UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA
IFAS
Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Title: The Green Leap: How to Conserve Biodiversity in Cities; IDH2930 Class Number 24652 Honors UnCommon Read Course

Instructor: Mark Hostetler, hostetm@ufl.edu; **Office** Newins-Ziegler Hall, Room 308

Class Day: Wednesday

Class Period: Period 9 (4:05 PM - 4:55 PM)

Room: Hume 119

Book Title: Hostetler, M. 2012. The Green Leap: A Primer for Conserving Biodiversity in Subdivision Development. University of California Press, Berkeley, CA. 185 pp.

Brief Description: This course is for anyone interested in green development and urban biodiversity conservation and students will learn about the central question of how to conserve biodiversity in neighborhoods and to minimize development impacts on surrounding habitats. The class specifically helps students to understand how to move beyond the design stage of green development by thoroughly addressing construction and post-construction issues. Incorporating many real-world examples, the course explains key conservation concepts and techniques, with specific advice for a wide variety of stakeholders that are interested in creating and maintaining green developments. It outlines the key players and principles needed to establish biodiverse communities and illustrates eight key design and management strategies. The class offers essential information for constructing new developments but also helps existing communities retrofit homes, yards, and neighborhoods to better serve both people and nature.

Objectives:

1. Students will learn about ways to conserve, manage, and restore natural habitat and to promote biodiversity in urban and rural environments.

2. Students will learn about the relationship among planners/policymakers, developers, and the public and their roles in conserving biodiversity.

3. Students will also get "hands on" experience by participating in several neighborhood natural area restoration projects.

Course Grade:

Grades will be based on participation (70%) and a few quizzes (30%).

Activities:

1. In-class discussions about barriers and opportunities to conserve biodiversity in neighborhoods and cities.

2. Two field trips to urban natural areas in Gainesville to participate in restoration activities.

Instructor Bioketch

Dr. Mark Hostetler is a Professor, Department of Wildlife Ecology & Conservation, University of Florida (UF). With over twenty years of experience in urban wildlife and green development issues, Dr. Hostetler conducts research and outreach on how urban landscapes could be designed and managed, from small to large scales, to conserve biodiversity. Partnering with policy makers, city/county planners, environmental consultants, and developers, he leads efforts to establish model communities that incorporate conservation design and management strategies that enhance urban biodiversity and minimize development impacts on nearby natural areas. Dr. Hostetler leads efforts to translate empirical research into design tools that city decision-makers can use to foster urban biodiversity conservation. An example of this is an online evaluation tool, called Building for Birds, that allows designers to evaluate different development scenarios and the effects on bird habitat conservation. He also creates innovative educational programs, targeting residential communities, to raise awareness about biodiversity conservation in neighborhoods. Dr. Hostetler co-founded UF's Program for Resource Efficient Communities (PREC) and collaborates with an interdisciplinary team of scientists and graduate students to foster green development projects nationally and internationally. He serves on the advisory board of URBIO, which is a scientific network for education and research that promotes urban biodiversity across the globe. He is the author of The Green Leap: Conserving Biodiversity in Subdivision Development, and he has produced and directed an award-winning TV series titled Living Green. He regularly contributes to several online blogs regarding urban biodiversity conservation and green development, including The Nature of Cities. Dr. Hostetler has a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Purdue University and his Master of Science and Ph.D. in Zoology are both from University of Florida.

Academic Honesty Policy:

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 links: Academic Honesty:
http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html#honesty
Honor Code: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php
Student Conduct: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php

Student Accommodation:

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.
UF counseling and wellness services: University Counseling & Wellness Center
3190 Radio Road P.O. Box 112662 University of Florida Gainesville, FL 32611- 4100 Phone: 352-392-1575, Web: http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/

Class Demeanor Policy:

Students are expected to contribute in a positive and constructive manner. Any student purposively affecting the course negatively or another student negatively will be asked to leave the course and will be reported to appropriate university administration. The instructor anticipates that all students on this course will be supportive of one-another and patient with the difficult material they are engaging. Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, students are prohibited from engaging in any form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result, minimally, in a request to leave class. If you have questions about appropriate classroom demeanor please notify the instructor.
Excused/unexcused absences/ arriving late to class: Any excused absence must be documented by a doctor's note and a copy of this note provided to the instructor. Unexcused absences will incur a five percent grade penalty per incident. Late arrivals to class will be treated as unexcused absences and will incur a five percent grade penalty per incident.

Schedule Wed 4:05 – 4:55

Jan 5	Introductions, outside observation activity
Jan 12	INaturalist exercise
Jan 19	Key Principles and Players (pp 1 – 29)
Jan 26	no class
Jan 29 (Sat)	Restoration activity (9:00 am – noon)
Feb 2	Design Issues presentation (pp 31 – 78)

Feb 9	Construction Issues presentation (pp 79 – 116)
Feb 16	Post-construction Issues presentation (pp 117 to end of book)
Feb 23	Cues to Care - https://www.thenatureofcities.com/2018/08/24/cues-care-city-landowners-willing-make-eco-friendly-landscapes/
Mar 2	No class
Mar 9	No class (Spring Break)
Mar 16	Lessons Learned - https://www.thenatureofcities.com/2017/09/27/lessons-learned-take-create-natural-stormwater-pond/
Mar 23	One Landscape - https://www.thenatureofcities.com/2016/08/25/one-landscape-a-mini-treatise-on-the-suburban-mega-city-and-tactics-to-design-within-it/
March 30	TBA
April 2(Sat)	Restoration activity (9:00 am – noon)
April 6	Green Form and Function - https://www.thenatureofcities.com/2015/11/05/green-form-function-versus-green-nativism-in-changing-urban-spaces-full-of-novel-ecosystems-and-natural-assemblages-is-native-purity-a-viable-option/
April 13	Cities are Home to Threatened Species - https://www.thenatureofcities.com/2016/04/05/cities-are-home-to-threatened-species-so-what/
April 20	TBA

April 29 – May2 – City Nature Challenge, see https://citynaturechallenge.org/participate/