

Florida Environmental Systems
PCB 1440 CRN 15541
Hybrid Fall 2009

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Leesa L. Sward

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 7am-8:30am; 1130am-1:30pm; Virtual hours: M-F 2:00pm-3:00pm;

OFFICE: Room 249

PHONE: Work: 407-582-6925 **FAX:** 407-582-6170 **EMAIL:** lsward@atlas.valenciac.edu

WEBSITE: <http://frontdoor.valenciac.edu/?lsward>

WebCT6: This is a hybrid and WebCT6 enhanced course, the website can be accessed by logging on to <http://webct6.valenciac.edu/> You will use your Atlas account ID and password to access the course syllabus, assignments and handouts etc.

CLASS MEETS: 9:00am – 3:00pm Saturday; Dates 11/14, 11/21, 12/5, 12/12; online assignments continue through Dec. 16th.

PLACE: Wekiwa Springs State Park and Canaveral National Seashore/ Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Priceless Florida: Natural Ecosystems and Native Species
2. National Audubon Society: Field Guide to Florida

PRE AND COREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Focuses on Florida ecology. Combination of lecture and field techniques used to study a variety of habitats. Topics include energy flow through food chains, flora, fauna, environmental surveys and general ecology. Prior exposure to general biology topics recommended. No prior experience required.

This course requires a flexible attitude and openness to new outdoor experiences. Since we spend most of our time outdoors, we cannot predict what our experiences will bring. Students will need some degree of hardiness, as conditions in the field may occasionally be uncomfortable (hot, cold, humid).

Since this is a hybrid and WebCT enhanced course you will submit and access many assignments on-line. We will use these tools to ensure that you have a productive and rewarding class experience.

WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE and POLICY: Class attendance is required the first week of class. If you do not attend class during the first week of class, you may be withdrawn from the class as a “no show.” The deadline for withdrawing from this class with a grade of W is Friday, Dec. 11, 2009. After that date, withdrawing from class will result in a grade of either WP or WF, depending on your average as of the date of your withdrawal or last date of attendance. If a student decides to withdraw prior to the final exam, it is the student’s responsibility to complete official procedures through the registrar’s office. If you do not withdraw and fail to take the required final examination, the instructor will assign you an F. Please refer to the College catalog for more details.

COMPETENCIES:

Valencia faculty defined four interrelated competencies (Think, Value, Communicate, Act) that prepare students to succeed in the world community.

Think: Think clearly, critically and creatively, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate concepts

Value: Make reasoned judgments and responsible commitments

Communicate: Communicate with different audiences using varied means

Act: Act purposefully, effectively, and responsibly

This course will further develop your mastery of these core competencies through classroom lecture and discussion, group work, and class activities.

The class will also reinforce skills and competencies applicable to CLAST

LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR FLORIDA ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS:

The following learning outcomes describe what students should know, understand, and/or be able to do with their new knowledge at the end of this course.

Learning Outcomes	Assessments	Valencia’s Core Competencies
Students will identify and describe listed Florida species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Survey, Quizzes, powerpoint presentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Think, Communicate, Act, Value
Students will demonstrate their ability to use field guides to identify various flora and fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quizzes, Environmental Survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Think, Communicate, Act, Value
Students will demonstrate knowledge of ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> discussion board posts, quizzes, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Think, Communicate

GRADING SCALE:

The final grade will be determined as a percentage of **total possible points** earned. Letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

A=90-100% B=80-89% C=70-79% D=60-69% F=Below 60%

GRADE COMPOSITION (point values subject to change)

1. Pre-Post Environmental Surveys 11 @ 20pts = 210
2. **Class attendance:** for every absence you will receive a letter grade lower on your cumulative final grade
3. Listed Species PowerPoint presentation (46 pts) (post on webct)
4. Reading content quizzes 4 @ 20 pts each = 80pts (taken at the beginning of each class)
5. Webct discussion board assignment 1 @ 30pts = 30pts
6. Field Quizzes 2-4 @20pts = 40- 80pts (cover plants, animals and ecosystem features)
7. Final exam on webct

CLASS POLICIES:

1. VALENCIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE WEEKEND POLICY: I welcome your attendance at each Saturday session. It is important that you are here each Saturday. The format of these classes is structured in such a way that **attendance is MANDATORY**. Please give careful consideration to your options the first day of class.
2. Be sure you have backup transportation options, in case of care trouble. Your instructor is authorized to withdraw a student that misses more than four hours of class.
3. ATTENDANCE: You are expected to arrive on time and leave when the instructor ends class. Leaving after a break will be considered an absence. A sign-in roll will be provided at the beginning of class or any field work segment. It is your responsibility to sign in at the beginning of class, as this is your evidence of prompt arrival. Although carpooling with your group is encouraged, groups must also adhere to the attendance policy.
4. ASSIGNMENTS are to be turned in at the beginning of class. **No late assignments accepted.** You can email your assignment to me, but for assignments to be considered on time, the date and time on the email must be before the class on which the assignment is due.
5. CLASS LOCATIONS: It is your responsibility to understand and verify the location of the field trip, as field meeting locations may change during the term. Call or email me or your classmates if you are unclear of the location. Be sure you know where each meeting place will be.
6. PARKS AND REFUGES: No plant or animal collecting is allowed. Bring a camera or do sketches to help you remember what you have observed.

