

## ECOLOGY LAB SYLLABUS – FALL 2018

**Course:** PCB3044L – 1credit hour

**Labs Meet:** Class location: Room 305 in Biology or lot E4 (near Softball Stadium) – see schedule  
Class day and time: Monday 8:00am-10:50am (section 0011)  
Tuesday 11:00am-1:50pm (section 0014)  
Tuesday 8:00am-10:50am (section 0013)  
Wednesday 8:00am-10:50am (section 0016)  
Thursday 8:00am-10:50am (section 0015)  
Thursday 11:00am-1:50am (section 0018)  
Friday 8:00am-10:50am (section 0012)  
Friday 11:00am-1:50am (section 0017)

**Instructor:** Jennifer Stewart                      Jenny.Stewart@knights.ucf.edu  
Office location:                                      BIO 202  
Office Hours:                                        Tuesdays 9:00am-10:00am or by appointment

Gustavo Stahelin

Philip Schadegg

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### Welcome to ecology lab!

**Text:** Lab Manual is **FREE!** It can be accessed through the class WebCourses.

**Intended Audience:** Biological Science majors, Science Education majors, Pre-professional students, and selected graduate students.

**Course Description:** This course is intended to provide hands-on experience in conducting research in ecology. You will gain ample field experience and participate in a field experiment focused on the effects of prescribed fire on pine flatwoods habitat in the UCF Arboretum. Critical components of a scientific lab report will be written based on this experiment, with the goals of improving science writing skills and understanding what goes into publishing in scientific journals.

**Course Prerequisites:** Principles of Ecology (PCB3044) (or as corequisite), or with instructor consent.

### Performance Evaluation:

Scientific writing assignments	40%
Worksheets (5 @ 4% each)	20%
Paper summaries (2 @ 7.5% each)*	15%
Participation	15%**
<u>Plant I.D. quiz</u>	<u>10%</u>
Total =	100%

\*Paper summary 1 is chosen for you, paper summary 2 is in the form of a presentation and you will be able to choose from a series of articles.

\*\* Added at the discretion of your instructor for exemplary participation and/or leadership.

### Grade scale:

A = 93.0 - 100	B = 83.0 - 86.9	C = 73.0 - 76.9	D = 63.0 - 66.9
A- = 90.0 - 92.9	B- = 80.0 - 82.9	C- = 70.0 - 72.9	D- = 60.0 - 62.9
B+ = 87.0 - 89.9	C+ = 77.0 - 79.9	D+ = 67.0 - 69.9	F < 60.0

**Participation:** You are expected to be a fully-cooperating member of lab teams. You will work together to collect data that you will share with the class for everyone to use in their research reports. As such, the grades of other students depend on you, too. Additionally, class attendance and punctuality, your cooperation with group members to complete in-class assignments, and the lab instructor's independent observations of your participation will factor into this portion of your grade. We begin lab at the time that it is listed at myUCF.

### Attendance Policies:

1. **Attendance is mandatory.** Almost every lab is conducted with one or more group members, so if you miss the lab, it not only affects you, but your group members as well. **Labs cannot be made up.**
2. Students with unexcused absences will receive reductions from their final grade. One unexcused absence will result in a 5% reduction of your course grade, a second absence will result in a 10% reduction in your course grade. If you have 3 unexcused absences you will receive an F for the course.
3. If you have a valid, documented reason for missing a laboratory session, you must provide your lab TA with appropriate hard-copy documentation from a competent authority (physician, coach, counselor, etc.) within one week of the absence. All documentation must be on official letterhead. Altered or falsified documentation will be dealt with according to university academic honest policies. Acceptable absences are major illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular or professional requirements (e.g. attending a scientific meeting), court-imposed legal obligations, military obligations, religious holidays, and participation in official university-sponsored activities such as intercollegiate athletics. **Even if your absences are excused**, if you miss 3 or more labs you will receive an 'F' for the course.
4. You are required to be on time to class and remain in class for the entire lab. If you are at all late your participation grade will be reduced. If you are more than 15 minutes late, you will receive an unexcused absence. If you leave before being dismissed, you will receive an unexcused absence.
5. **You must attend YOUR lab section.** Switching labs is not allowed.

