

IDH 2930 (Uncommon Reads)

One River: Explorations and Discoveries in the Amazon Rain Forest

Wednesday, 7th Period (1:55–2:45pm)

119 Hume Hall

Access the course website on UF e-learning

Instructor Information

Dr. Lucas C. Majure

lmajure@floridamuseum.ufl.edu

352-273-2102

378 Dickinson Hall

Office Hours

After Class, 8th Period or by appointment

Required Textbook

Davis, Wade (1996) *One River: Explorations and Discoveries in the Amazon Rain Forest*

Additional supplemental readings as assigned by the instructor.

Course Description

Tropical vegetation across the world is endangered from a number of different threats, however, these areas house the bulk of the plant diversity on the planet. The American tropics are a hyper-diverse region, and likewise are under threat from logging, mining, development and many other factors, and given their distribution, climate, social and political challenges, they are often not as well-studied as other natural systems in the world. Wade Davis, in his book, *One River*, explores the scientific work and travels of his professor and mentor, Dr. Richard Evans Schultes, an eccentric ethnobotanist, that worked for many years in the Amazon region of South America. During weekly discussions, students will learn not only about the complexities and difficulties of plant exploration in the tropics and how plant specimens are made and studied, but also the threats, such as societal and political pressures imposed on these regions of hyper-diversity, and the long-lasting effects of a colonialist-dominated past. These discussions will provide students with a better understanding of this complicated web of human-environment interactions and will help them imagine ways to take steps to defend against these threats to conserve and better understand the planet's biodiversity.

Goals of this course

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Appreciate the diversity of plants, cultures and history across the Neotropics
- Understand the past, present and future threats to plant biodiversity
- Explain how scientific, cultural and political issues, including colonialism, have influenced the way that we understand and see biodiversity

- Recognize appropriate measures that can be implemented to help preserve and better understand this poorly studied biodiversity

Student Assignments

These will include weekly READINGS of the book *One River* and in-class DISCUSSIONS led by students. Each student will be required to present a final PRESENTATION on a topic of their interest related to the book.

Anticipated Schedule (subject to change)

Week	Date	Reading/Assignment	Topics
1	25-Aug	Preface and Chapter 1: Juan's Farewell	Introduction to the class, discussion of syllabus. Ethnobotany. Who were Richard Evans Schultes and Tim Plowman?
2	1-Sept	Herbarium Visit. Chapter 2: Mountains of the Elder Brother	What is an herbarium, and why are they important?
3	8-Sept	Chapters 3-4: The Peyote Road. Flesh of the Gods. Due: presentation topic	Importance of botanical identification and knowing the language. Psycotropic organisms. Students choose a presentation topic.
4	15-Sept	Chapter 5: The Red Hotel	Guest Instructor: Serena Achá Fieldwork
5	22-Sept	Chapter 6: The Jaguar's Nectar	Ayahuasca (yagé)
6	29-Sept	Chapter 7: The Sky is Green and the Forest Blue	José Cuatrecasas, pressing supplies, the power of traditional knowledge
7	6-Oct	Chapters 8,9: The Sad Lowlands, Among the Waorani Due: project description	The Inca, Texaco, contact and inevitable change Students provide project description
8	13-Oct	Chapters 10, 11: White Blood of the Forest, The Betrayal of the Dream	Rubber!
9	20-Oct	Invited Lecture. TBD.	
10	27-Oct	Chapter 12: The Blue Orchid	Botanical history, in the footsteps of Richard Spruce

11	3-Nov	Chapter 13: The Divine Leaf of Immortality	Peru, Coca
12	10-Nov	Chapter 14: One River	Union of science and myth
13	17-Nov	Final presentations	Students provide a 5-7 min presentation of their chosen topic.
14	24-Nov	No class- Thanksgiving holiday	
15	1-Dec	Final presentations Course wrap-up	Students provide a 5-7 min presentation of their chosen topic.

Grading and Attendance Policies

Class Participation	80%
Final presentation	20%

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the [Undergraduate Catalog](#).

Grading Scale

A 93-100%	C 73-76%
A- 90-92%	C- 70-72%
B+ 87-89%	D+ 67-69%
B 83-86%	D 63-66%
B- 80-82%	D- 60-62%
C+ 77-79%	F <60%

More information on grades and grade points can be found in the [Undergraduate Catalog](#).

Class Demeanor

Students are expected to be to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please do not use of cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all. Emails sent to the instructor must follow professional etiquette (e.g. [How to Write a Professional Email](#).)

Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the [Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester. Faculty can expect to receive a student's accommodation letter within the first 3 weeks of classes; however, if a student registers with the DRC later in the semester faculty are still obligated to facilitate accommodations. Neither faculty nor

administrators may independently deny a request for accommodation that is approved by the Disability Resource Center.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class, as it constitutes intellectual theft and academic dishonesty. I will use TurnItIn to check all materials for plagiarism.

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students 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.” [The Honor Code](#) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

All students must conform to UF’s Honesty Code regarding cheating, plagiarism, and the use of copyrighted materials, which you can find at the [Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code](#).

Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

1. Stealing, misquoting, insufficiently paraphrasing, or patch-writing.
2. Self-plagiarism, which is the reuse of the Student’s own submitted work, or the simultaneous submission of the Student’s own work, without the full and clear acknowledgment and permission of the Faculty to whom it is submitted.
3. Submitting materials from any source without proper attribution.
4. Submitting a document, assignment, or material that, in whole or in part, is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment the Student did not author.

Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at [GatorEvals Public Data](#).

Additional Resources

- **U Matter, We Care:** If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit umatter.ufl.edu/ to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- **Counseling and Wellness Center:** Visit counseling.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- **Student Health Care Center:** Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit shcc.ufl.edu/
- **University Police Department:** Visit police.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1)

for emergencies).

- **UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:** For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [UF Health Emergency room/trauma center](#).

In response to COVID-19, the following practices are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment: <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>. Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.
- You are expected to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings even if you are vaccinated. Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing. Following these practices is our responsibility as Gators.
 - Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
 - Hand sanitizing stations will be located in every classroom.
- If you are sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email covid@shcc.ufl.edu) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the [UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website](#) for more information.
 - Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.
 - If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.
- Continue to regularly visit coronavirus.UFHealth.org and coronavirus.ufl.edu for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.