7. **WEATHER:** If weather causes cancellation of field trips for an entire class day, we will meet on the Winter Park Campus in room 242

READING CONTENT QUIZZES:

These quizzes will be given at the beginning of every class. They are short answer and essay type questions. The quiz material will come from the assigned readings. **Quizzes cannot be made up.**

FIELD QUIZZES:

These quizzes will be given at the end of class. They are mainly identification quizzes covering the flora and fauna observed in the field that day. Some questions may be taken from in field lecture/discussion. **Quizzes cannot be made up.**

WEBCT DISCUSSION BOARD: This area on webct will be used for an environmental issue discussion. You will read and post an answer to an environmental scenario and then reply to other students' answers.

Answer Post 1a:

Your "answer post" should be at least 200 to 250 words and should reflect your thinking process, and facts supporting your decision. You will earn 6 pts. for having the appropriate word count; 10 pts. for reflective "own" thinking; and 4 pts. for examples and references.

Your 1b Reply :

After reading all student "answer" posts 1a:

Please thoughtfully respond to the post of two other classmates. You may comment on their decision and justification for action on the given problem. Each of your reply posts should be at least 100 words and relevant to the posting, thoughtful and offer useful comments or questions on the author's decision for acting on the particular problem. Each post is worth 4 points and reading all student "answer" posts is 2 pts.

LISTED SPECIES PRESENTATION POSTING:

Post your Listed Species PowerPoint Presentation on the webct discussion board. To post your powerpoint go to the tab "create message" and click; put the title of your paper in the subject line; click "add attachments"; the "get files" screen will appear; click "my computer"; click "browse"; then find your powerpoint on your computer and select it; then click "open"; then the window "upload file from your computer" will appear; click ok; then click "post".

HANDOUTS:

1. Some supplemental materials will be handed out during class. All other materials will be posted on WebCt
2. If you are absent from the class when handouts are distributed or you misplace them, access them from WebCT
3. Maps to field trip locations are best accessed through map quest from your home.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

1. Each student is expected to be in compliance with the college catalog and student handbook.
2. Students are expected to do their own work. Students who plagiarize or cheat in any way risk dismissal from class and expulsion from the college

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE/STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Your class behavior should not inhibit learning by other students.
2. It is important, while walking in the field, to listen for animal sounds.
3. All students will follow Valencia Student Code of Conduct. Violation of the Student Code of Classroom Conduct shall constitute grounds for student disciplinary action as provided in Policy 6Hx28:10-04.
4. Cell phones can be carried for emergency outgoing calls only. Ringer should be off during class and field work.

EVACUATION: Please make note of evacuation route from your classroom in case of emergency. Interpret all audible alarms as valid and act accordingly.

SPECIAL NEEDS:

1. Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a letter from the office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with the professor, preferably during the first two weeks of class. The office for Students with Disabilities determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities (Winter Park Campus, room 203; (407-582-6887).
2. Please follow the college policy relating to children on campus and make arrangements for childcare outside of classrooms or labs.

WebCT COMPONENT

This course uses WebCT to support in-class learning. You will be using WebCT to access your on-line quizzes, discussion assignments, course calendar, scores for course work, and all email communications for this course. If you do not presently have a computer, the Library has computers available for you to use. If you are unfamiliar with WebCT and would like to check out Valencia's online support page, go to <http://www.valenciacc.edu/helpnow/valencia101a.asp> If you follow this link, it will take you to the WebCT tutorial page with important information, such as: 1) a listing of skills needed to succeed in online coursework at Valencia, 2) a list of software applications commonly used by students to complete their online coursework, 3) links to view free tutorials available online that will show you how to navigate and use these applications, 4) information on the hardware/internet requirements for online learning at Valencia. Please check out this site.

If you have difficulty accessing WebCT on your computer, or difficulty opening different pages on the class website, you can do several things:

1. Contact WebCT Student Help at 407-582-5600, or send an email to: WebCT6help@valenciacc.edu
2. Contact Valencia Student Help at 407-299-5000 extension 5444
3. Use computers in the Library

If you experience problems with WebCT, try these above options immediately. If these options fail to take care of the problem, contact me as soon as possible. You are responsible for insuring that you receive all and any information relating to this course!

