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Florida International University

IDH 4007 and IDH 4008:
Looking Toward the Future

The Everglades:
from Beginning to End?

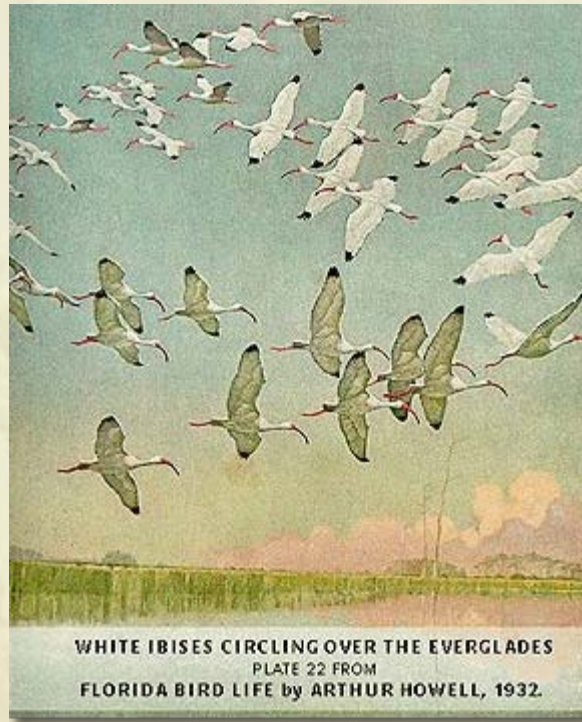
Dr. Peter Machonis

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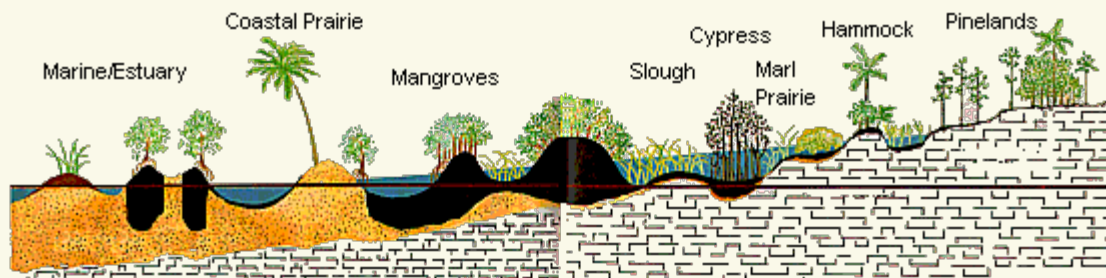


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The Everglades: From Beginning to End?

Third and Fourth Year Honors Seminar

Dr. Machonis/ Dr. Graham

The Honors College at Florida International University

An in-depth, hands-on study of issues concerning **Everglades National Park**, this seminar combines the themes of both the third year, "Values and Authority", and the fourth year, "Looking to the Future" by examining not only the Everglades eco-system and the politics surrounding its conservation, but also literature and art about the Everglades. It requires active participation from each student and can be physically challenging for some, since classes take place outdoors, rain or shine, and involve physical activities such as hiking, biking, canoeing, and walking through the swamp or slough slogging. Students also learn to identify South Florida flora and fauna. Class meets twice a month on Friday for the entire day at various off-campus locations (Homestead, Flamingo, Shark Valley, Big Cypress, Everglades City) and is team taught by **Dr. Peter Machonis**, a linguist, and **Dr. Devon Graham**, a tropical biologist, along with guest lecturers and rangers. In the past, we have had guests such as the photographer Clyde Butcher and the writer Carl Hiaasen. Readings this year will include *The Swamp*, written by this past fall's Honor's Excellence Speaker, Michael Grunwald, who has expressed an interest in joining the class, too. Participation is limited to 18 students.

Course Overview

The first semester syllabus concentrates on the origins of the ENP idea through the first impressions of the 19th century naturalist John James Audubon, the early movement to protect the Everglades, and the legislation that led to the dedication of America's first biological national park in 1947 by President Truman. Students will also learn about the origins of this unique ecosystem along with its flora and fauna and "class" will involve plant, habitat and wildlife identification in the field, as well as "inhabiting the lives" of some of its early explorers.