**Late Policy: Many assignments are due on WebCourses before lab begins. Refer to WebCourses for specific due dates and times.** If you do not upload your assignment on time, at least 10% will be deducted from your assignment grade for each day that it's late. If you are absent on a day that an assignment is due and you provide documentation there won't be a late penalty, but you must turn in your assignment ASAP. **Summary papers will not be accepted late.**

### Your Responsibilities:

- Read the lab manual before you come to class
- Assignments are to be submitted on WebCourses before the start of class on the day the assignment is due.
- Print needed instructions and data sheets for each week as needed.
- ASK QUESTIONS – in class, via email, in office hours, by appointment, on the WebCourses Discussion Board
- THINK! Ecology forces us to go beyond memorizing, especially when doing research. This class is intended to teach you how to be independent and solve problems on your own before asking your TA.
- Cooperate with your team and others – many hands make less work, and 15% of your grade depends on your cooperative behavior.
- On field days, you are **required** to bring **WATER! Wearing closed-toe shoes is MANDATORY on field days.** Be prepared to get sweaty and dirty while doing field work. We recommend long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, a hat, insect spray, and sunblock. In addition to the usual biting/stinging insects, ticks are also known to be encountered, and there has been at least one recent sighting of a young rattlesnake, so be careful!
- Read and understand the UCF Rules for Student Conduct [<http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu>] and UCF Academic Regulations and Procedures [[http://www.ucf.edu/catalog/current/academic\\_regulations\\_and\\_procedures/index.html](http://www.ucf.edu/catalog/current/academic_regulations_and_procedures/index.html)].

These rules apply to you and will be followed in the course.

**Final Exam:** There is no final exam for this lab.

**Academic Integrity:** Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of Conduct at <http://osc.sdes.ucf.edu/process/roc>. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in

- *Unauthorized assistance:* Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.
- *Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means:* The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.
- *Commercial Use of Academic Material:* Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.
- *Falsifying or misrepresenting the student's own academic work.*
- *Plagiarism:* Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.
- *Multiple Submissions:* Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.
- *Helping another violate academic behavior standards.*

For more information about Academic Integrity, consult the International Center for Academic Integrity <<http://academicintegrity.org>>.

For more information about plagiarism and misuse of sources, see "Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices" <<http://wpacouncil.org/node/9>>.

**Additional statement on academic integrity:**

The following are considered academic dishonesty and no student should ever do any of the following:

- Have another person complete an exam in this course
- Copy another student's exam in this course
- Collaborate with anyone during an exam in this course
- Discuss the questions and answers of an exam with other students while the quiz window is still open
- Manipulate and/or distribute any materials provided in this course for any purpose (including course lecture slides).
- Use any materials provided by a previous student in the course
- A research paper in your own words is required for fulfillment of this course and all of the following are considered plagiarism (from <http://www.plagiarism.org>)

- Turning in someone else's work as your own.
- Copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit.
- Failing to put a quotation in quotation marks.
- Giving incorrect information about the source of the information.
- Changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source.
- Copying so many words or phrases from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not.

Plagiarized work is easily detected and university regulations on academic misconduct will be strictly enforced.

### **Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating**

Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, The Golden Rule <<http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/docs/goldenrule.pdf>>. UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to academic misconduct. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, suspension or expulsion from the university, and/or a "Z Designation" on a student's official transcript indicating academic dishonesty, where the final grade for this course will be preceded by the letter Z. For more information about the Z Designation, see <http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/zgrade>.

**Course Accessibility Statement:** The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need disability-related access in this course should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) <<http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/>> (Ferrell Commons 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone 407-823-2371). Through Student Accessibility Services, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential access and accommodations that might be reasonable. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student.

