**Course Description:** Ecological principles can be applied in agroecosystems to manage weeds in a more sustainable manner. Alternative weed management approaches that are less dependent on herbicides and utilize ecological processes detrimental to weed and weed seed survival will be emphasized. Students will learn actively by critically analyzing pertinent literature and participating in discussions of supplemental reading.

**Course Instructor:** Carlene A. Chase  
Horticultural Sciences Department  
1245 Fifield Hall  
Phone: 273-4770  
Email: cachase@ufl.edu

**Office Hours:** Thursday 10 AM -12 PM; Friday 3 PM - 5 PM or by appointment.

**Class Schedule:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday; 2nd period - 8:30 to 9:20 am.

**Required Text:** None

**Recommended Texts:**


**Supplemental Texts:**


**Course Objectives:** Students will learn how ecological approaches can be utilized to manage weeds in a sustainable manner. In addition, students will develop or improve skills for critically analyzing scientific literature and hone their oral presentation skills by serving as a moderator and by participating in discussions of weed science with peers. Students will polish their research and writing skills by preparing a grant proposal.

**Course Format:** Student-centered learning involving lectures, student oral presentations, and student-moderated discussions of primary literature read in advance of class.

**Policies:** Attendance and participation in moderating and discussions are required. Students are urged to arrive on time to avoid disrupting class. Late assignments and make-up exams are permitted only for excused absences. Acceptable documents for an excused absence include a doctor’s note or a funeral program. Mobile phones and other electronic devices must be turned off during class. Discourse during discussions must be polite and respectful.

**Examinations and Grading:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percent of Final Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examinations</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion moderator</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion/class participation</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Proposal</td>
<td>20</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Grading Scale:**

- A = 90 to 100
- B+ = 85 to 89
- B = 80 to 84
- C+ = 75 to 79
- C = 70 to 74
- D+ = 65 to 69
- D = 60 to 64
- E = below 60%
**Academic Honesty:** Students are expected to adhere to the University of Florida Honor Code: *We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.* Please refer to conduct regulations at http://www.dso.ufl.edu/STG. Violations of Academic Honesty Guidelines and the Honor code, which include cheating, plagiarism, bribery, misrepresentation, conspiracy, and fabrication, will not be tolerated.

**Software Use:** All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

**Campus Helping Resources:** Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university’s counseling resources. Both the Counseling Center and Student Mental Health Services provide confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students.

- **University Counseling Center,** 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, www.counsel.ufl.edu
- **Student Mental Health Services,** Rm. 245 Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, www.shcc.ufl.edu/smhs/

**Students with Disabilities:** The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. 0001 Reid Hall, 392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/

**Course Outline:**

**Student deliverables**

**Examinations:** Three examinations, essay type and short answer responses.

**Discussion Moderator:** Moderators will select a current journal article (published within the past 5 years) on the assigned topic and make the selected article known to the class at least 1 week in advance. The moderator should provide some background information on the topic gleaned from the article, personal experience, text books, and other refereed publications during a 15 minute presentation and then open the floor for discussion. Prepare 4 to 6 questions to be used in stimulating the discussion.

**Discussion Participation:** Students will read the assigned articles and fully engage in the discussion of the assigned readings.
Grant Proposal:

Title

Project Abstract
Abstract is limited to no more than 250 words.

Statement of Problem, Rational and Justification
Statement of the problem being addressed, rationale and justification for objectives and the impact of the anticipated project. Begin the statement of the problem as: “The purpose of this project is to”. Limited to 500 words.

Project Relevance to Sustainable Agriculture
State how the project and the expected results contribute to agricultural sustainability. Don’t simply tell us that your project addresses an element of sustainable agriculture, tell us HOW your project will address it and make it more sustainable. Make sure that your work—even though it is making a part of a system more sustainable—does not make the whole system or another part of it, less sustainable. No more than 500 words.

Objectives
A numbered list of concise project objectives limited to no more than 500 words.

Approach and Methods
A brief description of the methods to be used for each objective, numbered according to their corresponding objective. Approach and Methods is limited to no more than 1000 words.

Timetable
Timetable is limited to no more than 500 words.

Literature Cited
List cited literature limited to no more than 250 words.