Much of the original Everglades wetlands were destroyed as Miami and South Florida grew, and today the ENP faces strong threats to its survival. The second semester then will focus on various attempts to "save the Everglades" and the reasons why this is important. It will include an in-service project -- probably an all-day Everglades clean-up at Chekika, the most recently acquired part of the Park. During part of the second semester, students will work on individual or group projects, and a poster session for public display will be held at the ENP Visitor's Center.

Sequence of Class Readings

The two principal books for this course are *The Everglades Handbook* and *The Swamp*. While the first explains the intricate biological details of the Everglades ecosystem, the second helps us to understand the complex politics of past Everglades destruction and current restoration efforts. *The Everglades Handbook* and field guides will be used for identification of flora, fauna and habitats in the field. In addition, we will read three novels and one journal throughout the year. The journal *Across the Everglades* details an early explorer's canoe trip in the Everglades and will be discussed during our class canoe trip. The novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* is set in the northern Everglades just south of Lake Okeechobee, an area converted to large-scale agriculture. This novel will be discussed during the class

slough slog to give a small taste of the protagonist's predicament of escaping the Everglades during a hurricane. We will also discuss the classic work by Voltaire, *Candide*, when visiting "the best of all possible worlds", the 10,000 Islands on the Florida West coast. While the climate of Florida has always attracted many visitors, recent archeological findings suggest that these islands were a veritable "all-you-can-eat seafood buffet" (*The Swamp*, p. 210) for the first peoples to settle there.

During second semester, we will also include a contemporary work of fiction such as *Skinny Dip* by Carl Hiaasen about an unscrupulous biologist involved in Everglades restoration efforts. The assortment of readings is designed to give students a broad-based appreciation of biology, history, politics, and literature associated with the Everglades.

First Semester

Students will be required to participate in class discussions and write journal entries reflecting their readings and experiences. Some innovative assignments are also included, such as administering a brief Everglades survey and designing a "personal ad" of an Everglades animal (or plant). There will be short quizzes every class and a longer quiz on the last class, which will involve identification of various flora and fauna, familiarity with ecosystem features and functions, along with questions on the literature read.

Students should have reliable means of transportation to all locations: Everglades National Park Visitor Center, Flamingo (Florida Bay), Shark Valley (on Tamiami Trail), Everglades City (the west coast of Florida), etc. Students are encouraged to car pool. In addition to books, students must purchase a pair of binoculars (\$50-\$100), and pay for certain activities (e.g., all canoe and bike rentals, some entrance fees, up to approx. \$20 for some classes). Students should expect to get their feet wet and come home from class exhausted!

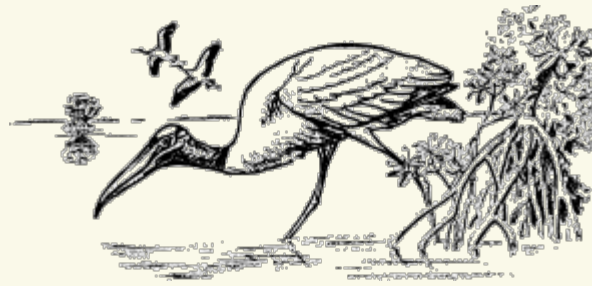
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FIRST SEMESTER SYLLABUS
Third and Fourth Year Honors Seminar
The Everglades From Beginning To End?
IDH 3005/4007 - FALL 2008

REQUIRED BOOKS:

Michael Grunwald. 2006. *The Swamp. The Everglades, Florida and the Politics of Paradise*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

ISBN 0-7432-5105-9

Thomas E Lodge. 2004. *The Everglades Handbook: Understanding the Ecosystem*. 2nd Edition. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press.

ISBN 1-56670-614-9 BRING THIS BOOK TO FIRST CLASS

David Allen Sibley. 2003. *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

ISBN 067945120X BRING THIS BOOK TO SECOND CLASS

Hugh L. Willoughby. 1898. *Across the Everglades*. Port Salerno, FL: Florida Classics Library.

ISBN 0-912451-46-7

[Not available through FIU bookstore, but available at ENP bookstore when class goes there on Sept. 19]

Zora Neale Hurston. 1937. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. New York: Harper & Row.

