

# General Ecology – Summer 2025

## PCB 4043C ONLINE ONLY

### I. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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**Professor:**

Stefanie Gazda, Ph.D.

Email: [stefanie.gazda@ufl.edu](mailto:stefanie.gazda@ufl.edu)

Office Hours: TBD and by appointment online.

*Office hours will be held via Zoom*

I will be running fieldwork this summer; as a result my Office Hours will vary. I encourage you to reach out to make an appointment at any time.

### II. COURSE INFORMATION

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The entire course will be conducted online through the course CANVAS website. You can directly access the Canvas login at <https://elearning.ufl.edu/>.

*This is a 4-credit course and has a lab component.*

### COURSE COMMUNICATION

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All e-mail correspondence to your course instructor must originate from your ufl.edu account, have your full name in the body of the e-mail, and contain your course number in the subject line. E-mails not meeting these requirements may not be recognized by our e-mail filters, and thus may not be answered. For the timeliest responses, use the Inbox Tool in Canvas.

### COURSE RESOURCES

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**SimUText**

- SimUText is software for accessing and completing SimBio modules that you will use in this course. Modules are Interactive Chapters or Virtual Labs.
- Simulated experiments allow you to learn by exploration, and in-module questions provide instant feedback to reduce misconceptions and track learning.
- You will access SimUText OUTSIDE of Canvas (but some Labs will require a digital Workbook that you will download from Canvas).

It is important that you review the information below before you subscribe to the SimUText for Ecology at University of Florida. **To avoid possible problems, do not wait until the last minute.**

- CHECK YOUR TECH! Visit <https://simutext.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/categories/200170134-Check-Your-Tech> to confirm that the SimUText application will work on your computer, and/or to explore your options if there is a problem.
- SimUText Voucher Code (optional): If you purchased a SimUText Voucher from your bookstore, be sure to have it with you when subscribing, as you will need to enter your voucher code.
- Registration Link: When you are ready to subscribe and download installers, follow this link to initiate the process: **<https://www.simutext.com/student/register.html#/key/UMd6-3Y6G-deV3-WwtG-GcLm>**
- After you have completed the subscription process, if you need to download the SimUText application installers again, you will be able to access them by logging into the SimUText Student Portal (<https://simutext2.com/student/>).
- Should you encounter problems, you may need your course-specific Access Key. It is: **UMd6-3Y6G-deV3-WwtG-GcLm**

Problems or questions? Visit SimUText Support (<http://simbio.com/support/simutext>). This is your first stop for SimUText technical support.

## Visual Classrooms

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Visual Classrooms is a space where several Intro Activities are housed. You will access Visual Classrooms within Canvas. When you launch Visual Classrooms the first time (either from a module or assignment), you will quickly create a new account.

- When launched from the Module, you start on the student dashboard.
- When launched from the assignment, you will go directly to that activity.

## Lab Materials

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You will need to gather materials for two of the labs. Most of these items you should be able to find around your house except for the Duckweed. You can order this from Carolina Biological (the link is below):

### Duckweed Lab:

- Five 10-oz paper cups
- Pond water (preferably) or tap water (in a plastic container).
- Forceps or tweezers
- A light source (fluorescent light, greenhouse light, or window)
- 5 healthy duckweed plants.
  - Order them here *in advance* (you will need them starting by June 1<sup>st</sup>): [https://www.carolina.com/aquatic-plants/duckweed-%20living-unit-%20of-100-%20150/161820.pr?intid=srchredir\\_duckweed](https://www.carolina.com/aquatic-plants/duckweed-%20living-unit-%20of-100-%20150/161820.pr?intid=srchredir_duckweed)
  - **If you are not in the US, please let me know immediately, as you may not be able to import these plants into a different country.**
  - Magnifying lens/jeweler's loop (optional)

### Abundance Lab:

- 1 large nail
- 1 meter stick
- 1 piece of nylon string, about 1-1/2 m long

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

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We will study the basic principles of ecology, emphasizing population, community, and ecosystem ecology. We will rely on a variety of approaches to learn about ecology and the way ecologists study natural systems. Lectures will emphasize general principles and models that underlie this theory. Specific case studies are drawn from real-world examples taken from the scientific literature. The laboratories offer opportunities to examine natural systems, and to collect, analyze and interpret data. Oral presentations and assessments will further help develop students' communication skills.

## PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

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Prerequisite: BSC2011 and 2011L or the equivalent. Degree-seeking students only.

## MINIMUM TECHNICAL SKILLS

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To complete your tasks in this course, you will need a basic understanding of how to operate a computer, and how to use word processing software.

**.HEIC image files are not accepted for any assignments or discussions.** Please save images as .jpeg files.

All assignments should be typed whenever possible, including tables: Only type-written documents in a recognizable file format will be accepted; photos/scans of hand-written text or screenshots of typed documents will not be graded and will result in no credit for that assignment (the only exception is for some diagram labels which may be hand-written; these will be made clear on the assignment instructions).

Files should be uploaded in PDF format; do not save text as images within a PDF. If your PDF cannot be read by the Turnitin software (a grey icon will appear in your gradebook next to the assignment), you will need to resubmit it in a readable format **prior** to the due date. **If your assignment/discussion/quiz/other does not meet these requirements it will not receive credit.**

It is the responsibility of the student (not the instructor) to make sure their submissions are readable. Resubmissions after the deadline due to improper file submissions are not allowed.

## COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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By the end of the term, students should:

- understand the conceptual foundations of ecology;
- be able to apply quantitative tools (simple mathematical models, statistics, computer simulations) to ecological problems;
- be able to conduct independent research;
- be able to engage in intelligent discussions, and make informed decisions, about ecological and environmental issues;
- be prepared to pursue advanced study in ecology (e.g., at the graduate level), if they choose

## COURSE EXPECTATIONS

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Each student is solely responsible for reading and following the instructions, guidelines, and schedules in this syllabus. Not having read the information in this syllabus or in instructor announcements will not constitute an excuse for missing an assignment or other assessment.

Students are encouraged to employ critical thinking and to rely on data and verifiable sources to interrogate all assigned readings and subject matter in this course as a way of determining whether they agree with their classmates and/or their instructor. No lesson is intended to espouse, promote, advance, inculcate, or compel a particular feeling, perception, viewpoint or belief.

## III. COURSE POLICIES

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As part of PCB4043C, you are required to complete online assignments. If at any time you have questions about these assignments, please contact the Online Instructor. A schedule will be posted on e-Learning with the due dates for each assignment. All assignments must be completed by the stated due date and time for credit. No credit will be given for assignments completed after the deadline. Extensions will NOT be given because of technical or personal issues that occur within 24 hours of the assignment deadline. Many assignments may take several days to complete, so make sure you have time to devote to that assignment before you begin. You are expected to work by yourself on the assignments and cheating will not be tolerated. Note that all due dates for assignments are clearly posted on the course website and reflect the most up-to-date information.

## ATTENDANCE

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Students are expected to check the Canvas course regularly for announcements, assignment due dates, and other course-related information. Students are to complete all assigned work (quizzes, activities, and discussions) by the due dates. Students are strongly encouraged to read the assigned chapters before attempting any of the assignments as this will make it easier to comprehend the material.

## TIME COMMITMENT

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The UF College of Liberal Arts and Sciences assumes that each student will devote 3-4 hours per week per credit hour to each course, including time in lectures and labs. Because *PCB4043C* is 4 credits, each student should therefore expect to devote 12-16 hours per week to this course during a regular semester, or 17-19 hours per week during the summer. A recommended time allocation is listed in the table.

If you find yourself spending more than the recommended number of hours per week on average on these activities, discuss this with your course instructor to see if you can refine your study habits. If you find yourself spending less than the recommended number of hours per week on average, you should recognize that you may have difficulty learning and comprehending the material in this time, and this will probably be reflected in poor performance on the various assessments, causing you to receive a lower overall course grade.

Activity	Hours/Week
Lectures/Videos	1
Online Exercises	7-9
Textbook Readings	2-3
Review and Study	2-4

## COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR ONLINE INSTRUCTOR

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When you have a question about the assignments, check the following sources first to see if it is already answered, before e-mailing your Online Instructor:

- Course Syllabus
- e-Learning Announcements (this is the primary means that your Online Instructor has to communicate with you in a timely manner)
- e-Learning Module Q&A Posts

If you still cannot find the answer to your questions:

- If it is a question that others might find useful to know the answer to as well, post it in the e-Learning Module Q&A section at the end of the Module in question.
- If it is a question specific to you (e.g., account or grade specific), e-mail your instructor. Barring unusual circumstances, expect a reply with 24 hours (48 hours on weekends; do not expect an immediate response in the evenings). E-mails and e-Learning Discussion posts are checked at least once per day, but sometimes not more than that.

