Issues in Southeastern Forest Health – FOR 6934

1 Course Overview

Course description:

This online course is designed to expose students to invasive and native forest and tree health issues and their management in the southeastern U.S. For each forest health topic, students will learn the biology, ecology, and management strategies. Modules include pre-recorded webinars followed by a brief quiz. Additional assignments such as online discussions, fact sheets, and a scientific review paper will expose students to various forms of technology transfer regarding these issues. 3 Credits

- Summer 2023
- Online, asynchronous
- http://elearning.ufl.edu/

Course Prerequisites: none

Instructor: Dr Jessica Hartshorn

- Please use the Canvas message/Inbox feature for fastest response.
- Office hours: virtual (Zoom) scheduled date and times

Textbook(s) and/or readings: There is no required text for the course.

Learning Outcomes

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

- Describe forest health pests of concern, including insects, fungi, plants, and abiotic issues
- Make appropriate management recommendations in response to forest pest issues via fact sheets
- Analyze research on a major forest health issue and present in a scientific format

2 Course Logistics

Students may access lectures, assignments, readings, and supporting materials through the course Canvas site as they become available.

Technology Requirements:

- A computer or mobile device with high-speed internet connection.
- A webcam, headset and/or microphone, and speakers.
- Latest version of web browser. Canvas supports only the two most recent versions of any given browser.

- Installation of proctoring software may be required and will be provided if so.

Synchronous online sessions may be recorded. By sharing your video, screen, or audio during any synchronous online class sessions, you are consenting to being recorded for the benefit of students who cannot attend live as well as for class review during the current semester. If you have special circumstances or concerns about privacy, it is your responsibility to discuss it with your instructor.

2.1 Description of Assessments & Activities

Course Structure

Modules

The course is split into 10 modules, each covering a different topic relevant to forest protection. Your understanding of the material will be assessed through brief quizzes, participation in discussions, two fact sheets, and a scientific review paper on a forest pest. You will select **two** emergent forest health issues for your fact sheets and scientific review paper: one issue for fact sheet 1, and one issue for both the fact sheet 2 and scientific review paper.

The course is largely self-paced with the exception of the first fact sheet (due the week before summer break). Quizzes and discussions have "due dates" but this is simply to add it to the Canvas calendar. You will not lose points if you take a quiz after that "due date".

Assessment

- **Quizzes:** Each module will have a brief quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
- **Discussions:** Each module will also have a discussion component.
    - Discussions may include external materials (e.g., TED talks).
    - There will be 1-3 questions or scenarios for you to respond to.
    - You are welcome to use photos, links etc in your responses.
    - Be sure to cite any materials you use or reference in your posts.
- **Fact Sheets:** You will produce **two** extension-style fact sheets on a forest pest.
    - Assume a lay audience without a background in forestry or wildlife.
    - Do not need to be professionally formatted (e.g., logos, borders etc) but they do need to be neat and organized.
    - Should contain relevant information (e.g., life cycle, impacts) but this may be different depending on the type of pest.
    - Should include at least 3 citations are included in the fact sheet in terms of formatting, length etc. In-text citations are okay to include but not required.
    - Be sure to cite photos as well.
    - There is no specific citation format you need to follow but they should be consistent throughout.
    - I will provide detailed feedback on your first fact sheet which you are expected to incorporate into your second fact sheet.
    - I will not take off points for these issues on fact sheet 1 but, if I provide feedback and you do not incorporate them into fact sheet 2, you will lose points.
    - Examples are provided on the course Canvas page.

- **Pest Review Paper**
  - 5-pages (or fewer), double spaced, 12-point font (times new roman, arial, calibri), 1-inch margins.
  - You should cover biology, ecology, economic impacts, control methods, common misconceptions or any other relevant information.
  - Include proper in-text citations however, you do not have to follow a certain format as long as you're consistent.
  - References can include "grey literature", newspaper articles etc but should include at least 5 peer-reviewed publications.

2.2 Grades & Grading Scale

Modules (quiz + discussion)	25%
Fact Sheet 1	10%
Fact Sheet 2	15%
Pest Review Paper	15%
Midterm	20%
Final Exam	20%

Grading Scale (%)
A 90-100
B+ 85-89.99
B 80-84.99
C+ 75-79.99
C 70-74.99
D+ 65-69.99
D 60-64.99
E < 60

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

3 Learning Content

Wk	Date	Topic	Assignment
1	16-May	Introduction to forest health	Quiz 1, intro discussion
2	22-May	Traditional forest mgmt.	Quiz 2, pest selection, discussion
3	29-May	Emerging invasive species	Quiz 3, disease complexes
4	5-Jun	Forest pathogens	Quiz 4, forest health highlights
5	12-Jun	Best mgmt. practices	Fact sheet 1, Quiz 5
6	19-Jun	**Midterm**	**Midterm**
7	26-Jun	**Summer Break**	**Summer Break**
8	3-Jul	Emerging mgmt. options	Quiz 6, urban tree mgmt.
9	10-Jul	Multiple use mgmt.	Quiz 7, technology in forest health
10	17-Jul	Climate change	Quiz 8, soil amendments
11	24-Jul	Prescribed fire	Quiz 9, fire suppression
12	31-Jul	Policy and regulations	Fact sheet 2
13	7-Aug	**Final Exam (cumulative)**	**Final Exam**

4   Policies and Requirements

This course plan and syllabus are subject to change in response to student and instructor needs. Any changes will be clearly communicated in advance through Canvas.

4.1 Late Submissions & Make-up Requests

It is the responsibility of the student to access on-line lectures, readings, quizzes, and exams and to maintain satisfactory progress in the course. 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/attendance.aspx

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.

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

4.2 Communication Courtesy and Professionalism

Just as in any professional environment, meaningful and constructive dialogue is expected in this class and requires a degree of mutual respect, willingness to listen, and tolerance of opposing points of view. **Respect for individual differences and alternative viewpoints will be maintained in this class at all times.** All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy, decency, and civility in all interactions. Failure to do so will not be tolerated and may result in loss of participation points and/or referral to the Dean of Students' Office.

4.3 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/.

4.4 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.

4.5 Inclusive Learning Environment

This course embraces the University of Florida's Non-Discrimination Policy, which reads,

> *The University shall actively promote equal opportunity policies and practices conforming to laws against discrimination. The University is committed to non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act.*

If you have questions or concerns about your rights and responsibilities for inclusive learning environment, please see the instructor or refer to the Office of Multicultural & Diversity Affairs website: http://multicultural.ufl.edu.

4.6 Services for 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. 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. 0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, disability.ufl.edu

4.7 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 Campus Helping Resources

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
- SFFGS Academic Hub https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/303721

5.1 Student Life, Wellness, and Counseling Help

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.

- Counseling and Wellness resources http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/
- U Matter, We Care http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/
- Career Connections Center http://career.ufl.edu/
- Other resources are available at http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help for online students.

5.2 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