Natural Resource Conservation Capstone – FNR 4950L

1 Course Overview

Course description:

Provides students in the Natural Resource Conservation (NRC) major with an opportunity to plan and carry out a Capstone experience which integrates the knowledge and expertise that they have gained through their undergraduate curriculum.

- 3 Credits
- Fall, Spring, or Summer C Semester
- Format: online submission of deliverables resulting from an independent project or internship/work experience

Pre-Registration requirement: Before registering for the course, students must complete and have approved a brief application which outlines their plans for their Capstone.

Course Prerequisites: Senior Standing, Natural Resource Conservation Major (must be completed during final year at UF)

Instructors: Please use email for fastest response.

| First contact for Gainesville students: Dr. Timothy Martin 359 Newins-Ziegler Hall tamartin@ufl.edu 352-846-0866 Office hours: Mondays noon-1:00 p.m. or by appointment | First contact for Milton students: Dr. Debbie Miller Milton Room 4917 West Florida Research and Education Center 5988 Hwy. 90, Bldg. 4900 dlmi@ufl.edu 850-983-7128 | Kristina Haselier 121 Newins-Ziegler Hall khaselier@ufl.edu 352-846-0847 | Scott Sager 130 Newins-Ziegler Hall sasager@ufl.edu 352-846-0846 |

Communication regarding your Capstone

- Communicate with your NRC Faculty Mentor for overall questions regarding your curriculum, and how the Capstone fits into the big picture. Your Faculty Mentor can help you plan your Capstone experience and may be able to help you locate opportunities for internship/work experience or independent study.
  - o **FOR MILTON NRC STUDENTS**, your NRC Faculty Mentor is: Dr. Debbie Miller
    Milton Room 4917
    West Florida Research and Education Center
    5988 Hwy. 90, Bldg. 4900
    dlmi@ufl.edu
    850-983-7128

- Communicate with **instructors** regarding course requirements, and to discuss whether the activities you are planning to undertake meet Capstone requirements.

- Communicate with your **internship/work experience supervisor** or the **faculty supervising your independent study** regarding specifics of that particular activity.

Textbook(s) and/or readings: There is no required text for the course. Readings will be provided as needed by internship/work experience or independent study advisors.

2 Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, each student will be able to:

- Identify and define a natural resource-related problem or issue
- Summarize and interpret existing literature/state of our knowledge
- Create a timeline and approach to solving the problem
- Collect relevant data or design a program to support developing a solution
- Analyze and summarize the data, or assess the program
- Discuss analysis of and recommendations for tradeoffs associated with various solutions or programs
- Present results using an appropriate communication medium

3 Course Logistics

Students carry out an independent project guided by a UF faculty member, or engage with a work experience outside of UF. The student is responsible for identifying the project or work experience, and for ensuring that the activities will support the completion of the Capstone requirements. It is IMPORTANT to note that to meet the capstone requirements, students arranging a work experience (internship) will usually have to plan and carry out a research or monitoring project or other activities in addition to normal work requirements. Course instructors will assess each student's Capstone plan and the final Capstone deliverable(s) to assess completion of course learning outcomes. While the independent study or work experience are generally done in coordination with others, Capstone deliverables are submitted to course instructors through Canvas.

Technology Requirements:

- A computer or mobile device with high-speed internet connection.
- Latest version of web browser. Canvas supports only the two most recent versions of any given browser. What browser am I using?

Description of Assessments & Activities

Scope: The Capstone experience should be a substantial project with work and deliverables of similar effort and scope to other 3-credit project-based courses.

Example: To give an idea of the nature and level of effort expected from a Capstone, here are the types of activities that a Capstone focused on forest management might involve:

- reviewing maps and visiting the property to do an initial assessment of the parcel relative to the landowner's objectives;
- designing a forest inventory sampling plan;
- carrying out the sampling plan in the forest using standard forest mensuration instruments and techniques;
- analyzing and summarizing the forest inventory data in standardized figures, tables, and text;
- using the collected data to assess current conditions of the property;
- prescribing silvicultural prescriptions for the property designed to achieve landowner objectives;
- analyzing the economic impacts of the prescribed activities; and
- summarizing all of this work in a comprehensive management document.

While most NRC students will not carry out a Capstone strictly focused on forest management planning, this example should give a feel for the level of effort and degree of curriculum integration expected for the Capstone project.

The course has two formal assignments, both of which must be turned in on time and completed satisfactorily to pass the class.

