

Wetlands and Riparian Ecology
FW 479/579

Credit hours: 3

Term offered: Spring, alternate years, 08, 10

Instructor: Bruce Dugger

Course objectives:

1. Provide an introduction to wetland ecological principles
2. Understand how to apply ecological principles to conservation, restoration, and management of wetlands and wetland dependent organisms
3. Develop an understanding of how biological organisms have adapted to the wetland environment

Course content: A long history of wetland destruction has severely altered the abundance, structure, and function of wetland ecosystems in North America. The past thirty years has seen renewed appreciation for the value of wetlands to society. With this renewed appreciation has come an explosion of research seeking to understand how wetlands function, how organisms have adapted to wetlands, and how we can restore, manage, and protect our remaining wetland resources. The goal of this course is to expose students to an overview of this work. In addition to lectures, parallel readings from the text will provide more detailed information about specific aspects of wetland ecology, and the group poster project will provide students with the opportunity to focus on a specific aspect of wetlands, while gaining experience working in a group situation to achieve a goal.

Prerequisites: BI 370 or 371 or a general ecology course.

Text: Mitsch, W. J. and J. G. Gosselink. 1993. Wetlands, Third ed., Van Nostrand Reinhold, NY.

Term papers: Poster project.

Testing: One mid-term and a final.

Students for who the course is intended: Students with an interest in natural resources.