

Date: January 2006

Course Name: Wetland Assessment
Prefix and Number: CON 235
Credit Hours and Contact Hours: 3 credit hours – 3 contact hours
Course Description:

This course focuses on freshwater wetland types, hydrology, biochemistry, and community structure. Wetland formation, succession, and recent history of wetland alteration are examined. Wetland values, delineation, management, restoration, and creation are discussed. Several field trips will be made to encourage hands-on experience.

II. Course Outcomes and Objectives

Course Objectives:

- To introduce and explore freshwater wetland ecosystems, structure, function, flora, fauna.
- To provide practical experience with wetland assessment and management principles and techniques.
- To examine current issues regarding wetlands and to develop an informed perspective.
- To create opportunities for students to meet and interact with wetland professionals.
- To encourage students to apply their education and values toward solving problems and addressing issues in their communities and elsewhere.

Learning Outcomes:

- Familiarity with freshwater wetland ecosystems, structure, function, flora, fauna.
- Practical experience with wetland flora and fauna identification techniques.
- Practical experience with wetland management principles.
- Practical experience with wetland assessment techniques.
- Development of an informed perspective of current issues regarding wetlands.
- Opportunities to meet and interact with wetland professionals.
- Experience in research and presentation on wetland related topics.

Relationship to Academic programs and curriculum:

- This course is intended to provide specific information and technical experience with wetland related issues to build upon the academic and practical experience students receive in FLCC's Environmental Conservation department.

College competencies addressed by the course:

- Writing, oral communications, reading, mathematics, problem-solving, computer literacy, ethics/values, citizenship, global concerns, information resources and professional competency.

III. Methods of Instruction

Types of Course materials:

- Text Book: *In Search of Swampland*, by Ralph Tiner (3rd ed, Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., 2000).
- Other reference books and literature
- Scientific and popular media
- Local wetland management plans
- Power point presentations
- Wetland assessment equipment

Methods of instruction:

- Lecture/discussion
- Class activities
- Guest lectures
- Audio/visual
- Demonstration and field trips
- Student projects/presentations

Assessment measures:

- Attendance and participation
- Comprehension of material presented
- Development of informed perspective
- Ability to work with others to solve problems

Methods of Evaluation:

- Quizzes and exams
- Personal reflection essays
- In class and take home assignments
- Completion and presentation of group project

IV. General Outline of Topics covered

- Wetland Definitions, Terms and Types
- Wetland History, North American Wetlands
- Hydrology, Nutrients and Soils
- Biological Adaptations
- Wetland Flora and Fauna
- Freshwater Wetlands
- Functions and Values
- Public Use
- Management Techniques
- Protection, Mitigation and Delineation
- Creation, Restoration and Enhancement
- Conservation Programs, Agencies and Organizations
- Future of Wetlands