

University of Florida
School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences

FNR 2062: Forests for the Future
Fall 2025 Class Schedule

Tuesdays, Periods 7 (1:55 – 2:45), Newins Ziegler Hall 112
Thursdays, Period 7-8 (1:55 – 3:50), Newins Ziegler Hall 112

<http://lss.at.ufl.edu/> (Canvas System)

Course Description: This course will examine society's interaction with forests. It will focus on important forest issues, which affect how individuals, communities, and institutions make decisions about forest resources. Each issue will be discussed using relevant case studies as a backdrop. Topics include: values that inform our perception and use of forests, clearcutting, prescribed fire, ecosystem services, environmental conflict, and invasive species. Each of these topics will be discussed using three fundamental concepts as a framework:

- **Human perceptions and values of forests**
- **Functions of forest ecosystems**
- **Management and use of forests**

Students will be expected to understand key issues discussed and understand and analyze the major social and ecological variables that affect each issue. Specifically, students will:

- Understand the dynamic nature of forest ecosystems and that complex relationships exist between stakeholders, their values, and their perceptions of forests,
- Be able to interpret and analyze environmental issues related to forests and forest management,
- Develop well-reasoned judgments about what to do or believe when reading popular literature on forest management, values and ecosystem functions, and
- Communicate effectively with others in determining solutions to environmental issues.

Lead Instructor

Taylor Stein, Professor of Ecotourism and Natural Resources Management

- 353 Newins-Ziegler Hall

- (352) 846-0860, tstein@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Mondays 1:00 to 2:00 and by appointment

Teaching Assistants:

Yadira Molina, Ph.D. Student

Rameen Awan, NRC Undergraduate and Forests for the Future Distinguished Alumni

Office Hours: By appointment

Instructor Team

Alison Adams, Assistant Professor of Community and Environmental Sociology

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Mysha Clarke, Assistant Professor of Human Dimensions of Natural Resources

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Gary Peter, Professor of Forest Genomics

– (352) 846-0896, gfpeter@ufl.edu

Course Readings

Course readings are available on the course website (<http://lss.at.ufl.edu/>) or passed out in class.

Course Grading

<u>Projects/Exams</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Final Points</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Exams/Final Assignments (5 for 10 points each)	50	93.4 – 100	A
Writing Assignments (5 for 5 points each)	25	90.0 – 93.3	A-
Field Trip Assignment	5	86.7 – 89.9	B+
Participation	5	83.4 – 86.6	B
Course Wrap-up	15	80.0 – 83.3	B-
Total	100	76.7 – 79.9	C+
		73.4 – 76.6	C
		70.0 – 73.3	C-
		66.7 – 69.9	D+
		63.4 – 66.6	D
		60.0 – 63.3	D-
		Less than 60%	E (Fail)

Course Tasks

Exams/Final Assignment

In order for the instructors to assess your progress during their section of the course, you will complete an exam/assignment that covers the information you were provided during that section. These exams/assignments will take a variety of forms (e.g., in-class exam to out-of-class essay), and they will all be worth 10 points each.

Writing Assignments

To give you a thorough understanding and appreciation for the issues discussed in class, you will be required to complete five assignments throughout the semester – each worth five points each. They will include both in-class and out-of-class written assignments. These exercises will test your awareness of the information about a specific issue, as well as your ability to think about that issue, and apply that information to current situations. Each exercise will be discussed in detail before it is due.

You will be asked to submit most of your written assignments as in class or as email attachments. Please be sure to follow the instructor's instructions on when and how to turn in assignments. Late assignments will not be excused and will result in a **standard deduction of 10% deduction if late, and 10% additional deduction for every 24 hours the assignment is late.**

Field Trip Assignment

On **Saturday, September 27**, you will be required to attend a field trip to the University of Florida's school forest, the Austin Cary Forest. Instructors will highlight a variety of the topics addressed in their sections during this field trip. As part of this field trip, you will be required to complete a worksheet and paper that addresses the topics taught to you throughout the semester.

Only one mandatory field trip is planned, so please work on your schedules as soon as possible so you can attend. If it is impossible for you to participate in the field trip, a make-up assignment will be assigned requiring you to participate in similar activities as the planned field trip. Likely this make-up assignment will require more work on your part to make happen, so please do yourself a favor by working to attend the scheduled field trip.