ISBN 0060838671

Voltaire. 1759. **GET 2001 paperback edition.** *Candide, Zadig, and Other Stories*. Translation by Daniel M. Frame, introduction by John Iverson. Publisher: Signet Classics.

ISBN 0451528093

RECOMMENDED BOOKS:

Peter Alden et al. 1998. *National Audubon Society Field Guide to Florida*. New York: Knopf/Chanticleer Press.

ISBN 0-679-44677-X

FIRST SEMESTER SYLLABUS (IDH 4007) - Fall 2008

FOR CLASS LOCATIONS, SEE PARK MAP:

<http://www.nps.gov/ever/planyourvisit/upload/evermap.pdf>

September 5: First meeting at FIU and airboat tour

Bring to class: *The Everglades Handbook*

FIU (9:00 - 11:30) DM 223

Introductions; course overview; how to dress; what to bring. Overview of Everglades history and habitats; contemporary field guides, and Texts on the Florida Everglades (Dr. Devon Graham)

Airboat Tour 1:00 - 2:00

Coopertown Air Boat rides (11 miles west of FL Turnpike on U.S. 41/Tamiami Trail)

Estimated cost \$12; wear old sneakers, clothing that can get wet, etc. (recommended to bring a change of clothing)

Class discussion: 2:30 - 3:30

Miccosukee Hotel & Gaming Resort (U.S. 41 and Krome Ave.)

Sept.12: journal entry #1 due

September 19: Birding at Taylor Slough and Introduction to Various ENP Habitats

Readings: *The Everglades Handbook*: the two introductions (pp. xxix-xxxiv), chap 1,2,3 (pp. 3-41), chap 6, (pp. 63-66) and chap 12 (pp. 127-133); *The Swamp* - Introduction and chapters 1-3 (pp. 1-53)

Bring to class: *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America* and **binoculars, water, hat, sunblock, lunch.**

9:00 - 10:00 **Everglades Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center** (Homestead entrance)
Everglades early history / VIP program overview

10:15 - 12:15 **Anhinga Trail and Gumbo Limbo Trail** (Wet Season)
Introduction to wildlife, bring binoculars, Florida bird book and lunch

12:30 - 1:15 lunch at **Pinelands**

1:30 - 3:00 **Pa-hay-okee Overlook**: class discussion/ survey assignment

Oct.3: SURVEY due

Oct. 10: Canoeing through Sawgrass Prairies and dense Mangrove Forests

Readings: Hugh L. Willoughby. *Across the Everglades.*

The Everglades Handbook: chap. 4,8,17 and 19 and chap 21 (pages 217-221 only)

The Swamp (chap. 4-7, pp.54-116).

9:00 - 3:00 **Nine Mile Pond Canoe Trail**

bring binoculars, Florida bird book, WATER, HAT, Willoughby, sun block and lunch

October 13: HONORS COLLEGE CONVOCATION 1:00 - 4:00 P.M. EXTRA CREDIT for active participation

Oct.17: journal entry #2 due

October 31: Sawgrass Prairies, Alligator Holes and Cypress Domes/Everglades Slough Slog

Readings: Zora Neale Hurston. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

Robert Penn Warren: "Audubon: a Vision" (excerpts)

The Everglades Handbook: chap 9 and following photos; *The Swamp*: ch 8-11 (pp. 117-196)

9:00 - 10:00 ENP Artist in Residence Program: Ernest F. Coe Visitors Center
(Homestead entrance to ENP)

Slough slog introduction and preparation

10:00 - 3:00 Everglades Slough Slog - near Pa-hay-o-kee overlook.

Bring binoculars, bird book, WATER, HAT, sun block and sack lunch in a small knapsack (lunch will be in a cypress dome - no benches or picnic tables available)

November 7 : Big Cypress Swamp/Everglades as inspiration

Readings: *The Everglades Handbook*: chap. 5, 7, 13, 18; *The Swamp* : ch. 12-13 (pp. 197-236);

& Marjory Stoneman Douglass: *The Everglades: River of Grass* (excerpts)

NOTE: journal #3 is also due in class this day

10:00 - 12:00 Big Cypress Gallery 52388 Tamiami Trail (Ochopee)
Clyde Butcher, photographer www.clydebutcher.com/

1:30 - 3:30 Big Cypress Visitor Center: Class discussion, Personal Ad assignment, project proposal suggestion. Short journal entry #3 to be read out loud in class.

