

Course Syllabus

Ditch of Dreams

Authors: Steven Noll and David Tegeder

Wednesday Period 3

Instructor:

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Office Hours: 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.

COVID Permitting: 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, March 24. We will carpool. Estimated cost of the trip (including kayak) is \$50. 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 be 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 with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. 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.

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>.

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---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>

University Policy on Face-To-Face Classes during COVID-19

We will have face-to-face instructional sessions to accomplish the student learning objectives of this course. In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions.

- You are required to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings. Following and enforcing these policies and requirements are all of our responsibility. Failure to do so will lead to a report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.
- This course has been assigned a physical classroom with enough capacity to maintain physical distancing (6 feet between individuals) requirements. Please utilize designated seats and maintain appropriate spacing between students. Please do not move desks or stations.
- 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.
- Follow your instructor's guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom. Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom.
- If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms ([Click here for guidance from the CDC on symptoms of coronavirus](#)), please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. [Click here for UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms](#).
 - 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. [Find more information in the university attendance policies](#).
- Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

UF Policies for Getting Help

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

- Learning---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-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-complaints> to submit a complaint.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings / Assignment Due
1/13	Introductions and Course Overview	Introduction
1/20	Group1 Discussions	Pgs. 11- 52
1/27	Group 2 Discussions	Pgs. 53-99
2/3	Group 3 Discussions	Pgs. 100-141 Reflection Paper 1
2/10	Group 4 Discussions	Pgs. 142-177
2/17	Group 1 Discussions	Pgs. 178-209
2/24	Group 2 Discussions	Pgs. 210-247 Reflection Paper 2
3/3	Group 3 Discussions	Pgs. 248-284
3/10	SPRING BREAK (No Class)	
3/17	Group 4 Discussions	Pgs. 285-314
3/24	FIELD TRIP – note: this is a SATURDAY	
3/31	Guest Speaker	Author Steven Noll Final Reflection Paper
4/7	Spring Symposium	

(Still have more classes 4/7, 4/14, 4/21)