Participation

This class moves quickly and builds on each day's activities - attendance is crucial. You must participate in all aspects of this course to get full credit. Specifically, participation will be graded on the following criteria:

1. Class attendance,
2. Class conduct (e.g., arriving on time, contributing to class discussions, and no disruptive behavior),
3. Completion of in-class exercises, and
4. Observed participation in group activities.

If you receive more than three unexcused absences, you will lose ALL participation points for the course. To receive an excused absence, you must tell the TA before the class you plan to miss that you will be absent and give a reasonable excuse (e.g., studying for another class is NOT a reasonable excuse).

Students will also be expected to take part in course discussion. Although we don't expect all students to speak all the time, you will have the opportunity to provide input verbally and written. Occasionally, instructors might ask you to submit written comments based on lectures (in-class or email). Failure to submit these written comments will result in points deducted from your participation score.

Finally, repeatedly coming to class late and disrupting class will result in points deducted from your participation score.

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>.

Course Wrap-up

To put the entire course in context, at the end of the semester, you will write a topic paper and present information from that paper to the class that is based on information from all sections of the course.

Detailed instructions for completing the paper and presentation will be provided in class.

Special Notes

1. Individuals who miss classes are expected to make arrangements with the professor(s) teaching that section of the class, the TA, and other students in the class to get lecture materials.
2. Class participation is essential, and your opinion is valued regardless of your perspective. This class will teach you how to form well-reasoned opinions; in other words, our job is to teach you how, not what, to think.

3. Turn off cell phones and only use laptops for taking notes. E-mailing or surfing websites during class is not permitted. Instructors will require all laptops to be closed if students are found misusing laptops during class.
4. **Remember, do not plagiarize!** When you use information from a source, tell us where you got that information. Copying information from other documents (whether they are websites, newspaper articles, journal articles, or anything) is plagiarism and you will fail the course if caught plagiarizing.
5. **Do not rely on AI or Chat GPT.** This class is designed to provide you introductory information on a wide range of environmental issues and help you learn to critically analyze and think about those issues. We will ask you to write papers to give you practice using and thinking about that information. AI tools do not allow you to have this practice. Please provide YOUR thoughts and ideas to assignments. See AI Policy below

Other Information

Use of AI in Assignments

ChatGPT and other Artificial Intelligence programs are increasing in use and popularity across disciplines. There have been several incidences of plagiarism and academic misconduct with these programs. Intellectual honesty is absolutely vital to an academic environment and for us as instructors to facilitate your learning to the best of my ability. We are also aware of the usefulness of these chatbots and programs both in the classroom and in future careers.

There are a variety of writing assignments in this course. In some cases, the instructor might give you specific guidelines on the use of AI in writing. However, if guidelines are not given, follow the instructions below.

If you utilize ChatGPT for any part of any assignment, like writing assistance or editing, you **must properly cite ChatGPT and explain its use.**

First, at the beginning of every assignment, include a short paragraph describing how you used AI or ChaptGPT. If you did not use it in anyway (including grammar check, then tell us here. This explanation **MUST** be included on every assignment, unless the instructor provides different instructions.

Second, we expect you to clearly attribute what text was generated by the AI tool (i.e., different colored font, direct quote, in-text citation). If you use ChatGPT to summarize your thoughts and you end up just summarizing ChatGPT's outputs, we expect you to cite the statement/paragraph, or provide a statement for each page ChatGPT was used. Failure to cite ChatGPT is considered a **violation of the University of Florida Honor Code**. Violations will result in a failure of the assignment or the Final Exam or failure of the course and a notation on your transcript. We will be using a variety of Artificial Intelligence detection tools to check your work.

AI Guidelines for This Course

In-Text Citations	(AI Name, Year)
Full Text Citation	OpenAI. (2025). <i>ChatGPT response to a question about ecosystem services in Florida</i> [Large language model]. https://chat.openai.com/ (Accessed July 27, 2025)

AI Best Practices

- **Be transparent.** Clearly indicate that content was AI-generated.
- **Do not treat AI as a primary source** for factual claims. Use it to support analysis, summarization, or drafting—then cite peer-reviewed literature as appropriate.

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 Honor Code, please see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>.

Campus Helping Resources

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.

- *University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575, www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/*
Counseling Services
Groups and Workshops
Outreach and Consultation
Self-Help Library
Wellness Coaching
- *Career Resource Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, www.crc.ufl.edu/*

Online Course Evaluation Process

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open for students to complete during the last two or three weeks of the semester; students will be notified of the specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

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.

