

Mr. David (Dave) Conser

Adjunct Lecturer

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Email for appointment.

Class Schedule: Friday, Period 3-5 (9:35 am to 12:35 pm)

Class Location: [Matherly Hall 0018](#) and various field sites

Course Description: A general course for students interested in conservation, management, and use of forest resources. Topics include resource description, historical perspectives, current issues, forest ecology, restoration and management principles. This course will be “boots on” as we make numerous field trips and experience real world application of forest management, forest ecology and restoration of forest ecosystems. Together we will expand our understanding of how forests influence nearly every aspect of our daily lives.

The instructor wishes to share the following ideas with students:

- Forest ecosystems are amazingly complex systems, no matter the scale of investigation.
- People are part of the forest ecosystem and depend on forests in many ways, from daily subsistence to personal recreation to wealth-building.
- Forests are resilient in their ability to overcome disturbances, whether natural or man-made. However, that does not negate the need for wise stewardship. Advances in science research give forest stewardship its direction.

Course Objectives: Upon completing the course, students will be able to:

- Explain the fundamentals of tree biology and ecology, and be able to apply these principles to broader issues
- Articulate how forest stand dynamics influence how forests are managed, utilized and restored
- Apply local forest conservation issues to comprehensive principles of forest ecology and conservation
- Describe how science can be used by human society to conserve forests

Teaching Methods: Lecture, discussion, field study, on-line resources, student presentations, demonstrations, assigned readings.

Course Delivery: Assignments, quizzes, readings, and additional resources will be delivered in class and through UF [e-Learning in Canvas](#). **Be sure to check there often for important course information and updates.** Log into Canvas, go to your personal settings (your name in

upper right corner), and set your notifications to the following: Due Date = ASAP, Course Content = ASAP, Announcements = ASAP, Calendar = Daily.

Required Texts:

Putz, Francis E. (Jack), 2015. *Finding Home in the Sandy Lands of the South: A Naturalist's Journey in Florida*. Gainesville, Fla., Cypress Highlands Press of Florida.

Leopold, Aldo, 1949. *A Sand County almanac, and sketches here and there*. NY, NY, Oxford University Press.

Barcott, Bruce, 2009. *The Last Flight of the Scarlet Macaw*. NY, NY, Random House Trade Paperback.

Class Attendance and Exams:

As an adult you are expected to assume the responsibility of choosing when absence from class is to your personal or professional advantage. **Attendance will be part of your grade and sign-out attendance sheets will be provided at the end of each class period.** For whatever reason may justify your absence, **you are entirely responsible for obtaining the information missed from someone other than the instructor.**

Field trips are an integral part of this course and are not optional.

In general, no make-up tests will be given for absence from the exams. Of course, some situations might merit exceptions such as hurricanes, death in the family, or serious illness.

College approved field trips and competitive and leadership development events (with prior instructor approval) are considered legitimate absences with documentation. If an exam is missed, a make-up exam must be completed within one week of your return to class.

Late Assignment Policy:

In general, missing an assignment deadline results in a grade of zero for that assignment. All assignment due dates are listed in this syllabus and include adequate time for completion. Excuses for computer or E-learning failure are not acceptable due to the abundance of computing resources on campus. Make use of flash drives or online services (Dropbox, Google Drive, Apple iCloud, etc.) for important file storage. In the rare case where E-learning is not working and a deadline is looming, email your assignment to the instructor. If all else fails, print your assignment and submit to the instructor before the deadline (slide it under his door if necessary).

In rare situations or emergencies requiring a student to be away from school for an extended period of time, arrangements for completing make-up assignments should be made immediately upon return to class.

Course Activities

Lectures will be directed discussions, explanations and question/answers from the material that you have been assigned to read. They will also contain additional information that is not in the readings. The instructor may make lecture slides available electronically for you to access but **not until after class**. It is your responsibility to take notes.

Lecture Quizzes can be comprehensive, covering all material presented in lectures and reading assignments from the beginning of the course. The format of the quiz may include definitions,

compare/contrast, short answer, fill in the blanks, multiple choice, true/false, list/explain or short essay questions.