## COURSE ACTIVITIES AND MATERIALS

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Class materials will be posted on the course e-Learning website (<https://elearning.ufl.edu/>). The course is found under “e-Learning in Canvas.” You are responsible for all Announcements posted on the course website for this class. Each module will begin on a Sunday and close on the second Monday

at 11:50 pm EDT/EST. The general schedule for a one-week module is as follows (students should check each module as this *will* vary depending on the requirements):

- The “*Engage*” portion of the Module will open Sunday at 12:01 am.
  - Submissions/Initial Posts due by Tuesday at 11:59 pm. If further responses are required, it will be noted in the instructions with a due date.
- The remainder of the Module will open Monday at 12:01 am.
- *Group Lab* initial posts due by Wednesday at 11:59 pm.
  - Responses due by following Monday unless there is a related *Collaborative Space* assignment, then they are due by Saturday.
- If they follow a lab: *Collaborative Space* initial posts due by Saturday at 11:59 pm. Otherwise due on Wednesday.
  - Refer to the schedules and instructions in the actual assignments for details as *this will vary*.
- *Journal Club* initial annotations due by Thursday at 11:59 pm
- Due by the following Monday at 11:50 pm:
  - All *SimUText Chapter* and *Lab* assignments
  - Responses to the *Journal Club* comments
  - Comments on the *Collaborative Space* assignments

There are several different types of assignments that students will have to complete. For most assignment types (activities, tutorials, etc.) you will receive a grade based on the grading rubric provided. **There are no make-ups available for assignments.** See the “Late Work” and “Make Ups” sections below for more detail.

## Exams

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There will be two exams, but no cumulative "final" exam. Each exam will cover material from video lectures, labs, learning activities, online discussions, and the assigned reading in SimUText.

All exams will be multiple-choice and will be administered using HonorLock. *For detailed instructions about HonorLock go to the “HonorLock” tab in the “Course Overview” section on the course website.*

If necessary, exams MAY be scaled using the following approach: The top 3% of the scores will be averaged, and the difference from 100 points will be added to each exam score. Exams will be available for review by appointment for one week after the exam date. Exams will **not** be available for review after the semester has ended. You must make an appointment with me to review your exam.

## Make-up Exams

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No make-up exams will be given without prior permission or documentation of illness. Students that will be missing an exam due to a pre-arranged university-approved excused absence (sports, etc.) should let the instructor know a minimum of two weeks in advance. These students may be required to take the make-up exam before the scheduled in-class exam.

In case of illness on exam day, a letter from the student's primary care provider is required. This letter must state that the student was unable to complete the exam on the scheduled date (i.e., a letter stating only that the student was seen in a clinic is not sufficient) and must go through the Dean of Students Instructor Notification system (<https://care.dso.ufl.edu/instructor-notifications/>). A personal matter must also go through the same process. *These notes must be received within five business days after the exam.* Make up exams may be short-answer or essay format.

## Introductory Activities

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Each module has one Introductory Activity (“*Engage*”), which will open before the other items in the Module (at 12:01 am each Sunday). You will either complete this activity in Visual Classrooms or as an assignment in Canvas. You are not graded on correctness but on effort. Scores will be marked as Complete (100% done) or Incomplete (less than 100% done).

## Reading Quizzes

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Each subsection of the SimUText chapters have end of reading quiz questions. You will access these OUTSIDE of Canvas. You will be graded based on the number of questions answered correctly out of the total number of the end of reading questions in the SimUText chapter, scaled to 25 points. Please see “Participation” regarding the within-text questions in SimUText.

**All SimUText scores are uploaded *manually* by the Instructor to Canvas after the due date has passed.**

## Labs

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Almost every module will contain one lab. These labs, unless otherwise stated, will be graded based on the specific grading rubric for each assignment. Each lab is weighted equally. Rubrics for each lab are available in their module section. It is advisable to look at the rubrics prior to submitting your lab to make sure you have included all the required information for the assignment. There are three types of labs:

1. *SimUText tutorial labs*, which are individual and entirely in SimUText,
2. *SimUText workbook labs*, which are individual, and require you to use a Workbook supplied to you in Canvas, as well as submitting answers through SimUText, and
3. *Canvas labs*, which may be individual or group-based, and are administered through Canvas entirely.