Assignment 1: 30% of grade. On or before 12:00pm on January 26th, 2024, submit a 3-5 page, double-spaced outline which summarizes:

- Description of the natural resource-related problem or issue addressed during the Capstone
- A brief literature review and reference to course content from the student's curriculum which is pertinent to the problem or question
- A timeline of the work to be done to address the problem or question
- Summary of planned data collection and analysis
- Summary of how the Capstone work integrates the student's curriculum
- A description of what type of deliverable will be done at the end of the Capstone

These requirements are similar to what was asked in the pre-registration application, but this document should contain more detail and be more specific about what will be done and how it links to the student's coursework.

Course instructors will provide feedback on the summary outline to ensure the plan meets the Capstone objectives. This feedback must be incorporated into the Capstone activities and final Capstone deliverable.

Assignment 2: 70% of grade. By 12:00pm on April 24th, 2024, submit a final project deliverable which includes these elements in some way:

- Description of the natural resource-related problem or issue addressed during the Capstone
- A brief literature review and reference to course content from the student's curriculum which is pertinent to the problem or question
- A timeline of the work that was done to address the problem or question
- Summary of data analysis results done as part of the Capstone
- Discussion of the research or work done in the Capstone relative to both the students' curriculum, as well as broader associated natural resource issues or problem

The deliverable can be a 10-15 page double-spaced paper, a public seminar which covers the information described, a curriculum, a management plan, or other appropriate integrative deliverable. Instructors MUST approve the format of the deliverable as a part of Assignment 1 described above.

Grades & Grading Scale

Students will be assigned a grade of Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory based on instructor assessment of deliverables and in consultation with work experience or independent study advisors. Total course score of 70.0% or greater will be assigned a "satisfactory" grade, assuming both assignments have been turned in on time, are completed satisfactorily, and that feedback on the first assignment has been incorporated into the activity. Total course scores of 69.9% or less will be assigned an "unsatisfactory" grade.

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see Ugrad
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx Grad
https://catalog.ufl.edu/graduate/regulations/#text

4   Policies and Requirements

This syllabus represents current plans and objectives for this course. As
the semester progresses, changes may need to be made to accommodate timing, logistics, or to enhance
learning. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.

Attendance, Late Policy & Make-up Requests

It is the responsibility of the student to access on-line lectures, readings, discussions, etc. and to maintain
satisfactory progress in the course.

Computer or other hardware failures, except failure of the UF e-Learning system, will not excuse
students for missing assignments. Any late submissions due to technical issues MUST be accompanied
by the ticket number received from the Helpdesk when the problem was reported to them. The ticket
number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24
hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request consideration.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with
university policies that can be found at:
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Semester Evaluation Process

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning.

At approximately the mid-point of the semester, the School of Forest, Fisheries, & Geomatics
Sciences will request anonymous feedback on student satisfaction on various aspects of this course.
These surveys will be sent out through Canvas and are not required but encouraged. This is not the UF
Faculty Evaluation!

At the end of the semester, 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 https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are
available to students at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

Netiquette: Communication Courtesy

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded
discussions and chats. Failure to do so may result in loss of participation points and/or referral to the Dean of
Students' Office. http://teach.ufl.edu/docs/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf

Academic Honesty Policy

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 them 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 or 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: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code.

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities:

Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office https://disability.ufl.edu/ The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

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.

5   Getting Help

For issues with technical difficulties for e-learning in Canvas, please post your question to the Technical Help Discussion in your course, or contact the UF Help Desk at:

- Learning-support@ufl.edu | (352) 392-HELP - select option 2 | http://elearning.ufl.edu
- Library Help Desk support http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask
- SFRC Academic Hub https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/303721

5.1   For computer, software compatibility, or access problems call the HELP DESK phone number—352- 392-HELP = 352- 392-4357 (option 2).

Student Life, Wellness, and Counseling Help

- *U Matter, We Care*: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- *Counseling and Wellness Center*: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website 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 the Student Health Care Center website.
- *University Police Department*: Visit UF Police Department website 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 the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.
- *GatorWell Health Promotion Services*: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450.
- Academic Resources
- *E-learning technical support*: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 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*: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
- *Writing Studio:* 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaint Process

The School of Forest, Fisheries, & Geomatics Sciences cares about your experience and we will make every effort to address course concerns. We request that our online students complete a course satisfaction survey each semester, which is a time for you to voice your thoughts on how your course is being delivered. You can also submit feedback anytime.

If you have a more urgent concern, your first point of contact should be the Academic Coordinator or the Graduate/Undergraduate Coordinator for the program offering the course. You may also submit a complaint directly to UF administration:

- https://distance.ufl.edu/getting-help/
- https://registrar.ufl.edu/complaint.html