**Course Syllabus**

**Ditch of Dreams**   
**Authors: Steven Noll and David Tegeder**

**Instructor:**

Anne Donnelly

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**Office Hours:** Weds. 9:30-10:30 am or by appointment

**Course Description:**

At one time, some people thought cutting Florida in half with a barge canal would be a good idea! The wildlife corridor just south of Ocala marks the location where this canal would have gone. This project ultimately involved politicians, business people, economists, and environmentalists and is a fascinating true story about how all of these competing constituents battled for over 50 years, and in fact some are still fighting the consequences of this today.

How different North Central Florida would be if this project had been completed! This book details the story of a fascinating part of Florida history, including an exceptional environmental activist (Marjorie Harris Carr) who helped put a stop to it.

**THIS COURSE INCLUDES A KAYAK TRIP TO THE FIELD LOCATION.**

The Ocklawaha River, 1 ½ hours south of Gainesville, is where the Ditch stopped. We will take a kayaking trip here, led by local River Guide and Ocklawaha River Expert Lars Anderson, of Adventure Outpost, High Springs. This Saturday daylong trip will bring the book alive and you will see what would have been destroyed had the canal been completed! Oct. 21 (bye week☺). We will car pool. Estimated cost of the trip (including kayak) is $40. Some canoes and double kayaks also available. OK for beginners.

Alternate Assignment: If you are unable to come, the alternate assignment will be to read *Marjorie Harris Carr: Defender of Florida’s Environment*, Peggy Macdonald.

**Assignments and Grades:**

The course requires *full* participation in attendance and class discussion/interaction.

Attendance 15 points

Reflection Papers (2) 20 points (10 points each)

Class Presentations (2) 40 points (20 points each)

Final Reflection 25 points

All assignments are due by 11:59 pm on the due date. You will receive ½ credit for all late assignments up to one week from the due date with the exception of the final report, which will be due at class time on the last day of class. Assignments more than one week late will not be accepted. A grade of Incomplete (I) will not be issued under any circumstance.

**Attendance:** Since this is a discussion-based class, attendance and participation is important. Each class meeting counts as one point. Your final grade will be dropped an entire letter grade (e.g. from a “A” to a “B+” for each additional absence after 1.

**Reflection Papers:** These will brief reflections (250 words maximum) that will be related to sections in the book and/or guest speakers.

**Group Class Presentation:** Groups will be assigned to serve as discussion leaders of 2 assigned sections of the book.

**Final Reflection:** What have you learned from this book? 1000 words.

**Grading Scale:** 93-100 (A); 90-92 (A-); 87-89 (B+); 83-86 (B); 80-82 (B-); 77-79 (C+); 73-76 (C); 70-72 (C-); 67-69 (D+); 60-66 (D); 60-62 (D-); Below 59 (E)

# UF Policies

Academic Honesty

All students sign the following statement upon registration at the University of Florida: “I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.” As instructor for this course, I fully support the intent of the above statement and will not tolerate academic dishonesty. The university’s policies regarding academic honesty, the honor code, and student conduct related to the honor code will be strictly enforced. Full information regarding these policies is available at the following link: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/student-­‐honor-­‐code.aspx.

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities

Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office ([http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/).](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

University Policy on Academic Misconduct

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at [http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php.](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php)

University Policy on Netiquette and Communication Courtesy

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. <http://teach.ufl.edu/docs/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

Please also link here for best practice guidelines for blogging [http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/terms-­‐](http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/terms-)of-­‐use/

University Policy on Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at https://evaluations.ufl.edu Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester. Students will be given specific times when they are open.

Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results

# UF Policies for Getting Help

For issues with technical difficulties for E-­‐learning, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

* Learning-­‐[support@ufl.edu](mailto:support@ufl.edu)
* (352) 392-­‐HELP -­‐ select option 2
* https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml
* Any requests for make-­‐ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-­‐mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-­‐up.

Other resources are available at [http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-­‐](http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-)help for:

* + Counseling and Wellness resources
  + Disability resources
  + Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
  + Library Help Desk support

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit [http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-­‐](http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-)complaints to submit a complaint.

**Course Schedule**

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| **Date** | **Topic** | **Readings / Assignment Due** |
| 8/23 | Introductions and Course Overview | Introduction |
| 8/30 | Group1 Discussions | Pgs. 11- 52 |
| 9/6 | Group 2 Discussions | Pgs. 53-99 |
| 9/13 | Group 3 Discussions | Pgs. 100-141  **Reflection Paper 1** |
| 9/20 | Group 4 Discussions | Pgs. 142-177 |
| 9/27 | Group 1 Discussions | Pgs. 178-209 |
| 10/4 | Group 2 Discussions | Pgs. 210-247  **Reflection Paper 2** |
| 10/11 | Group 3 Discussions | Pgs. 248-284 |
| 10/18 | Group 4 Discussions | Pgs. 285-314 |
| 10/21 | FIELD TRIP – note: this is a SATURDAY |  |
| 10/25 | Guest Speaker | Author Steven Noll |
| 11/1 | Epilogue | **Final Reflection Paper**  **Alternate assignment due** |
| 11/15 | Wrap - up |  |
| 11/22 | Holiday |  |
| 11/29 |  |  |
| 12/6 |  |  |