

Day 1	Friday, April 25, 2025 – Classroom & Field Experience at FWC Chinsegut WMA
	<p>Morning: Classroom Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet at the nature center and you're welcome to store your personal items and lunch inside; restroom is on site. Terrain has gentle hills; trails are mostly firm sand with some having tree roots or gravel Bring plenty of water on hikes; see schedule 'Guidelines' for more field items Most classroom days you need to bring a laptop/tablet/gadget to view your electronic course materials if you do not purchase a hardcopy manual. However, you do not need to this day. There will likely be minimal Wi-Fi internet connection.
8:30am-10:30am	Welcome to FMNP Upland Systems; Pre-Test; Course Objectives & Overview
	<p>Discuss student learning applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpretive Talks – Begin selecting topics and pairing up (continue working on this during breaks, at lunch, and during commutes to/from field sites). <u>Your hardcopy outline summary (see requirements in the handout provided during class) is due Monday, April 28 at 5:00 PM.</u> Late submitting pairs have to bring snacks to next class. Presentations are typically outdoors and towards the beginning of the course. Group Projects – Begin selecting topics and forming groups (continue working on this during breaks, at lunch, and during commutes to/from field sites). <u>Your hardcopy outline summary (see requirements in the handout provided during class) is due Friday, May 2 at 5:00 PM.</u> Late submitting pairs have to bring snacks to next class. Presentations are typically indoors and on the last day.
10:30am -11:00am	Class Mixer Activity
11:00am -12:00am	Introduction to Florida's Upland Systems Presentation (<i>Jeanne</i>)
12:00pm-12:30pm	Lunch: Eat Your Sack Lunch; No other food options are available on or off-site
12:30pm - 4:00pm	<p>Field Trip – High Pinelands/Sandhill Habitat Hike</p> <p>Experience one of Central Florida's best sandhill pineland communities and its wildlife during a pleasant hike up and down relatively well-packed dirt hiking trails while searching for gopher tortoises, fence lizards, assorted pollinators, red-headed woodpeckers, and many other interesting upland species.</p>
4:00pm - 4:30pm	Review; Discuss Next Class; Upcoming Field Trips; Meet with Your Interpretative Talk Partner to Work on Interpretative Talks
On Your Own (45 minutes)	<p>Link will be provided by email after class</p> <p>Watch Video—Pine Habitats; Questions & Discussion will be during next class</p>
Day 2	Monday, April 28, 2025 – Classroom Sessions at Moccasin Lake Nature Park, Clearwater
	Birds, Reptiles, Amphibians, Hardwood Forests
8:30am-8:45am	Review, Discussions, Any Interpretative Talk or Group Project Questions?
8:45am -9:30am	Discus "On Your Own" Video Assignment <i>Pine Habitats</i> ; Finish any previous presentations
9:30am-10:15am	Video; Questions & Discussion—Florida's Scrub, Dry Prairie and Rangelands (<i>Brian & Jeanne</i>)
10:15am - 11:30am	Upland Birds Presentation (<i>Jeanne</i>)
11:30am - 12:30pm	Upland Hardwood Forests Presentation (<i>Brian</i>)

	Day 2 - Continued
12:30pm - 1:00pm	Lunch: Eat Your Sack Lunch; No other food options are available on or off-site
1:00pm - 2:00pm	Reptiles Presentation (Jeanne)
2:00pm - 2:45pm	Video; Questions & Discussion—Florida Hardwood Forests (<i>Jeanne & Brian</i>)
2:45pm – 3:30pm	Stroll through a hardwoods forest while practicing plant and bird identification (Brian & Jeanne)
3:30pm-4:30pm	Interpretation of Upland Systems Presentation (<i>Jeanne</i>)
4:30pm-5:00pm	Wrap-up; Questions & Answers; Meet with Interpretative Partner as time allows
Interpretive Talk Summary Due	Turn in your Interpretation Talk summary to Jeanne (1 summary per pair of students; <u>not</u> 1 per student)
Day 3	Friday, May 2, 2025 – AM Field Trip and PM Classroom at Moccasin Lake Nature Park
	Field Trip Location: Walsingham Park, 10601 125th Street, Seminole – Link
8:00am - 12:00 pm	<p><u>Field Trip</u> – Interpretative Talks (outside, in pairs) in an Upland Hardwood Forest Habitat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet at Pavilion #5; park trails are relatively flat and paved • Bring a snack and plenty of water while walking; see schedule ‘Guidelines’ for other field items <p>In pairs half of the class will lead us on fun, low-stress interpretive walks through the beautiful oak hardwood habitat. Also, instructors Jeanne and Brian will discuss natural features including the upland forest community and upland wildlife species, human impacts, conservation and management factors as we walk.</p>
12:00pm - 12:30pm	Lunch: Bring a Sack Lunch to Eat at the Park, Pavilion #5 (start/end times are estimates)
12:30pm - 1:15pm	Drive to Classroom at Moccasin Lake Nature Park
1:15pm - 2:15pm	Invertebrates Presentation (<i>Brian</i>)
2:15pm - 3:15pm	Mammals Presentation (<i>Jeanne</i>)
3:15pm - 4:30pm	Environmental Ethics Presentation (<i>Jeanne</i>)
4:30pm - 5:00pm	Wrap-up: Discussion; Answer Group Project and Interpretative Talk Questions; then Meet with your Group Project for a status update
Group Project Summary Due	Turn in your Interpretation Talk summary to Jeanne (1 summary per pair of students; <u>not</u> 1 per student)
Day 4	Monday, May 5, 2025 – Field Trips and PM Class at Oscar Scherer State Park
	<p>Likely Field Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full sun • MRSP will have dry, uneven dirt/vegetated paths with some off-trail stretches, but if recent rains, some areas could be wet so shoes and feet could get wet/muddy • OSSP trails range from hard-packed sand to very soft/giving, ancient dune sand, which can be similar to walking on unpacked beach sand. Closed-toe shoes required. • Be sure to wear long pants to avoid leg scratches – we will likely go off trail • In case of rain bring a complete change of clothes, shoes, plus a towel and trash bags to put on vehicle seats and floorboards to keep them dry and clean. Leave these items in vehicle • See schedule ‘Guidelines’ for more field trip details.