Netiquette (Discussion Boards and email): The term "netiquette" refers to the awareness of the need for a certain code of behavior (etiquette) in electronic environments (the net)...Net + Etiquette = netiquette.

In order to maintain a positive online environment for our class, we all need to follow the netiquette guidelines summarized below.

All students are expected to:

- Show respect for the instructor and for other students in the class
- Respect the privacy of other students
- Express differences of opinion in a polite and rational way
- Maintain an environment of constructive criticism when commenting on the work of other students
- Avoid bringing up irrelevant topics when involved in group discussions or other collaborative activities

The following list summarizes the kind of behavior that is not acceptable. Each item listed below is grounds for removal from the class.

Students should not:

- Show disrespect for the instructor or for other students in the class
- Send messages or comments that are threatening, harassing, or offensive
- Use inappropriate or offensive language
- Convey a hostile or confrontational tone when communicating or working collaboratively with other students
- **USE ALL UPPERCASE IN THEIR MESSAGES—THIS IS THE EQUIVALENT OF SHOUTING!!**

If I feel that a student is violating any of the above guidelines, I will contact that student to discuss the situation in person. If you feel that a student is behaving inappropriately, please send me a private email message explaining the situation as soon as possible.

If you are engaging in electronic environments as a member of this class then you are subject to the same expectations and rules of conduct any teacher or administrator might expect of you in a face-to-face environment. Additionally, whether or not you are entering an electronic environment as a member of the class, if you are doing so via a WebCT or Atlas account, you are legally responsible to abide by Valencia's policies and expectations.

DISCLAIMER:

The syllabus and course schedule is subject to change.

DATE	TIME	TENTATIVE SCHEDULE	READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS
Week 1 Nov 11		On your own Login to webct and begin getting familiar with the class.	Text: Priceless Florida; Part 1 and Part 7 Read and take notes on this material Be prepared for a quiz on this material when you come to class on the 14 th .
Week 1 Nov. 14 Saturday	9:00a – 3:00 p	Wekiwa Springs State Park 1800 Wekiwa Springs Rd. Apopka, Fl. 32712 Go to the springs/sinkhole pavilion parking area...all the way to the end and park near the two pavilions. Be sure to bring Food, Water, Sunscreen, and Bug repellent to every class....	Text: Priceless Florida; Part 2 Interior Uplands; In class quiz on Part 1 and Part 7 Read all chapters in Part 2 then complete the Pre/Post Environmental Survey worksheet for the following chapters: ch.3 High Pine Grasslands, ch.4 Flatwoods and Prairies, and ch.5 Interior Scrub... only the textbook portion can be completed prior to class. You will need to bring to class a completed worksheet for each of the following ecosystems: High Pine Grasslands; Flatwoods and Prairies; and Interior Scrub; Printout and bring the following materials: 1.Ecosystem Analysis Data Collection sheet 2. Soil Study 3. Perc Test 4. Transect Population Sampling Method Also bring to class the textbook: National Audubon Society: Field Guide to Florida (we will be using this guide in every class)
Week 2 Nov. 21 Saturday	9:00a – 3:00 p	Wekiwa Springs State Park	Readings : Text: Priceless Florida; Part 2 and 3 In class quiz on Part 2 and Part 3 readings Complete the Pre/Post Environmental Survey worksheet for the following chapters: Ch.6 Temperate Hardwood Hammocks (Xeric and Mesic sections); ch.8 Wetlands; and ch.12 Lakes and Ponds; Bring these to class today; Powerpoint posting on webct Discussion board of Listed Species presentation due on Nov. 25 Listed Species presentation reviews posted on webct discussion board due Dec. 2 Discussion Board 1a Post due Nov. 28 Discussion Board 1b Reply due Dec. 1

Week 3 Dec. 5 Saturday	9:00a – 3:00 p	Wekiwa Springs State Park Canoe trip down Wekiva river and Rock Springs Run	Readings: Text: Priceless Florida; Part 4 In class quiz on Part 4 readings; Complete the Pre/Post Environmental Survey worksheet for the following chapters; ch.11 Flowing-water swamps; ch.14 Aquatic caves, sinks, springs, and spring runs (springs and spring runs sections only). Bring these to class today;
Week 4 Dec. 12 Saturday	9:00a – 3:00p	Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and Canaveral National Seashore	Readings: Text: Priceless Florida; Part 5 and 6 In class quiz on Part 5 and Part 6 readings; Complete the Pre/Post Environmental Survey worksheet for the following chapters: ch.15 Beach-Dune systems; ch.16 Beaches and Marshes; ch.17 Mangrove swamps. Bring these to class today;
Week 5 Dec. 12-16		ONLINE	Final Exam (content to be announced)