

EVR 4323L – U01 - Restoration Ecology Lab (1 credit)

Spring 2011

Th 10 - 11:15am (ECS 165), and alternate Saturdays

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Office Hours: Tu 1-4pm (or by appointment)

Course Description

This lab is to illustrate concepts and applications of ecological restoration theories through visitations to various field sites in South Florida. Students will gain first-hand experience in restoration projects and become aware of achievement as well as challenges of local restoration efforts.

Objectives

- (1) Gain first-hand experience in ecological restoration; and
- (2) Develop an applicable understanding of real-world restoration processes.

Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, the students will

- (1) Have a good understanding in how the major ecological restoration theories and concepts covered in Ecology Restoration (EVR4323) are applied in ecological restoration projects in southern Florida;
- (2) Become aware of achievements as well as challenges of local restoration efforts;
- (3) Be connected with organizations that are active in southern Florida ecological restorations for future learning, participation, and career choices.

Major Topics

Restoration planning, endangered species reintroduction, disturbed land reclamation, ecosystem restoration, invasive species control, challenges of climate change on ecological restoration, and public involvement.

Required Texts and Materials

No text book is required for this field oriented lab. However, reading material to prepare students for each field trip (project overview, particular issues, maps, ect.) will be provided by the instructor each week.

Web Access

Access to the FIU online Blackboard CE6 is required for this class. Students will use CE6 to obtain updates to the syllabus and assignments, to submit assignments, and review grades.

Grading Criteria

There will be 7 field trips, however, you are required to submit only 4 field reports of your choices. I will post the guidelines for field report on CE6. Your grade in this course is a function of the following 4 components

1. Attendance, participation, homework and quizzes	100
2. Field trip reports (4)	400

Total points	500

Grading scale:	$\geq 90\% = A$
	$\geq 88\% = B+$
	$\geq 80\% = B$
	$\geq 78\% = C+$
	$\geq 70\% = C$
	$\geq 68\% = D+$
	$\geq 60\% = D$
	$< 60\% = F$

Course requirements and policies

1. Driving or carpooling is required to travel to the field sites.
2. On-time attendance is required. You must attend the full period to receive credit. Unannounced short quizzes may be used to check attendance, as well as homework assignments.
3. Reading of the assigned materials prior to class is expected. Come to class with your assigned reading completed and prepared to take notes, ask questions, and participate in class discussions.
4. All electronic devices must be turned off during class. Failure to comply with this rule, may result in the student being excused from class.
5. There will be no make-up exams and assignments unless exceptional conditions apply as defined in the Student Handbook, which require written evidence.
6. If absent from class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and obtain notes from your classmates. Being absent does not excuse you from anything that was discussed or due during class.
7. Late assignments will not be accepted, except under approved emergency circumstances as defined in the Student Handbook.
8. Any impropriety (e.g., cheating, plagiarism) on exams, quizzes, or written project will constitute grounds for failing the course.

Course schedule and topic outline (subject to change) for EVR 4934, Spring Term 2009 (W 10 - 11:15 am, Alternate Saturdays)

For all field trips, wear old shoes and hat, and bring water!!! Don't be afraid to get dirty!

Week	Date	Topics
1	13-Jan (Th)	Syllabus, class organization
2	20-Jan (Th)	Reading1 on FIU preserves
	22-Jan (S)	Field trip 1 (FIU Ecosystem Preserve)
3	27-Jan (Th)	Discussion on Field trip 1
4	3-Feb (Th)	Reading2 (pine rockland restoration challenges: fragmentation and pollinators). Field report 1 due
	5-Feb (Sat)	Field trip 2 (Using GPS to assist restoration with Jennifer Possley)
5	10-Feb (Th)	Discussion on field trip 2
6	17-Feb (W)	Reading 3 (Jacquemontia reclinata reintroduction). Field report 2 due
	19-Feb (Sat)	Field trip 3 (Biscayne Bay-Jacquemontia reclinata natural population, and North Miami Beach, restored population) (Field trip report 1 due)
7	24-Feb (Th)	Discussion on Field trip 3.
8	3-Mar (Th)	Reading 4 (Challenges of preserving fragmented nature in Urban environment– invasive species) Field trip report 3 due.
	5-Mar (Sat)	Field trip 4 (Florida City Pineland Preserve, clean up with Miami Dade County Environmental Endangered Lands program)
9	10-Mar (Th)	Discussion on Field trip 4
10	17-Mar (Th)	Spring break
11	24-Mar (Th)	Reading 5 (Miami coastal vegetation restoration). Field trip report 4 due
	26-Mar (Sat)	Field trip 5 (with Gary Milano to Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park)
12	31-Mar (Th)	Discussion on field trip 5
13	7-Apr (Th)	Reading 6 (Mangrove forests). Field trip report 5 due.
	9-Apr (Sat)	Field trip 6 Black Creek Forest Preserve, planting with Miami Dade County Environmental Endangered Lands program
13	14-Apr (W)	Discussion on Field trip 6
14	7-Apr (W)	Reading 7 (Everglades restoration). Field trip report 6 due.
	10-Apr (S)	Field trip 7 Everglades Restoration -- Loxahatchee River Boat Trail (canoeing trip with Dr. Christopher McVoy) and Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (with Dr. Mike Ross)
15	14-Apr (Th)	Discussion on Field trip report 7
16	21-Apr(Th)	Field trip report 7 due