

Introduction to Collections and Research in Natural History Museums

ZOO6927 Section 125D
ENY6905 Section 15HE
ANG6930 Section 2F11

Instructors: Dr. David C. Blackburn, Dr. Kitty F. Emery, Dr. Akito Y. Kawahara

General Class Information

Course Summary:

This course will introduce graduate students to research and collections in natural history museums, with a focus on the Florida Museum of Natural History. Each week we will either discuss important topics in the operations and management of scientific collections or we will tour different collections in the Florida Museum of Natural History.

Course Credit: 1 Credit hour

Course Schedule:

Across 14 weeks of the semester, we will have six in-class meetings dedicated to specific topics including (1) data management, (2) genetic resources, (3) ethics and permitting, and (4) imaging. In addition, for eight of the class meetings we will tour collections and divisions within the Florida Museum of Natural History, including (1) environmental archaeology, (2) ethnography, (3) ichthyology, (4) mammalogy, (5) the Herbarium, (6) Lepidoptera, (7) vertebrate paleontology, and (8) Exhibits & Education.

Course Meetings:

The course will meet once each week, either in room 222 of Carr Hall or in the scientific collections of Dickinson Hall or McGuire Hall. Details about the dates of specific collections tours and in-class meetings, including where to meet for each class and names of guest speakers, are located below in “Course Details.”

Thursday, Period 7 (1:55 – 2:45 pm)

Instructors:

Dr. David C. Blackburn
Associate Curator of Herpetology
Florida Museum of Natural History
Email: dblackburn@flmnh.ufl.edu
Office hours: By appointment. Office: 262 Dickinson Hall.

Dr. Kitty F. Emery
Associate Curator of Environmental Archeology
Florida Museum of Natural History
Email: kemery@flmnh.ufl.edu
Office hours: By appointment. Office: 114 Dickinson Hall.

Dr. Akito Y. Kawahara
Associate Curator of Lepidoptera
Florida Museum of Natural History
Email: kawahara@flmnh.ufl.edu
Office hours: By appointment. Office: 218 McGuire Hall.

Grading and Exams:

Grades will be based on attendance and active participation in all discussions and all tours of collections. Students are expected to do reading of any course materials before each class. Students will be expected to participate in collaboratively drafting a summary document about the current state and future of natural history museums in the 21st century.

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend all classes. Absences will be excused with a doctor's note provided within 1 week or if previously arranged with the instructor.

University of Florida Policy Statements

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>

Absences and Make-Up Work

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>

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>.

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/>

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/
 - Counseling Services
 - Groups and Workshops
 - Outreach and Consultation
 - Self-Help Library
 - Training Programs
- U Matter We Care, www.umatter.ufl.edu/
- Career Resource Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, www.crc.ufl.edu/

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, 392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/

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

<http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process> for more details.

Sexual Harassment

It is the policy of The University of Florida to provide an educational and working environment for its students, faculty, and staff that is free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment. In accordance with federal and state law, the University prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment. Sex

discrimination and sexual harassment will not be tolerated, and individuals who engage in such conduct will be subject to disciplinary action. The University encourages students, faculty, staff, and visitors to promptly report sex discrimination and sexual harassment. If you believe you have been subjected to sex discrimination or sexual harassment please report the incident to me or any University official, administrator, or supervisor. The Office of Human Resource Services investigates all complaints. Incidents should be reported as soon as possible after the time of their occurrence (larry-ellis@ufl.edu).

Course Details

Schedule

Week 1 (Aug. 24):

Carr Hall, room 222

Introduction to course

Guest:

Dr. Doug Jones, FLMNH Director and Curator

Week 2 (Aug. 31):

Meet at Powell Hall entrance

Exhibits and Education

Guest:

Darcie MacMahon, Director of Exhibits and Public Programs

Week 3 (Sept. 7):

Carr Hall, room 222

Genetic & Computational Resources

Guests:

Dr. Pam Soltis, Curator, Molecular Systematics

Dr. Matt Gitzendanner, Associate Scientist, Molecular Systematics

Dr. Jessica Oswald, Postdoc Blackburn/Guralnick/Steadman Labs

Week 4 (Sept 14):

Meet at Dickinson Hall entrance

Herbarium

Guests:

Kent Perkins, Collection Manager, Herbarium

Dr. Mark Whitten, Senior Biologist, Herbarium

Week 5 (Sept 21):

Carr Hall, room 222

Imaging Resources

Guests:

Zach Randall, Research Technician, Ichthyology

Dr. Ed Stanley, Associate Scientist, Herpetology

David Plotkin, Graduate Student, Kawahara Lab

Week 6 (Sept 28):

Meet at Dickinson Hall entrance

Vertebrate Paleontology

Guest:

Richard Hulbert, Collection Manager, Vertebrate Paleontology

Week 7 (Oct. 5):

Meet at Dickinson Hall entrance
Environmental Archaeology

Guest:

Dr. Kitty Emery, Associate Curator, Environmental Archeology

Week 8 (Oct. 12):

Meet at Dickinson Hall entrance
Ethnography and FLMNH Registrar

Guests:

Dr. Bill Marquardt, Curator, S. Florida Archeology & Ethnography

Elise Lecompte, Anthropology Registrar

Week 9 (Oct. 19):

Carr Hall, room 222
Digital Data (Management and Tools)

Guests:

Dr. Rob Guralnick, Associate Curator, Informatics

FLMNH Office of Museum Technology

Week 10 (Oct. 26):

Meet at Powell Hall entrance
Lepidoptera

Guest:

Dr. Andrei Sourakov, Collection Manager, Lepidoptera

Week 11 (Nov. 2):

Meet at Dickinson Hall entrance
Ichthyology

Guest:

Rob Robbins, Collection Manager, Ichthyology

Week 12 (Nov 9):

Carr Hall, room 222
Ethics & Permitting

Guest:

Elise Lecompte, Anthropology Registrar

Dr. Tom Webber, Collection Manager, Ornithology

Week 13 (Nov 16):

Meet at Dickinson Hall entrance
Mammalogy

Guest:

Dr. Verity Mathis, Collection Manager, Mammalogy

Week 14: (Nov. 30):

Carr Hall, room 222
Course Wrap-up