**All SimUText scores are uploaded *manually* by the Instructor to Canvas after the due date has passed.**

## Journal Clubs

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There are 5 *Journal Clubs* throughout the semester and one Pre-Journal Club (to prepare you for the full Journal Clubs). Journal Club is a group activity in which you are going to discuss a provided article. You will access the article and annotate it through Canvas via Perusall.

You will read the article(s) and analyze the document(s) in Perusall. Contribute to the discussion by adding annotations within the text. You must submit three high-quality annotations by Wednesday of the Module week to receive 60% credit for this assignment. You can start a new annotation thread in a Perusall Reading Assignment by highlighting text, then asking a question or posting a comment. You can also add a reply to an existing thread.

From Thursday through Monday at 11:59 pm you should concentrate on responding to other peers' annotations. You can still receive credit for annotations after Wednesday, though credit decreases over time.

More details on how Perusall works and the grading system can be found in Canvas.

All Journal Club articles are also available through the Course Reserves. *PLEASE NOTE that Course Reserves does not work well with Chrome*; you must use another browser. If you are accessing the Course Reserves from off campus, you must be connected to the UF VPN.

## Collaborative Space

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Almost every Module has an assignment called *Collaborative Space*. These assignments will require you to either post a question or comment to the discussion board in Canvas and then respond to peers' posts OR participate in a group discussion and submit answers to an assignment as a group. Each assignment will indicate which format should be used.

Canvas Discussion boards are clunky and there are better apps out there like GroupMe, etc. However, these alternative platforms don't work with Canvas grading, and it is difficult for me to interpret the level of collaboration by each person in the group with Google docs

Please default to using the Canvas Discussion boards for your group work. This does not mean posting screenshots from a google doc!

## Participation

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There are 1) questions within the SimUText chapters (often labeled as "Check Your Knowledge"), 2) questions within the SimUText Lab tutorials (lab type 1, detailed in "Labs") and 3) the Lab Workbooks (lab type 2, detailed in "Labs"). These are not graded for correctness but for effort. However, you are assessed on completion of these items. Scores will be marked as Complete (over 75% answered) or Incomplete (74.9% or less answered).

## COURSE GRADING

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Assignment totals are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. All grades will be posted on e-Learning, and it is the responsibility of the student to check their grades to make sure they are accurate. If there is a discrepancy, you must let us know within ONE week of the grade being posted on e-Learning.

Assignments	Grade Type	Percentages
Introductory Activities	Complete or Incomplete	5%
Participation (questions within SimUText (SuT) chapters, SuT Labs and Workbooks)	Complete or Incomplete	10%
Labs (group and individual)	Score	25%
Exams	Score	20%
Reading quizzes (end of subsection questions in SuT)	Score	10%
Journal Club	Score	15%
Collaborative Space	Score	15%
Course total		<b>100%</b>

The minimum grade cutoffs are listed below. These cutoffs will not be raised; in other words, if you receive 90% of the possible points, you are guaranteed to earn an A grade. Final scores will NOT be rounded (i.e., 89.99% is not 90%).

Point Range (%)	Letter Grade
≥ 90.00	A
≥ 86.66	A-
≥ 83.33	B+
≥ 80.00	B
≥ 76.66	B-
≥ 73.33	C+
≥ 70	C
≥ 66.66	C-
≥ 63.33	D+
≥ 60.00	D
≥ 56.66	D-
≤ 56.65	E

Note that the current UF policy for assigning grade points is available at the following undergraduate catalog web page: [Grades and Grading Policies](#).

Please do not request individual special treatment regarding grading at the end of the semester; **we do not adjust grades for individuals for any reason**. Plan to do well on all exams and other assessments from the beginning of the semester; if you are having difficulty in the class, please let your instructor know *before* the exams rather than after. I DO NOT GIVE OUT EXTRA CREDIT!

## PARTICIPATION

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Group assignments require you to discuss answers in groups. You must adhere to the netiquette policies outlined below (a full description can be found [here](#)). There are rubrics for discussions, but keep in mind that posts should make educated initial posts about the topic and properly cite sources and provide constructive criticism and feedback for groupmates' posts.