Bring binoculars, lunch and your essay/journal entry.

Nov.14: Everglades "personal Ad" due

November 21: Mangrove Estuaries and Cultural History / The 10,000 Islands (FL West Coast)

Reading: Voltaire: *Candide*; *The Everglades Handbook*: chap.10; *The Swamp* (review)

10:00 - 12:00 The Historic Smallwood Store Museum in Chokoloskee(meet inside museum)

12:00 - 1:30 Lunch on shore

1:30 - 4:00 Canoe to Sandfly Island

Bring binoculars, bird book, hat, sunscreen, water and old shoes that can get wet.

Nov.28: journal entry #4 due(if you already submitted 3 journal entries, this one is optional)

This journal should relate to discussion of *Candide*

December 5: Florida Bay: Flamingo Canoe Trip / Final Quiz / 2nd Semester Project Proposal Due

9:30 - 3:00 Meet at **Flamingo Visitor Center** on Florida Bay

Bring binoculars, bird book, something to write with and clipboard, lunch,water,hat and sun block.
Also bring a copy of your 2nd Semester Project Proposal.

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Anhinga Trail

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THIRD AND FOURTH YEAR HONORS SEMINAR

The Everglades: from beginning to end?

Second Semester Syllabus (IDH 3006/4008) - Spring 2009

Jan. 9 9:45 - 3:00 Everglades Roadside Clean-up: East Everglades (Chekika)
In-service component: all-day Everglades Roadside Clean-up and Trail-trimming

Jan. 16 (NO CLASS) journal entry #1 due

Jan. 23 Birding at Taylor Slough (Dry Season) and the beginnings of ENP

Reading: The Swamp Chapters 14-16 pp.239-303

10:00 - 12:00 Anhinga Trail (Dry Season)

1:00 - 3:00 Gumbo Limbo Trail and Old Ingraham Highway

Jan. 30: (NO CLASS) journal entry #2 due

Feb. 6: SRAI Proposal Due - must be submitted online to srai@fiu.edu

Feb. 13 The Hole in the Donut Restoration Project: Brazilian Pepper Removal

Reading: The Swamp Chapters 17-18 and Epilogue pp. 304-370

10AM - 12:00 Coe Visitor Center

1:00 - 3:30 Daniel Beard Research Center (west of Anhinga Trail Area)

Feb. 20: (NO CLASS) optional journal entry #3 due (Extra Credit)

Feb. 27 10:00 - 3:00 Shark Valley Bike Trip; meet at Shark Valley Visitor Center

Reading: Skinny Dip by Carl Hiaasen

Mar. 6: (NO CLASS) optional journal entry #4 due (Extra Credit)

Mar. 26

SRAI: FIU University Park Campus 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Poster set-up: 8:00-9:00 A.M. GC Center Ballroom

Poster Session: 3:00-4:00 P.M. GC Center Ballroom

Poster Breakdown: 5:00 P.M.

April 3

Poster Session at Main Visitor Center (10 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.)

Set-up: **9:30 - 10:00** A.M. Posters will remain in Visitor Center for 2 weeks.

General Discussion with park rangers after poster evaluations

REQUIRED BOOKS:

Hiaasen, Carl. 2004. Skinny Dip. New York: Grand Central Publishing (formerly Warner Books).
Paperback

• **ISBN-10:** 0446695564

• **ISBN-13:** 978-0446695565

Grunwald, Michael. 2006. The Swamp. The Everglades, Florida and the Politics of Paradise. New York: Simon & Schuster. ISBN 0-7432-5105-9

Sibley, David Allen. 2003. The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America. New York: Alfred A. Knopf . ISBN 067945120X

RECOMMENDED BOOKS:

Alden, Peter et al. 1998. Or latest edition. National Audubon Society Field Guide to Florida. New York: Knopf/Chanticleer Press. ISBN 0-679-44677-X

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