Field Trips: We will be holding class in the field on the following dates: Sept 10, Sept 24, Oct 15, and Nov 12. Vans will transport us to the field. You will be responsible for bringing lunch, snacks, water bottle (we will have a cooler for refills), and wearing appropriate field gear. We could be hiking in the forest, sometimes off-trail.

Readings: It is vitally important to read the assigned books in time for the discussion sessions for each. Your grade will be significantly affected by quizzes and writing assignments based on the readings.

If you have questions regarding any assignments, projects, etc., refer to the syllabus or E-learning BEFORE contacting the instructor.

Assignments: All instructions for assignments will be given verbally in class and through E-learning. Most assignments will be turned in through Canvas and subject to review by the TURNITIN plagiarism software. **For on-line submittals, make sure your assignment is in the proper file format and has been accepted by E-learning before exiting.**

Developing your professional communication skills is vital to your future success regardless of your major. All written assignments will be graded on content, logical flow, spelling, grammar, and proper use of vocabulary. Individually, written assignments only carry point values between 4 and 8 but collectively, they add up! Poor writing skills can degrade your grade quickly – yes, awkward, error-filled prose can negate awesome ideas. If your writing needs improvement, take advantage of the UF Writing Studio (<http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-center/>) in 302 Tigert Hall.

If you get poor scores because of writing issues, you can earn some lost points back by taking advantage of the Writing Studio tutoring resources. Ask your instructor about this option. Also, extra credit assignments are likely.

FOR3004 : Forests, Conservation & People 2021 Class Schedule			
(Topics and locations may change throughout the semester. Announcements will be posted in Canvas)			
Week	Date	Topics	Class Location
1	27-Aug	Course Introduction, What is a Forest? Basic Forest Management, Examples and Discussion	Matherly Hall 0018
2	3-Sept	Forest Conservation, Restoration Ecology, Introduction to Wildlife Habitat Management	Matherly Hall 0018
3	10-Sep	Basic Tree ID, Habitats, Soils, Fire Ecology	San Felasco State Park*
4	17-Sep	Discussion of San Felasco Field Trip, <i>Finding Home in the Sandy Lands of the South</i> Discussion	Matherly Hall 0018
5	24-Sep	Field Trip to UF's Austin Cary Forest (ACF)	Austin Cary Forest*
6	1-Oct	ACF discussion, Greater Good Video and Discussion, History of Conservation	Matherly Hall 0018
7	8-Oct	No Class - Homecoming	No Class
8	15-Oct	Field Trip to Private-Owned Forestland	Pinkoson Property*
9	22-Oct	Discussion of Pinkoson Property Field Trip; Forest Products, Economics, Ecosystem Services	Matherly Hall 0018
10	29-Oct	Forest Products Diary discussion; Discuss Greater Good Video; Final Project ideas, examples	Matherly Hall 0018
11	5-Nov	<i>Last Flight of the Scarlet Macaw</i> discussion; International Forest Based Conservation (Dr. Jack Putz); Forest Certification	Matherly Hall 0018
12	12-Nov	Field trip, Ranchette Style Private Landowner	Private Landowner property*
13	19-Nov	Discuss Ranchette Style Private Landowner Field Trip; Forest Education (Project Learning Tree – Joe MacKenzie), Final Project Plans	Matherly Hall 0018
14	26-Nov	No Class – Thanksgiving Break	No Class
15	3-Dec	<i>A Sand County Almanac</i> discussion	Matherly Hall 0018
16	10-Dec	Final Project Presentations	Matherly Hall 0018
* = Field Trip = Dress appropriately			

Grading

Grades for the course will be based on percentage: Attendance = 15%, Quizzes = 30%, Writing assignments = 30% and your final project = 25%. There will be one or more opportunities for extra credit.

***Final Exam:* No Final Exam. Your final project substitutes for your final exam.**

We will use the class period on December 10th for our Final Project Showcase. I'd like this event to have a party atmosphere with refreshments and to end the semester by seeing and hearing you share your project.

