

# ALS 5156

## Agricultural Ecology

Fall 2013  
Section 03BE  
MWF 9:25 – 10:25 (period 3)  
Rm. 1031, Entomology & Nematology  
Bldg (AKA Steinmetz Hall)

Instructor: Jennifer Weeks  
E-Mail: jenweeks1@ufl.edu  
Phone: 273-3955  
Office: 3103 Entomology Bldg.  
Office Hours: 10:30-11:30 MWF, or by appt.

### Overview

Explore the processes controlling soil-water-plant-atmosphere interactions for agricultural systems.

### Goals

- Learn key ecological principles applicable to most ecosystems;
- Understand the principles and functions of agroecosystems;
- Examine current issues relevant to agricultural ecology.
- Think critically about the information you read, see, and hear before formulating an opinion on a topic.

### Grades and Evaluation

Exam 1	100 pts.
Exam 2	100 pts.
Exam 3	100 pts.
In-class exercises	100 pts. (10-20 @ 5-10 pts. each)
Abstract	15 pts.
Presentation	25 pts.
Bibliography	10 pts.
<b>Total</b>	<b>450 pts.</b>

### Textbook

Powers, L.E. and R. McSorley. 2000. Ecological Principles of Agriculture. Delmar Thomson Learning, Albany, NY. (Available as e-book through UF library).

### Important Dates

Test 1	Wed., Oct 2
Test 2	Wed., Oct 30
Test 3	Wed., Dec. 4
Field Trip 1	Fri., Sep 6
Field Trip 2	Wed., Sep 18
Field Trip 3	Mon., Oct. 14

### Grade Scale

For more information see:  
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

A	92 - 100
A-	90 - 91
B++	87 - 89
B	83 - 86
B-	80 - 82
C+	77 - 79
C	73 - 76
C-	70 - 72
D+	67 - 69
D	63 - 66
D-	60 - 62
E	0 - 59

Note: There may be one or two small extra credit opportunities advertised in the lecture designed to push borderline grades up. Do not conduct yourself in the course as though there will be additional opportunities to bring up your grades should you miss multiple in-class assignments. The extra credit will be minimal and will not be helpful in those circumstances.

## **Course Website**

I will maintain a course website via SAKAI. There is a tentative calendar of lecture topics and important dates posted there. I will use the website to deliver important announcements and reminders about field trips and test and the occasional reading that may be assigned.

I will post the lecture notes on the website after they are delivered in class. I will also use the site to deliver important

You should use the SAKAI site to communicate with me (via the mail tool) and should feel free to use it to for discussion of course-related topics with other students.

## **Absences and Make-Up Work**

Attendance is not required, but strongly encouraged. There will often be unannounced, in-class group work or discussions that total 100 points over the course of the semester. I realize that occasionally life happens and you miss class. You have two "get out of jail free cards" that you can use to get a make-up assignment if you miss a day that had in-class exercises worth points (These cannot be used on exam days!). Other than that, you will not have the opportunity to earn points from in-class exercises that were missed unless your absence is deemed acceptable as outlined by the UF policy listed on the website below.

If you miss an exam, you must have an acceptable reason for your absence that includes verification with a doctor's note, etc. Otherwise, the score for the missed exam will be the average of the other two exams minus 10 points.

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>

## **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: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/SCCR/honorcodes/honordate.php>.

## **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 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  
[www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/)*

*3190 Radio Rd. 392-1575*

*Career Resource Center*

*First Floor JWRU 392-1601*

*[www.crc.ufl.edu/](http://www.crc.ufl.edu/)*

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. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.