

ZOO 4926/ZOO 6456C – Diversity of Fishes
Spring 2024, 4 credits
Taught by faculty and staff of the
Florida Museum of Natural History

Instructors: Dr. Larry M. Page, Mr. Robert H. Robins, Mr. Zachary S. Randall

Offices: Special Collections Building (#640, 3207 Hull Road), Room 120)

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Office hours: By appointment

Course content. This course will examine the diversity of fishes with an emphasis on FL and be taught by Larry Page, curator of fishes at Florida Museum of Natural History (FLMNH); Rob Robins, collection manager of fishes, FLMNH; and Zach Randall, Manager, Digital Imaging Division, FLMNH.

In addition to identification, classification, biogeography, and phylogenetic relationships of fishes, the course will emphasize morphological, behavioral, and ecological adaptations of fishes living in different environments, natural history collections management, and digitization of specimens and associated data.

Format. Lectures and labs in the Special Collections Building (#640), optional field trips, an individual or group research project.

Lectures and labs: TuTh, 6th-7th hour, 12:50-2:45 Wet Collections Building Room 120 (3207 Hull Road)

Research assignment: an individual or group research project will be completed during the semester. Topics will be identified during the first 2 weeks of class. A written report and oral presentation on the research are due the last week of class.

Optional field trips will include visits to marine, estuarine, and freshwater habitats to explore the breadth of habitats and diversity of fishes in Florida. Overnight trips may be possible.

Exams and grades. A mid-term (100 pts) and a final exam (150 pts) will be given on the material covered in lectures, and a mid-term (100 pts) and a final exam (150 pts) will be given on the material covered in labs. Final exams cover material for the entire semester. The research paper (50 pts) and presentation (50 pts) are due the last week of class.

Prerequisites: Introductory biology course

Required Textbook. None

Students may find the following species identification guides useful for lab meetings.

Robins, R. H., L. M. Page, J. D. Williams, Z. S. Randall, and G. E. Sheehy. 2018. Fishes in the fresh

waters of Florida. University of Florida Press, Gainesville.

Page, L. M., and B. M. Burr. 2011. A field guide to freshwater fishes of North America north of Mexico (Peterson Field Guide). Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Co., Boston.

Kells, V. and K. Carpenter. 2011. A field guide to coastal fishes from Maine to Texas Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, Baltimore.

Additional information

Accommodations for students with disabilities: Students who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester. Requesting 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. Please contact the DRC or your instructor as early as possible in the semester to ensure that you receive the necessary accommodations.

Course Evaluations: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be notified of specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

Academic Integrity

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 honor 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 Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. 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 or TAs in this class.

U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services: Student Health Care Center, 392-1161. University Police Department, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies). <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>
E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>. Career Connections Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://career.ufl.edu/>
Library Support: <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/> Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

Basic Needs: Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support – 4 see <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu>. Please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so, and visit The **Field and Fork Pantry** <https://pantry.fieldandfork.ufl.edu> for additional resources. The **Molm Family Gator Career Closet** (link) alleviates the financial strain of purchasing professional clothing for career fairs, interviews, and the workplace. This service is available to all University of Florida students with a valid UF ID and UF alumni up to one year after graduation.