Presenting your project is voluntary (earning you 2 bonus percentage points). Even if you prefer not to present, attendance is highly encouraged, not only to support your fellow students but, if absent, you will lose 1 percent for attendance and 1 percent off your final project score.

Policy on Questioning Quiz Scores: Questions on quiz or exam questions, answers, or scores must be addressed with myself before the end of the next class period after the exams are returned.

Final Grades: Grading follows University standards and is based on the following scale (no rounding up/down):

100-93%	= A	77-73%	= C
90-92%	= A-	72-70%	= C-
89-88%	= B+	69-68%	= D+
87-83%	= B	67-63%	= D
82-80%	= B-	62-60%	= D-
79-78%	= C+	≤ 59%	= E

Proper attire and preparation for field trips:

- Long pants, long sleeved shirt, socks, and sturdy closed-toe shoes or boots are suggested as our field trips may take us off the beaten path. Dress to get muddy, wet, and sweaty – it’s part of the shared experience so relax and enjoy. Bring clean clothes to change into after class, if you feel the need.
- Field labs happen rain or shine (only lightning or hail will send us scurrying to the vans). If you have a poncho which folds up small, you might want to bring it.
- Apply sunscreen before you leave campus so it has time to soak in. A hat will help keep sun off your face.
- Bug Spray, DEET or Picaridin. Repel Permanone treatment for clothing to repel ticks and chiggers is an option. (Wal-Mart, Target etc. should have all the selection you need).
- Bring a water bottle, preferably one with a carabineer so you can clip it to your belt. There will be water coolers so you can refill.
- Bring something to write on (notebook, clip board) and something to write with (hint: pencil notes don't run in the rain like those written in ink).
- A **POSITIVE ATTITUDE** sure makes learning about trees and plants a whole lot more fun.

The following is important information you need to know when working outdoors:

- Chiggers: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/IG/IG08500.pdf>
- Ticks & Lyme Disease: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/MG/MG20400.pdf> or <http://fmel.ifas.ufl.edu/buzz/clticks.shtml>
- West Nile Virus: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/IN117>
- Heat: http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/hot_topics/agriculture/heat_stress.html
- Dehydration: <http://fineinstitute.com/patient-education/?id=11913&lang=English&db=hlt&ebscoType=static&widgetTitle=Spinal+Links>
- Chikungunya: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/IN/IN69600.pdf>

Academic Honesty (We all need to take this very seriously)

In 1995 the UF 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 students. 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. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon community acceptance and enforcement of the honor code.

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, the following pledge is either required or implied: **“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”**

The university requires all members of its community to be honest in all endeavors. A fundamental principle is that the whole process of learning and pursuit of knowledge is diminished by cheating, plagiarism and other acts of academic dishonesty. In addition, every dishonest act in the academic environment affects other students adversely, from the skewing of the grading curve to giving unfair advantage for honors or for professional or graduate school admission. Therefore, the university will take severe action against dishonest students. Similarly, measures will be taken against faculty, staff and administrators who practice dishonest or demeaning behavior. Students should report any condition that facilitates dishonesty to the instructor, department chair, college dean or Student Honor Court. (*Source: 2007-2008 Undergraduate Catalog*) It is assumed all work will be completed independently unless the assignment is defined as a group project, in writing by the instructor. This policy will be vigorously upheld at all times in this course through the use of Turnitin.com and other methods.

For a video on proper reference citation and avoiding plagiarism, go here:

<http://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/mediasite/Viewer/?peid=adaa44500eaf460a84f238e6b9a558f9>

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.

Campus Helping Resources

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general wellbeing are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources.

- *Crisis Emergency Resource Center*, (4th Floor of Peabody Hall), (352) 392-1575 and ask for emergency consultation.

Confidential counseling services are available 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 and Wellness Center*, (3190 Radio Road), (352) 392-1575
<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>
- *Career Resource Center*, (First floor, Reitz Union), (352) 392-1601
<http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>
- *Student Health Care Center*, (Infirmary Building, 280 Fletcher Drive), (352) 392-1161
<http://shcc.ufl.edu/contact/>

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 services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues.

- *Disability Resource Center*, (001 Reid Hall), (352) 392-8565
<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>