## Netiquette

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When posting on the Discussion Board in your online class, you should:

- Make posts that are on-topic and within the scope of the course material.
- Take your posts seriously and review and edit your posts before sending them.
- Be as brief as possible while still making a thorough comment.
- Always give proper credit when referencing or quoting another source.
- Be sure to read all messages in a thread before replying.
- Do not repeat someone else's post without adding something of your own to it.
- Avoid short, generic replies such as, "I agree." You should include why you agree or add to the previous point.
- Always be respectful of others' opinions even when they differ from your own.
- When you disagree with someone, you should express your differing opinion in a respectful, non-critical way.
- Do not make personal or insulting remarks.
- Be open-minded.

## COURSE TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

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It is the responsibility of the student to maintain a functioning computing system and internet connection that can meet the minimum technical requirements of the course.

Computing/internet connectivity issues will NOT be acceptable excuses for missed deadlines unless they are brought to the attention of the instructor at least 48 hours prior to the deadline and accompanied by the ticket number from technical support.

Microsoft Office programs are required for many of the assignments; they can be accessed by current UF students through GatorCloud.

## LATE WORK

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Late work will not be accepted, unless there is written documentation from the Dean of Students Office (<https://care.dso.ufl.edu/instructor-notifications/>), or due to a documented technical issue. You should submit the documentation to the DSO first and THEN email me saying that you have sent in the documentation. Do NOT submit any medical documentation to me. *Extension requests within 48 hours of the deadline need to be accompanied by the progress made in the assignment thus far in order to be considered.* It is up to the student to make sure that I receive the notification from the DSO in a timely fashion (within 5 business days of the absence). If there is an issue with you completing your assignments on time, contact your instructor immediately. Do not wait until the last minute!

## MAKE-UPS

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There are no make-ups available for assignments. Once assigned, assignments are always available online up until the deadlines. *Extension requests within 48 hours of the deadline need to be accompanied by the progress made in the assignment thus far in order to be considered.* It is especially important not to wait until just before the deadlines to complete assignments. A computer problem happening just before the deadline is not a valid excuse for not completing the assignment. If there is a technical problem with accessing the website or a particular assignment within CANVAS, you must contact eLearning technical support and the online instructor at least 48 hours prior to the deadline, so appropriate steps can be taken to fix the issue and appropriate extensions can be given if necessary. Thus, check early that you can access the assignments. You will not be granted an extension for technical problems, if you do not contact the online instructor before the deadline. It is best to get your assignments done at least two days early. It is your responsibility to have and maintain all the equipment and services necessary to participate in an online course.

**Repeated for emphasis: Technical problems must be reported to the online instructor at least 48 hours prior to the submission deadline, no exceptions!**

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

## DROP/ADD/WITHDRAWAL

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A student can drop/add during the drop/add period with no penalty. After drop/add, a student who drops will receive a W until the date listed in the academic calendar. After that date, the student may be assigned an “E” (fail). Note: it is the responsibility of the STUDENT to withdraw from a course, not the instructor. Failure to participate/complete the class does NOT constitute a drop.

## COURSE EVALUATIONS

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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/>.

## IV. UF POLICIES

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UF Online students are bound by the same UF policies as on-campus students. Please read through this section in full.

## UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC CONDUCT

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UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students 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." The [Student Honor Code](#) specifies the number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions, including at minimum a zero on the assignment and a letter grade drop in the course. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

Use of GroupMe, Discord, and similar group chats facilitate communication and can be an important part of creating community in a course, especially an online course. However, such groups typically exclude instructional staff and present great temptation for unauthorized academic dishonesty as described above. ***In this course, the use of GroupMe, etc. to share answers, screenshots of quizzes, “compare” work, etc. is not authorized.*** Discussion of exam content, questions, in any fashion, on any medium, will result in an Honor Code report for everyone who participates in the forum on which the exam information is shared, a penalty of no less than a zero on the exam, and an automatic failing grade in the course for anyone found to have posted exam information. All students participating in such forums will be presumed to have benefitted from answers posted to a GroupMe or other chat will be subject to penalties outlined above. Instructors will monitor the discussion boards on Canvas, and authoritative answers to questions about material or course mechanics can be found there.

