-minutes and two attempts consisting of randomized questions from one student to another. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped and only the highest score will be computed into your final grade.

Grading Scale

Grade	Points	Percentage	GPA Points
A	895 – 1000	89.5 – 100%	4.0
B+	795 – 894	79.5 – 89.4%	3.5
B	695 – 794	69.5 – 79.4%	3.0
C+	595 – 694	59.5 – 69.4%	2.5
C	495 – 594	49.5 – 59.4%	2.0
D+	395 – 494	39.5 – 49.4%	1.5
D	295 – 394	29.5 – 39.4%	1.0
E	0 - 299	0 – 29.4%	0

Attendance & Make-up Work

Please contact the instructor *in advance* if you have a legitimate reason for missing an assignment (i.e., traveling for student club activities, student athletes attending a game/match, attending a conference in the Pacific time zone, religious observations). If you have an illness or emergency, please inform the instructor as soon as possible for an extension. Requirements for this course are consistent with university policies. [UF Attendance Policies](#)

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](#).

Student Privacy Disclaimer:

[For online course with recorded materials a statement informing students of privacy related issues such as:

Our class sessions may be audio-visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.]

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>

Additional Information

Instructors may choose to clarify in their syllabus their teaching philosophy, expectations for classroom behavior, utilization of e-learning, and other information that will help students succeed in the course.

Privacy and Accessibility Policies

- Adobe
 - [Adobe Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Adobe Accessibility](#)
- Instructure (Canvas)
 - [Instructure Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Instructure Accessibility](#)
- Perusall
 - [Perusall Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Perusall Accessibility](#)
- YouTube (Google)
 - [YouTube \(Google\) Privacy Policy](#)
 - [YouTube \(Google\) Accessibility](#)
- Zoom
 - [Zoom Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Zoom Accessibility](#)