Services for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting classroom accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter, which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Hitchcock Field & Fork Pantry

The Hitchcock Field & Fork Pantry is a free resource to support UF undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff experiencing any level of food insecurity. Experiencing food insecurity may mean you have faced challenges to meeting your needs in quantity and nutritional quality of food. For example, food insecurity may look like eating ramen because you can't afford foods you consider healthy, nutritious, or appropriate for yourself, to outright skipping meals or eating smaller meals.

If you're not sure about whether you fit the criteria, come anyway! You only need to bring your UFID; you do not need to prove that you are in need. The Pantry does not discriminate based on income, class, race, ethnicity, gender, out-of-state or international student status, housing status, or ability.

The Pantry doesn't just offer canned food! The Pantry offers fresh, seasonal produce, frozen meat, milk, eggs, vegan options, menstrual products, and select toiletries. They are happy to accommodate requests if you can't find what you need your first time.

The Pantry assures guests, potential and current, that accessing emergency services like the Pantry is not a reflector of one's self worth, nor are they taking resources from someone "more deserving" or "more in need" than themselves.

You can visit the Pantry website (pantry.fieldandfork.ufl.edu) for more information including current hours. The Pantry is located between Marston Science Library and McCarty Hall, behind the HUB, on the University of Florida Gainesville campus.

FOR 2062: Forests for the Future

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Thursdays, Period 7-8 (1:55 – 3:50), Newins Ziegler Hall 112**

Week	Day	Topic
1	Aug. 21	Introduction to Course and Instructors <i>Connecting People with the Environment – Taylor Stein</i>
2	26 28	
3	Sept. 2 4	
4	9 11	<i>Human Dimensions of Natural Resources Management – Mysha Clarke</i>
5	16 18	
6	23 25	<i>Sustainable Forest Management – Gary Peter</i>
	Saturday Sept. 27	Field Trip – Austin Cary Forest
7	30 Oct. 2	
8	7 9	
9	14 16	<i>Sociology of Forests and Natural Resources – Alison Adams</i>
10	21 23	
11	28 Oct. 30	<i>Natural Resource Economics and Policy – Kotryna Klizentyte</i>
12	Nov. 4 6	
13	11 13	Veterans Day – No Class
14	18 20	Course Synthesis Group Work Course Synthesis Presentations
15	25 27	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING WEEK NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING WEEK
16	Dec. 2	Course Synthesis Presentations/Course Evaluation

Writing Assessment Rubric

	SATISFACTORY (Y)	UNSATISFACTORY (N)
CONTENT	Assignments exhibit effective use of material and information provided in class discussions, lectures, and readings. They also show evidence of ideas that respond to the topic with complexity, critically evaluation and synthesis of sources. Finally, assignments must provide at least an adequate discussion with basic understanding of sources.	Papers either include a central idea(s) that is unclear or off- topic or provide only minimal or inadequate discussion of ideas. There is little to no evidence of course materials used in the writing of the paper. Papers might also lack sufficient or appropriate sources.
ORGANIZATION AND COHERENCE	Assignments and paragraphs exhibit at least some identifiable structure for topics, including a clear thesis statement but might require readers to work to follow progression of ideas.	Assignments and paragraphs lack clearly identifiable organization, might lack any coherent sense of logic in associating and organizing ideas, and may also lack transitions and coherence to guide the reader.
ARGUMENT AND SUPPORT	Assignments use persuasive and confident presentation of ideas, strongly supported with evidence. At the weak end of the Satisfactory range, documents might provide only generalized discussion of ideas or might provide adequate discussion but rely on weak support for arguments.	Assignments make only weak generalizations, providing little or no support, as in summaries or narratives that fail to provide critical analysis.
STYLE	Assignments use a writing style with word choice appropriate to the context, genre, and discipline. Sentences should display complexity and logical sentence structure. At a minimum, documents will display a less precise use of vocabulary and an uneven use of sentence structure or a writing style that occasionally veers away from word choice or tone appropriate to the context, genre, and discipline.	Assignments rely on word usage that is inappropriate for the context, genre, or discipline. Sentences may be overly long or short with awkward construction. Documents may also use words incorrectly.
MECHANICS	Assignments will feature correct or error-free presentation of ideas. At the weak end of the Satisfactory range, papers may contain some spelling, punctuation, or grammatical errors that remain unobtrusive so they do not muddy the paper's argument or points.	Assignments contain so many mechanical or grammatical errors that they impede the reader's understanding or severely undermine the writer's credibility.

This rubric applies to all assignments and each component of the rubric is worth 20% of the assignment's points.