Day 4 - Continued	
8:30am - 10:45am	<p>Field Trip – Dry Prairie and Interpretative Talks at Myakka River State Park – Link</p> <p>Explore one of Florida’s last remaining expansive tracts of dry prairie within this beautiful state park. The Florida Natural Areas Inventory refers to the MRSP dry prairie one of the state’s exemplary sites. (Link)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approx. 2-hour drive south of Pinellas County—travel time not included in schedule; be sure to leave in plenty of time to avoid morning traffic congestion and be ready to start at 8:30am. • Meet at the Myakka Visitor Center, which is at the south side of the park near the entrance/Ranger Station (enter off SR 72); be ready to carpool to the dry prairie habitat within the park boundary • Other half of class will give their low-key, fun, Interpretative Talk presentations to the class.
10:45am - 11:15am	<p><u>Drive from Myakka River State Park to Oscar Scherer State Park (OSSP)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approx. 20 to 30-minute drive southwest of Myakka River State Park • Drive through the park to the end of the main road • Park in the lot west of the restrooms and lake, near the Nature Center
11:15am - 11:45am	<p>Lunch: Eat your sack lunch under the OSSP Nature Center picnic pavilions. (No food options in the park.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After eating, help set up the tables and chairs in the Nature Center for our afternoon classroom session.
11:45 am - 1:30 pm	<p>Field Trip – Scrubby Habitat at OSSP– Link</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet in the Nature Center <p>Guided Trail Hike: Learn about scrub species including the Florida scrub jay, gopher tortoise, and lupine as well as conservation issues, human interactions, and management tools used to preserve this imperiled habitat such as prescribed fire. (Tentative guest field guide – Matthew Hodge, Florida DEP, Environmental Specialist II)</p>
<u>Afternoon: Classroom Session – Nature Center, OSSP</u>	
1:30pm - 3:15 pm	Amphibians Presentation (<i>Jeanne</i>)
3:15pm - 4:00pm	Video; Questions & Discussion—Florida’s Scrub, Dry Prairie and Rangelands (Brian & Jeanne)
4:00pm - 5:00pm	Scrub, Dry Prairie, and Rangelands Presentation (Brian)
5:00pm - 5:30pm	<p>Wrap-up - Reminders about next class and field trip</p> <p>Discuss questions about Interpretative Talks or Group Projects</p> <p>Put away Nature Center tables and chairs.</p> <p>Move outside to the picnic pavilions – meet with your Group Project team & work on your outline.</p>
Day 5	
Friday, May 9, 2025 – Classroom Sessions/Group Projects at Moccasin Lake Nature Park, Clearwater	
8:30am - 9:30am	Meet with your Group to discuss any last-minute preparations
9:30am - 10:30am	Complete any remaining course presentations & follow-up discussions (<i>Jeanne & Brian</i>)
10:30am - 12:00pm	Group Projects – Students present their interesting, interpretative, and low-stress Group Projects (you!)
12:00pm - 12:30pm	Lunch: Eat Your Sack Lunch; No other food options are available on or off-site
12:30pm - 4:00pm	Finish Student Group Projects (you!)
4:00pm-5:00pm	<p>Post Test; Announcements; Thoughts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronically complete post-test & evaluation: Bring your cell phone or laptop • Course wrap-up & Graduation