

GEOG 2000 Biodiversity of the NC Piedmont
Spring 2021

Lectures: MWF, 11:15 am - 12:05 pm
Location: ONLINE using Canvas and Zoom
Credits: 3

Instructor: Dr. Sara Gagné
E-mail: sgagne@uncc.edu

Office hours: Mondays, 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm, or by appointment.

Please use your UNCC e-mail address to contact me. I will not respond to e-mails from other addresses.

Teaching assistant: Jennifer Bates

E-mail: jbates11@uncc.edu

Office hours: Wednesdays, 12-1 pm (contact Jennifer beforehand to let her know you'd like to meet)

Overview

A survey of the biodiversity and ecosystems of the North Carolina Piedmont, with special emphasis on the species that occur where people live. Students will gain an understanding of what biodiversity is, how it is measured, how it varies across space and time, and why it matters. The course will culminate with a discussion of how biodiversity can be maintained in human-dominated landscapes in the Piedmont.

Aim: The intent of this course is twofold. First, it is meant to equip you with the foundational knowledge that you need to better understand the diversity of the natural world that surrounds you. This foundational knowledge includes what biodiversity is, why it matters, how it is measured, and how it varies among areas and across time periods. Second, it is meant to acquaint you with the unbelievable beauty and wonder of the ecosystems and species of the North Carolina Piedmont. In this first iteration of the course, we will be focusing on birds. Ultimately, I hope that you will come away from the course with a better appreciation of the value of biodiversity and will have begun to reflect on how to live a life with nature in mind.

Assessment

Grading scheme

Nature reflection	10%	A	90-100%	Excellent
Meck BBA assignment	10%	B	80-89%	Good
Species observations & iNaturalist log	30%	C	70-79%	Fair
Midterm	25%	D	60-69%	Passing
Final exam	25%	F	<60%	Failing

Late policy

Deadlines for submission of work are clearly indicated in this syllabus. Late submissions will be accepted and graded according to the following schedule: work submitted up to 24 hours after the

deadline will receive a 25% penalty; work submitted between 24 and 48 hours after the deadline will receive a 50% penalty; and work submitted more than 48 hours after the deadline will not be accepted.

UNC Charlotte Code of Student Responsibility

You are expected to observe the UNC Charlotte Code of Student Responsibility (see <http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-406>).

UNC Charlotte Code of Student Academic Integrity

You are expected to observe the UNC Charlotte Code of Student Academic Integrity (see <http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-407>). The Code prohibits cheating, the fabrication and falsification of information, multiple submission of the same work for credit, plagiarism, the abuse of academic materials, and complicity in academic dishonesty.

If you are unclear as to what constitutes a violation of the Code, please see the TA or me during office hours.

Students with disabilities

If you have a disability for which you wish to receive academic accommodations, please provide me with a letter of accommodation from the Office of Disability Services at the beginning of the semester. For more information about disability services go to <http://ds.uncc.edu/>.

Class recordings

Class sessions will all be audio- and/or video-recorded for the purposes of student-participant reference and access by other students enrolled in the same course (including students enrolled in different class sections or break-out groups). Student consent to being recorded during class is a condition of class participation. If you do not consent to being recorded during class, you will need to deactivate your video camera, keep your mute button activated, and participate only via the chat feature, but please note that such actions may have a negative impact on any portion of your grade that is based on class participation. Students are not permitted to make their own recordings of class sessions or to share or distribute University recordings of class sessions. NOTE: Students with specific electronic recording accommodations authorized by the Office of Disability Services may record classes; however, the instructor must be notified of any such accommodation prior to recording. Any distribution of such recordings is prohibited.

Electronic video, image capture, and/or audio recording is not permitted during class, whether conducted in person or online, unless the student obtains permission from the instructor. If permission is granted, any distribution of the recording is prohibited. Students with specific electronic recording accommodations authorized by the Office of Disability Services do not require instructor permission; however, the instructor must be notified of any such accommodation prior to recording. Any distribution of such recordings is prohibited.

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

*All class meetings will be held on Zoom during regular meeting times unless noted in this schedule

Week	Date	Topic/Activity
1	Jan 20	Introduction to the course
	Jan 22	Introduction to iNaturalist and species observations <i>Download iNaturalist app on your phone before class</i>
2	Jan 25	What is biodiversity?
	Jan 27	
	Jan 29	<i>Species observations</i>
3	Feb 1	Reflections on the value of biodiversity <i>Written reflection due</i>
	Feb 3	Why should we care about biodiversity?
	Feb 5	
4	Feb 8-12	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES
5	Feb 15	DR. GAGNÉ @ WORKSHOP – NO CLASS
	Feb 17	DR. GAGNÉ @ WORKSHOP – NO CLASS
	Feb 19	How is biodiversity measured?
6	Feb 22	Mecklenburg County Breeding Bird Atlas
	Feb 24	<i>Species observations</i>
	Feb 26	Work on Meck BBA assignment
7	Mar 1	How does biodiversity vary across space and time?
	Mar 3	
	Mar 5	<i>Species observations</i> <i>Meck BBA assignment due</i>
8	Mar 8	The Piedmont Defined
	Mar 10	Ornithology 101
	Mar 12	<i>Species observations</i>
9	Mar 15	River Bluff Forest
	Mar 17	
	Mar 19	<i>Species observations</i>
10	Mar 22	Alluvial Forest
	Mar 24	
	Mar 26	BREAK – NO CLASS
11	Mar 29	Basic Mesic Forest
	Mar 31	
	Apr 2	Midterm prep
12	Apr 5	Oak-Hickory Forest
	Apr 7	
	Apr 9	<i>Midterm</i>
13	Apr 12	Xeric Hardpan Forest
	Apr 14	

	Apr 16	<i>Species observations</i>
14	Apr 19	Granite Outcrop
	Apr 21	
	Apr 23	<i>Species observations</i>
15	Apr 26	Urban ecosystems
	Apr 28	
	Apr 30	DAY OF REMEMBRANCE – NO CLASS
16	May 3	How to maintain biodiversity in human-dominated landscapes
	May 5	<i>iNaturalist log due</i>

The final exam period is Friday, May 7th 11 am – 1:30 pm ONLINE.

RESOURCES

- Audubon birding app
- ebird.org
- iNaturalist app
- Seek by iNaturalist app
- Allaboutbirds.org
- <https://nc-biodiversity.com/>
- <https://herpsofnc.org/>
- Bugguide.net
- <https://www.ncwildlife.org/learning/species>