***The use of artificial intelligence in academic settings is considered a violation of academic conduct*** due to its potential to undermine the principles of individual learning, critical thinking, and originality. Academic integrity is built on the foundation of students engaging with course material independently, demonstrating their understanding of concepts, and expressing their unique perspectives. Utilizing AI, such as automated essay generators or machine-based solutions, circumvents this essential process, leading to the submission of work that does not genuinely reflect the student's own comprehension or intellectual effort. Additionally, it compromises the fairness of evaluation, as it becomes challenging for educators to assess the true capabilities and knowledge of each student. Therefore, the incorporation of AI in academic work contradicts the ethical standards and principles of academic integrity. Grammarly or other grammar checking software is also prohibited.

***Cheating, including plagiarism, will result in consequences include at minimum a 0 on the assignment and a course letter grade drop.*** Additional sanctions can apply, including a failing grade for the entire course. Sanctions for cheating may be applied in a retroactive manner.

## ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

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Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter that must be presented to the

instructor when requesting an accommodation. Note that the student should provide documentation of a requirement for accommodation **by the second week of classes**. No accommodations are available to students who lack this documentation. It is the policy of the University of Florida that the student, not the instructor, is responsible for arranging accommodations when needed. Once notification is complete, the Dean of Students Office of Disability Resources will work with the instructor to accommodate the student. Accommodations are not retroactive.

## CLASS DEMEANOR OR NETIQUETTE

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All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions, and chats. Review the [Netiquette Guide for Online Courses](#) for expected student behavior.

In this course, we emphasize the importance of maintaining a professional and respectful tone when communicating with faculty members. Effective communication is a key component of a positive learning environment, and students are expected to use appropriate language and exhibit a respectful attitude in all interactions with faculty and teaching assistants. This includes written correspondence such as emails and discussion forum posts, as well as verbal communication during office hours. Constructive and thoughtful dialogue enhances the educational experience for everyone involved. Disagreements or concerns should be expressed in a courteous manner, fostering an environment where diverse perspectives are valued. While open discourse is encouraged, it is important to note that the instructor is dedicated to maintaining a positive and constructive learning environment. As such, they are not obligated to tolerate disrespectful or inappropriate language in emails or any other form of communication. Clear and courteous communication is expected from all participants, and any violation of these standards may result in appropriate measures being taken. This policy is in place to ensure that our learning community remains inclusive, supportive, and conducive to the intellectual growth of all individuals involved.

## MINIMUM TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

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The University of Florida expects students entering an online program to acquire computer hardware and software appropriate to his or her degree program. Most computers can meet the following general requirements. A student's computer configuration should include:

- Webcam
- Microphone
- Broadband connection to the Internet and related equipment (Cable/DSL modem)
- Microsoft Office Suite installed (provided by the university). It is highly recommended that students use the desktop version, not the online version.

Individual colleges may have additional requirements or recommendations, which students should review prior to the start of their program.

## SOFTWARE USE

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All faculty, staff, and students at 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. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

## VIRTUAL CLASS SESSIONS

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Our virtual class sessions, if any, may be audio-visually recorded for students in the class to refer back. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who unmute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials are prohibited.

## V. TECHNOLOGIES

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This course uses the following technologies:

### HONORLOCK

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Honorlock is an online proctoring service that allows students to take exams on-demand 24/7. There are no scheduling requirements or fees.

You will need a laptop or desktop computer with a webcam, a microphone, and a photo ID. The webcam and microphone can be either integrated or external USB devices.

Honorlock requires that you use the [Google Chrome browser](#); furthermore, the Honorlock extension must be added to Chrome.

For further information, FAQs, and technical support, please visit [Honorlock](#).

### ZOOM

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Zoom is an easy-to-use video conferencing service available to all UF students, faculty, and staff that allows for meetings of up to 100 participants.

You can find resources and help using Zoom at <https://ufl.zoom.us>.

## VI. GETTING HELP

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Resources are available at [Distance Learning's Getting Help](#) for:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

Should you have any complaints about your experience in this course, please visit [Distance Learning's Student Complaint Process](#) to submit a complaint.

College can be a very stressful time in a person's life. Resources are available on campus to help students meet academic goals and solve personal problems, which may interfere with their academic performance. If you find that you are having difficulty emotionally or academically, there is substantial support available. See "*A Self Help Guide for Students*" or contact one of the following services:

- UF Counseling and Wellness Center, Radio Rd Facility, 392-1575
- Dean of Students Office, 202 Peabody Hall, 392-1261
- Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601
- CLAS Academic Advising Center, Farrior Hall, 100 Fletcher Drive, 392-1521
- UF Field and Fork Pantry, 564 Newell Dr., 294-3601

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students (202 Peabody Hall, 392-1261) for support. Furthermore, please notify your instructor(s) if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable us to provide any resources that we may possess.

## TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES

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For issues with technical difficulties for Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu> or (352) 392-HELP (4357).

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues **MUST** be accompanied by the ticket number received from the Help Desk 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 a make-up.

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

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- **U Matter, We Care:** If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit [umatter.ufl.edu](http://umatter.ufl.edu) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- **Counseling and Wellness Center:** Visit [counseling.ufl.edu](http://counseling.ufl.edu) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- **Student Health Care Center:** Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need or visit [shcc.ufl.edu](http://shcc.ufl.edu).
- **University Police Department:** Visit [police.ufl.edu](http://police.ufl.edu) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- **UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center:** For immediate medical care in Gainesville, call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [ufhealth.org/locations/uf-health-shands-emergency-room-trauma-center/](http://ufhealth.org/locations/uf-health-shands-emergency-room-trauma-center/).

## ACADEMIC AND STUDENT SUPPORT

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- **Career Connections Center:** 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services: [career.ufl.edu/](http://career.ufl.edu/)
- **Library Support:** Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources: [uflib.ufl.edu/](http://uflib.ufl.edu/)
- **Teaching Center:** 352-392-2010 General study skills and tutoring: [academicresources.clas.ufl.edu/](http://academicresources.clas.ufl.edu/)
- **Writing Studio:** 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers: [writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/](http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/)

## VII. PRIVACY AND ACCESSIBILITY POLICIES

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For information about the privacy policies of the tools used in this course, see the links below:

Technology	Privacy Policy	Accessibility Policy/Statement
Instructure (Canvas)	<a href="#">Privacy Policy</a>	<a href="#">Accessibility</a>
Sonic Foundry (Mediasite Streaming Video Player)	<a href="#">Privacy Policy</a>	<a href="#">Accessibility</a>
Zoom	<a href="#">Privacy Policy</a>	<a href="#">Accessibility</a>

Technology	Privacy Policy	Accessibility Policy/Statement
YouTube (Google)	<a href="#">Privacy Policy</a>	<a href="#">Accessibility</a>
Microsoft	<a href="#">Privacy Policy</a>	<a href="#">Accessibility</a>
Adobe	<a href="#">Privacy Policy</a>	<a href="#">Accessibility</a>
Honorlock	<a href="#">Privacy Policy</a>	<a href="#">Accessibility</a>
SimUText	<a href="#">Privacy Policy</a>	<a href="#">Accessibility</a>
Visual Classrooms	<a href="#">Privacy Policy</a>	<a href="#">Accessibility</a>

## VIII. COURSE SCHEDULE

Start/End Dates	Module # and Name	Readings	Assessments
5/12 – 19	0: <b>Course Orientation</b>	Syllabus Course Overview Student Support Welcome video SimBio page	<b>Reading Quiz:</b> Course Orientation Quiz <b>Collaborative Space:</b> Introductory post with video
5/12 – 19	1: <b>Ecology Overview</b>	SimUText: Evolution for Ecology Sections 1, 2, 3	<b>Intro Activity:</b> Nature walk <b>Reading quiz:</b> SimUText sections <b>Individual Lab:</b> SimUText Tutorial: Understanding Experimental Design <b>Collaborative Space:</b> None
5/18 – 27	2: <b>Evolution &amp; Physiology</b>	SimUText: Physiological Ecology Sections 2, 3, 4	<b>Intro Activity:</b> VC Adaptation vs Acclimation <b>Reading quiz:</b> SimUText sections <b>Group Lab:</b> Create the Ideal Species <b>Collaborative Space:</b> Create the Ideal Species, comment on at least two others
5/25 – 6/2	3: <b>Climate &amp; Biomes</b>	SimUText: Biogeography Section 4 Physiological Ecology Section 1	<b>Intro Activity:</b> VC Circulation Cells and Ecosystems <b>Reading quiz:</b> SimUText sections <b>Group Lab:</b> Biomes <b>Collaborative Space:</b> Climate diagram presentation and discussion <b>Pre Journal Club:</b> 5 Tips for Journal Club First-Timers

