

# **EVS 3000L - Environmental Science Lab Fall 2023 (Online)**

Number of Credits: 1

## **Instructor**

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Office Hours (online): Wednesdays 3:00PM - 5:00PM

Zoom Link:

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/82151932584?pwd=dnUwAZSWlyNcynT1YXhGRAqlm6qTKb.1>

Passcode: EVS3000L

## **Class Meeting Schedule and Format**

This lab is an asynchronous online class. This means you can work through the material each week on your own schedule. It is recommended that you find a consistent time to work through each week's materials and assignments and treat the course as a regularly scheduled commitment.

## **Course Description**

This course introduces students to the many varied professional trajectories in environmental science. It also provides hands-on experience in data collection and analysis for environmental science and management.

## **Prerequisites**

[CHM 2045](#) or [CHM 2047](#) or [CHM 2095](#)

## **Course Materials**

There are no required textbooks. Readings will be made available via Canvas.

## **Course Objectives**

Environmental science is an interdisciplinary field of study that combines physical, biological, and information science to understand the effects of natural and anthropogenic processes on the environment.

Because of the diversity and interconnectedness of all aspects of human-environment relationships, environmental science careers are equally varied. Environmental scientists work on problems spanning biogeochemical cycles, energy systems, pollution control and mitigation, natural resource management, conservation of ecosystems, and much more!

Our objective in this lab is to expose you to the diversity of environmental careers, introduce you to methods in environmental research, and provide professional development opportunities to help you progress in the field. Lab activities will break roughly into three categories:

- Career exploration activities, where you will either hear from an environmental science professional about their career trajectory, or you will be asked to research a topic in environmental science that interests you.
- Research exercises, where you will learn about common methods for studying environmental problems from different perspectives, including policy, human dimensions, and biology. This will include hands-on sampling projects as well as a basic introduction to data analysis.
- Professional development activities, where we will focus on key practical skills such as finding career opportunities that interest you and preparing compelling application materials.

These activities correspond to the three primary learning outcomes for the course. At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

- Recognize the many possible professional trajectories in environmental science, research environmental career opportunities, and evaluate how they fit with students' current skills and long-term career objectives.
- Plan and execute basic research projects to address questions in the natural and social dimensions of environmental science.
- Generate professional communications and application materials for career opportunities.

### **Communication**

All course communication outside of office hours will be done through Canvas and your UF email. Please check both regularly to keep up to date. If you have questions or need help outside of class or office hours, I will try to respond to email and chat messages as quickly as possible. Please allow at least 24 hours to hear back from me. You may want to work on your assignments early, so you have time to reach out if you run into any sticking points. I will also be available on Zoom during scheduled online office hours. This is a good time to reach out if you have questions or want to discuss the week's activities—however, I am also happy to schedule meetings at other times. Please email if you would like to set up a meeting outside of the regular office hours.

**Weekly Schedule (subject to change):**

1. (Aug 23)	Welcome / Introduction
2. (Aug 28)	Biodiversity Research
3. (Sept 4)	Climate Change and Ecosystems
4. (Sept 11)	Food, Agriculture, & Waste
5. (Sept 18)	Land Management & Conservation
6. (Sept 25)	Ecological Field Methods
7. (Oct 2)	Ecological Field Methods Part II
8. (Oct 9)	Data Analysis I: Introduction to R
9. (Oct 16)	Data Analysis II: Working with Environmental Data
10. (Oct 23)	Human Dimensions of Environmental Science
11. (Oct 30)	Research Skills
12. (Nov 6)	Science Communication and Environmental Education
13. (Nov 13)	Environmental Justice
14. (Nov 20)	Thanksgiving Break- No class
15. (Nov 27)	Resumes & CVs
16. (Dec 4)	Careers & Graduate School

**Weekly assignments**

Weekly assignments will be due each week on **Sunday at 11:59pm EST**. I recommend working on them early so you can reach out to me or your classmates if you have questions! The final project will be due on **Dec. 6 at 11:59pm EST**. For one assignment, I will ask you to visit a natural area to make natural history observations and collect data about the organisms living there. This exercise involves sitting in an outdoor area for about an hour and walking approximately 100 meters on a transect to survey biodiversity. If this activity will not be possible for you, please contact me-- I am happy to make adjustments as needed.

## **Final project**

For your final project, you will write up a short report synthesizing the policy, social, and biological dimensions of an environmental issue of interest to you. More details will be provided by mid-term on the Canvas website.

## **Course Grading**

Component	Percent
Weekly Assignment	70%
Final project	20%
Participation & Professionalism	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

## **Grading Scale**

A	93.0-100%	A-	90.0-92.9%	B+	87.0-89.9%
B	83.0-86.9%	B-	80.0-82.9%	C+	77.0-79.9%
C	73.0-76.9%	C-	70.0-72.9%	D+	67.0-69.9%
D	63.0-67.9%	D-	60.0-62.9%	F	<60.0%

## **Grades and Grade Points**

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx> (Links to an external site.)

## **Late Policy**

Everyone will get **one** no-questions-asked, one-week extension on a weekly assignment. To use this, send me a message letting me know that you will not be able to complete the assignment on time. This does **not** apply to the final project.

After that, late assignments will be marked down by 10% and an additional 10% each week they are late. If circumstances arise and you have trouble completing either the final project or multiple weekly assignments on time, I encourage you to get in touch with me.

## **Online Course Evaluation Process**

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. 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/> (Links to an

[external site.](#)). 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/> ([Links to an external site.](#)). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/> ([Links to an external site.](#)).

## **Academic Honesty**

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 the 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 to 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: <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/> ([Links to an external site.](#))

## **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. 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.

- University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575, [www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/) ([Links to an external site.](#))
- Counseling Services
- Groups and Workshops
- Outreach and Consultation
- Self-Help Library
- Training Programs

- U Matter We Care, [www.umatter.ufl.edu/](http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/) (Links to an external site.)
- [Career Connections Center](#): Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

### **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. 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, <https://disability.ufl.edu/>

### **Student Complaints**

Each online distance learning program has a process for, and will make every attempt to resolve, student complaints within its academic and administrative departments at the program level. See <https://distance.ufl.edu/state-authorization-status/#student-complaint> for more details.