**Campus Safety Statement:** Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise during class, everyone needs to work together. Students should be aware of their surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In case of an emergency, dial 911 for assistance.
- Every UCF classroom contains an emergency procedure guide posted on a wall near the door. Students should make a note of the guide's physical location and review the online version at <[http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency\\_guide.html](http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html)>.
- Students should know the evacuation routes from each of their classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency.
- If there is a medical emergency during class, students may need to access a first-aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those are located, see <<http://www.ehs.ucf.edu/AEDlocations-UCF>> (click on link from menu on left).
- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <<https://my.ucf.edu>> and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on the Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.
- To learn about how to manage an active-shooter situation on campus or elsewhere, consider viewing this video (<<https://youtu.be/NIKYajEx4pk>>).

**Deployed Active Duty Military Students:** Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.

**UCF Cares:** During your UCF career, you may experience challenges including struggles with academics, finances, or your personal well-being. UCF has a multitude of resources available to all students. Please visit [UCFCares.com](http://UCFCares.com) if you are seeking resources and support, or if you are worried about a friend or classmate. Free services and information are included for a variety of student concerns, including but not limited to alcohol use, bias incidents, mental health concerns, and financial challenges. You can also e-mail [ucfcares@ucf.edu](mailto:ucfcares@ucf.edu) with questions or for additional assistance. You can reach a UCF Cares staff member between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. by calling 407-823-5607. If you are in immediate distress, please call Counseling and Psychological Services to speak directly with a counselor 24/7 at 407-823-2811, or please call 911.

**FINAL NOTE:**

We reserve the right to change the syllabus and management of the class at any time during the semester. These changes will be announced.

**Planned Lab Schedule (subject to change)**  
**Emphasized dates in bold** are field days - bring water and dress appropriately!

<b>Week :</b>	<b>Dates:</b>	<b>Meet at:</b>	<b>Lab Topics:</b>	<b>Homework Due:</b>	<b>Reading :</b>
1	8/20-8/24	BIO305	-Goals and Safety -Webcourses & Lab Manual -Introduction to fire ecology -Building Hypotheses	Syllabus quiz	1.0-3.1
2	8/27-8/31	BIO305	-Library Tutorial -Worksheet 1 -Lit Review -Methods and Intro -Experimental Design		4.8
3	9/03-9/07	-	<i>Labor Day- no labs this week</i>		
4	<b>9/10-9/14</b>	<b>E4</b>	<b>-Field Day (1): Introduction to Plants and Study Site, Methods</b>	Worksheet 2: More sources	5.0
5	9/17-9/21	BIO305	-Advice on reading scientific articles -Paper discussion -Effective peer-reviewing -Statistics introduction	Paper Summary 1	4.0-4.5 4.10

6	9/24-9/28	E4	<b>Field Day (2): Plant walk, Methods, practice quiz</b>		Plants of the Arboretum
7	10/01-10/05	E4	<b>Field Day (3): Plant quiz</b>	Writing Assignment 1: Intro/Methods Rough	
8	10/08-10/12	BIO305	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Floristic relay</li> <li>• Excel tutorial/ More Statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Worksheet 4</li> <li>-F and T tests</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Worksheet 3: Peer Review	5.0.3-5.1
9	10/15-10/19	E4	<b>Field Day (4): Data collection day 1</b>		5.0.2
10	10/22-10/26	E4	<b>Field Day (5): Data collection day 2</b>	Writing Assignment 2: Intro/Methods Final	
11	10/29-11/02	BIO305	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to write Results and Discussion sections</li> <li>• Group data compilation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Worksheet 5</li> <li>-Calculations</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		4.6-4.7 4.12
12	11/05-11/09	BIO305	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begin Paper Summary 2</li> <li>• Presentations</li> </ul>	Writing Assignment 3: Results/Discussion Rough	
13	11/12-11/16	-	<i>Veterans Day- No labs this week</i>		
14	11/19-11/23	-	<i>Thanksgiving- No labs this week</i>		
15	11/26-11/30	BIO305	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finish Paper Summary 2</li> <li>• Presentations</li> </ul>	Writing Assignment 4: Results/Discussion Final	
Finals week	12/03-12/07	E4	<b>Extra Credit Hike</b>		
	12/14		<i>Grades available on myUCF</i>		