Start/ End Dates	Module # and Name	Readings	Assessments
6/1 – 9	4: <b>Evolutionary Strategies Among Organisms</b>	SimUText: Life History Sections 1, 2, 3, 4	<b>Intro Activity:</b> Graph and Share Lizard Mass <b>Reading quiz:</b> SimUText sections <b>Individual Lab:</b> Duckweed Lab <b>Journal Club:</b> <i>Rockstrom et al. 2009. A Safe Operating Space for Humanity</i>
6/8 – 16	5: <b>Population Growth and Regulation</b>	SimUText: Population Growth Sections 1, 2, 3, 4	<b>Intro Activity:</b> VC Factors Affecting Growth <b>Reading quiz:</b> SimUText sections <b>Individual Lab:</b> Measuring Abundance and Dispersion
6/15 – 30	6: <b>Competition</b>	SimUText: Competition Sections 1, 2, 3, 4	<b>Intro Activity:</b> VC Generate Growth Trajectory <b>Reading quiz:</b> SimUText sections <b>Individual Lab:</b> The Barnacle Zone SimUText WB <b>Collaborative Space:</b> Discuss your results from the Abundance lab. <b>Journal Club:</b> <i>Janzen 1977. Why Fruits Rot, Seeds Mold, and Meat Spoils</i>
<b>6/23 – 6/27 Summer Break</b>			
7/2	<b>EXAM 1 (Modules 1-6)</b>		
6/29 – 7/7	7: <b>Ecology of Disease</b>	No Readings	<b>Intro Activity:</b> Graph and Share Chipmunks and Acorns <b>Reading quiz:</b> NONE <b>Individual Lab:</b> How Diseases Spread SimUText <i>Duckweed Results due July 1</i> <b>Collaborative Space:</b> West Nile Virus
7/6 – 14	8: <b>Species Interactions</b>	SimUText: Predation, Herbivory, Parasitism Sections 1, 2, 3, 4	<b>Intro Activity:</b> Graph and Share Species Interactions <b>Reading quiz:</b> SimUText sections <b>Individual Lab:</b> Isle Royale SimUText <b>Collaborative Space:</b> Duckweed Proposal
7/13 – 21	9: <b>Behavioral Ecology</b>	SimUText: Behavioral Ecology Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	<b>Intro Activity:</b> VC Applying the Marginal Value Theorem <b>Reading quiz:</b> SimUText sections <b>Lab:</b> Ethograms: scan sampling vs focal animal sampling <b>Collaborative Space:</b> Sampling Data <b>Journal Club:</b> <i>Emlen, Oring 1977. Ecology, Sexual Selection, and the Evolution of Mating Systems</i>
7/20 – 28	10: <b>Community Structure, Food Webs, Energy Flow</b>	SimUText: Community Dynamics Sections 1, 2, 3, 4	<b>Intro Activity:</b> VC Food Web Producer <b>Reading quiz:</b> SimUText sections <b>Individual Lab:</b> Top-Down Control SimUText WB <b>Journal Club:</b> <i>Costanza et al. 1997. The Value of the World's Ecosystem Services and Natural Capital</i>

Start/ End Dates	Module # and Name	Readings	Assessments
7/27 – 8/4	11: <b>Ecosystems: Biogeochemical Cycling</b>	SimUText: Nutrient Cycling Sections 1, 2, 3, 4	<b>Intro Activity:</b> VC Box and Arrow Diagram <b>Reading quiz:</b> SimUText sections <b>Individual Lab:</b> Nutrient Pollution SimUText <b>Collaborative Space:</b> Gersmehl diagrams <b>Journal Club:</b> <i>Sutherland et al. 2009</i> . One hundred questions of importance to the conservation of global biological diversity
7/27– 8/7	12: <b>Landscape Ecology &amp; Biogeography</b>	SimUText: Biogeography Sections 1, 2, 3	<b>Intro Activity:</b> VC Island Biogeography <b>Reading quiz:</b> SimUText sections <b>Lab:</b> NONE
8/7	<b>EXAM 2 (Modules 7 - 12)</b>		

\* Modules 11 and 12 will open at the same time, M12 will end later.

\*\* An extra credit assignment in SimUText (Climate Change) will be released on July 14<sup>th</sup> and due on August 4<sup>th</sup>. More details will follow on Canvas Announcements.

## VIV. DISCLAIMER

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This syllabus represents the instructor's current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.