Course Description: This course will guide students through Florida’s natural communities utilizing the community descriptions of the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (2010) and narrated Power Points in Sakai. Lectures will cover community structure, indicator species, soils and hydrology as well as fire ecology and other important ecological processes.

Learning Objectives: At the conclusion of this course, the student will be able to:
- Identify and characterize major terrestrial and associated wetland communities of the panhandle of Florida.
- Use vegetative and floral characteristics to identify key indicator plant species of the characteristic plant communities.
- Identify environmental characteristics (soils, hydrology) associated with each plant community.

Prerequisites:
Prior coursework in Environmental Sciences, Soils, Biology, and or Botany will be beneficial. Students should have familiarity with basic biological and botanical vocabulary to facilitate understanding of plant and community identification.

Instructors:

Dr. Debbie Miller
Office: 4917  Building: 4900
Phone: 850-983-7128
Email: dlmi@ufl.edu
Cell phone: 850-240-2135

Dr. Mack Thetford
Office: 4921  Building: 4900
Phone: 850-983-7130
Email: thetford@ufl.edu
Office hours: Students are welcomed anytime but should schedule office visits on an individual, by-appointment basis to be sure we are available. After hours contact via email is encouraged. If you have an emergency related to class or lab attendance please call Dr. Miller (850-240-2135)

Teaching Assistant: Room 4803, Office Phone: 983-7141

Textbook: None required. Class materials will be provided on Sakai.

Class Website: Sakai (for narrated Power Points, lecture quizzes, print-outs, additional readings, assignments, etc.)
https://lss.at.ufl.edu/

Class Lecture Material: available through Sakai and consists of narrated Power Points. Please complete the lectures and quizzes as indicated on the schedule below.

Class Project: Plant Communities Project (20 points)

1. Locate **two different plant community types** using modified FNAI descriptions (panhandle descriptions) presented in lectures (Sakai) and in materials provided in Sakai. These should be sites not visited in any other class taken through the UF Milton campus (at least 1 mile from a site visited in other classes).

2. Provide an aerial for each location i.e. Google aerial or soils map aerial photos. Provide directions to the exact location. We must be able to visit the exact spot you are referring to so we can determine if you correctly identified the community and the plant species.

3. Provide ground level pictures of each plant community and all dominant or identifier plant species that help determine what plant community you are classifying. Your photos should allow us to see ground cover, understory/or and midstory and canopy when applicable. Your pictures should allow us to verify identification of plant species (i.e. close up photos). Label all photographs with complete sentences. The labels should tell us what you are trying to convey with the picture (i.e. name of plant or the structure of the community type etc.)

4. Fill in the information on the Plant community identification sheet (Found in SAKAI). Provide one sheet per plant community type.

5. Provide the name of the soil series associated with this site. Use the soil map for this site to find the correct soil series. Provide a **soils report from NRCS** for each site.
6. In summary for each community type (2 total) you should have:
   a. Aerial and driving or walking directions
   b. Photos of community and plants (labeled)
   c. Completed plant community identification sheet
   d. Soil series name and Soils Report

Grading Rubric for Project
For each community type – total possible points 10
- Directions to site can be followed (2 pts)
- Photo content and quality (3 pts)
- Correctly completed id sheet (3 pts)
- Soils Report (2 pts)

Attendance and Participation: Students are expected to view Power Points and complete quizzes associated with the class. See class schedule.

Grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Powerpoint Quizzes (8 total)</th>
<th>200 points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Project</td>
<td>20 points</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total points: 220

Weekly quizzes will be taken in Sakai. (25 points each)
Weekly quizzes will cover material in narrated Power Points and may consist of short answer, multiple choice, true false. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO COMPLETE ONLINE QUIZZES IN THE EVENT A SITUATION MIGHT ARISE THAT COULD PREVENT YOU FROM TAKING THE QUIZ (e.g. computer, internet, or power outage)! Permission from instructor is required to submit late work. Late work will be penalized 5% per day.

Grading: Letter grade based on the following grade scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-63</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>&lt; 60</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Optional field guides and selected reading:


**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

**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**

In 1995 the UF student body enacted a new honor code and voluntarily committed itself to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. When students enroll at the university, they commit themselves to the standard drafted and enacted by students. In adopting this honor code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the university community. Students who enroll at the university commit to
holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the
honor code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the honor code
is bound by honor to take corrective action. The quality of a University of Florida
education is dependent upon community acceptance and enforcement of the
honor code. The Honor Code: We, the members of the University of Florida
community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest
standards of honesty and integrity. On all work submitted for credit by
students at the university, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On
my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this
assignment.” The university requires all members of its community to be honest
in all endeavors. A fundamental principle is that the whole process of learning
and pursuit of knowledge is diminished by cheating, plagiarism and other acts of
academic dishonesty. In addition, every dishonest act in the academic
environment affects other students adversely, from the skewing of the grading
curve to giving unfair advantage for honors or for professional or graduate school
admission. Therefore, the university will take severe action against dishonest
students. Similarly, measures will be taken against faculty, staff and
administrators who practice dishonest or demeaning behavior. Students should
report any condition that facilitates dishonesty to the instructor, department chair,
college dean or Student Honor Court. (Source: 2007-2008 Undergraduate
Catalog) It is assumed all work will be completed independently unless the
assignment is defined as a group project, in writing by the instructor. This policy
will be vigorously upheld at all times in this course.

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 Resources
Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their
general wellbeing are encouraged to utilize the university’s counseling resources.
Both the Counseling Center and Student Mental Health Services provide
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. The Counseling Center is located at 301 Peabody Hall (next to
Criser Hall). Student Mental Health Services is located on the
second floor of the Student Health Care Center in the Infirmary.
• University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575,
  www.counsel.ufl.edu
• Career Resource Center, CR-100 JWRU, 392-1602, www.crc.ufl.edu/
• Student Mental Health Services, Rm. 245 Student Health Care Center, 392-
  1171, www.shcc.ufl.edu
  - Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program (ASAP)
  - Center for Sexual Assault / Abuse Recovery & Education (CARE)
  - Eating Disorders Program
- Employee Assistance Program
- Suicide Prevention Program

**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. 0001 Reid Hall, 392-8565,

In spite of our distance from Gainesville, students at UF Milton do have access to support services. If you need accommodation for any problem, feel free to call the appropriate office in Gainesville, or contact me directly.
**Complete a lecture and quiz each week.** All course requirements will be complete by the end of week 12. Quizzes close on Friday at midnight EST each week. Lectures are found under “Lessons” and Quizzes are found under “Assessments” within SAKAI. Week one begins January 6th.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Quiz</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 and 2</td>
<td>Introduction to Plant Communities</td>
<td>QUIZ 1 Close Midnight EST Friday Week 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Barrier Island Communities- Lowlands 1</td>
<td>QUIZ 2 Close Midnight EST Friday Week 3</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Flatlands – Scrub and Flatwoods Lowlands 2</td>
<td>QUIZ 3 Close Midnight EST Friday Week 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Flatlands – Associated wetlands Lowlands 3</td>
<td>QUIZ 4 Close Midnight EST Friday Week 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>High Pine 1 - Upland Pine</td>
<td>QUIZ 5 Close Midnight EST Friday Week 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Uplands and Associated wetlands</td>
<td>QUIZ 6 Close Midnight EST Friday Week 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Steep heads and associated plant communities</td>
<td>QUIZ 7 Close Midnight EST Friday Week 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Hardwood forest</td>
<td>QUIZ 8 Close Midnight EST Friday Week 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Class Project Due</td>
<td>Friday Midnight EST Week 12</td>
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