

*Course Syllabus
Ecology & Self
Spring 2025*

**PLEASE DON'T PRINT THIS SYLLABUS! IT MAY UPDATE AS THE SEMESTER PROGRESSES
AND EVERY LITTLE BIT WE CAN DO TO SAVE PAPER RESOURCES MATTERS!**

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Number/Section	EVST300/HON241
Course Title	Ecology & Self
Term	Spring 2025
Days & Times	Tuesdays, 5:30pm-6:30pm
Location	OM203 or zoom if needed

PROFESSOR CONTACT INFORMATION

PLEASE EMAIL BOTH OF US WHENEVER YOU HAVE QUESTIONS!!

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Jenn Lodi-Smith, lodismij@canisius.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION & LEARNING GOALS

This course will be focused upon week-long field ecology studies at unique and threatened environments throughout the subtropical Florida region, mostly within Everglades National Park. Participants will experience a wide variety of interpretive programs regarding the history, ecology, and politics of these environments and come away with a deep understanding of the Florida Everglades system. Throughout the travel and campus-based components of the course, students will read the work of individuals who have written personal narratives about their relationship with the environment, connect with a unique ecosystem, and reflect on their place in ecology.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- **Course fee:** \$900 - covers costs in the Everglades - will be applied to your regular student bill
- **MAKE SURE YOU SIGN THE SNORKEL WAIVER BEFORE OUR TRIP!**
- **MAKE SURE YOU SIGN THE CANISIUS WAIVER BEFORE OUR TRIP!!**
- **Health form - print and give to us prior to departure**
- **Everglades packing list** - let us know if you have barriers to purchasing anything and we can find you a loaner!
- **Everglades travel planning** - please complete your information prior to January 1 - this has your camping/food groups who you will share a campsite and food prep with as well as likely transportation in the everglades
- **Everglades entrance fee waiver** - print and bring with you!!
- **Additional costs**
 - Students will be responsible for scheduling and covering the cost of their travel to the meeting point in the Everglades including collaborative student rental cars as needed
 - Students will be responsible for grocery costs in Florida - two restaurant meals and milkshakes at [Robert is Here](#) will be provided by us at no cost to you!
- **Required Texts:**
 - **National Audubon Society: Field Guide to Florida; ISBN:0-679-44677-X (must have with you on trip)**
 - *The Everglades: River of Grass* by Marjory Stoneman Douglas (ebook is available online for free from the Canisius library)
 - Join the online book club at <https://bookclubs.com/clubs/6014166/join/09369f/>
 - Engage with the online book club discussion board at <https://bookclubs.com/ecology-self/messages> - reply to the chapter questions in the message when you finish each chapter!

- [Reading List](#) for readings through the semester
- Remember to BUY LOCAL or USED from an online used bookseller such as Better World or Thrift Books

IMPORTANT NOTE

PLEASE NO TREE NUTS/PEANUTS ON THIS TRIP

RESEARCH PARTICIPATION

[CLICK HERE TO BEGIN RESEARCH PARTICIPATION](#) - start before travel

As part of this course, you are invited to all be part of Dr. Lodi-Smith's community science initiative to study how people engage with nature. You will be asked to complete surveys before and after your travel and the course. In addition, your written responses may be used for study purposes. You may opt out of participation at any time and it will not negatively impact your grade or other aspects of the course in any way. Please see the consent form in the survey for more information and contact Dr. Lodi-Smith with any questions.

SCHEDULE

- **November/December**
 - Attend planning sessions on packing, schedule, first set of self-reflective writing prompts
 - Read *The Everglades: River of Grass* by Marjory Stoneman Douglas prior to departure for Everglades
- **Everglades Trip (January 3-10)**
 - [click here for detailed schedule](#)
 - [watch this video to get a feel for the experience](#); and [this one made by students on the 2024 trip](#)
 - [click here for notes from Nov. 19 planning meeting](#)
 - [eBird trip report](#) - let JLS know your eBird user id if you want to be added or if you would like to learn how to eBird (can also learn with <https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/product/ebird-essentials/>)
- **Spring Semester (VERY TENTATIVE)**
 - Meet weekly on Tuesdays 5:30pm-6:30pm in OM203
 - Make sure to check out our [calendar of events](#) to enjoy and add your own!
 - **January 14:** Off - recuperate from travel and settle into your other classes
 - **January 21:** Reflections on trip/Post-trip survey - GET YOUR GEAR THURS/FRI
 - **January 28:** [Community engagement](#) planning/Monthly self-reflective writing prompts
 - **February 4:** Florida Panther Lesson (Daniel)/Start Path of the Panther Documentary (Disney+ & Hulu)
 - **February 11:** No class - go to BON programming (<https://bird-niagara.org/>) that weekend OR watch a bird documentary - but ideally go to BON, it will be fun! Volunteers needed - if you are available and able, please let Jenn know!
 - **February 18:** No class - winter break
 - **February 25:** BON report back in OM 203 & [ISD submissions due March 3 & tell what books you chose!](#)
 - **March 4:** Check in on projects - review & edit ISD submissions as needed - final edits needed by March 10
 - **March 11:** Plan bowling outing & then ISD prep
 - **March 18:** No class - spring break
 - **March 25:** Plan bowling outing/ISD prep - anything printed needs to be finalized this day and submitted to print shop/Reminders about assignments & assignment check-ins
 - **April 1:** No class - ISD April 2 <https://sites.google.com/my.canisius.edu/isd-2021/isd-2025-schedule>
 - **April 8:** Timberdoodling with WNYBC @ [Buffalo Lakeside Commerce Park](#) sometime around now - depending on weather condition, probably April 6 or 9 – and go to see <https://www.bandsintown.com/e/106374471> on April 8
 - **April 15:** No class - Easter break
 - **April 22:** Earth Day Bowling - do shoreline sweep on April 26th (morning)!
 - **April 29:** Reinstein, 7-9pm, owl prow!l
 - **TBD:** Final self-reflective writing assignment during final exam week

GRADING

10%..... Book Critique – A three-page typed report/critique which should include an overview of the book followed by student's personal impressions. The book you choose is up to you - it should focus on self-reflective nature writing in some way. See the [reading list](#) for suggestions. **DUE APRIL 15. (30pts)**

10%..... Book Club – Engage in online book club (see above) about *The Everglades: River of Grass* during Everglades trip. **DUE APRIL 15. (30pts)**

15%..... Ignatian Scholarship Day Presentation – group presentation. **Submissions due to ISD submission portal by mid semester, ISD is APRIL 2.** For more info and the link to the submission portal visit <https://my.canisius.edu/group/academic-affairs/ignatian-scholarship-day>. Alternatively, you can submit writing, photography, art, etc. to the Quadrangle with the unveiling typically scheduled for ISD.

15%..... Community engagement activities – attend a minimum of three hours of activities in the local WNY nature community throughout the spring semester. At least one should have a service component such as a shoreline sweep, invasive species removal, community science, etc. Contribute to collaborative slide presentation you create as a team of your experiences to be shared with the class (and beyond?!) - at least one photo and accompanying quote from your journal. **MAY 1. (45pts)**

15% Research Paper – A three-to-four-page, typed paper focused on the effects of climate change on the Florida Everglades ecosystem and/or our local community. **DUE MAY 1. (45pts)**

15%..... Self-reflective Writing Journal – Kept over the trip and semester with directed and open-ended writing about your place in our global ecology. **SHOW/SEND one from trip & one from semester to LODI-SMITH/ROTH BY MAY 1. (45pts)**

20%..... Final Exam – An exam focused upon (1) natural history, ecological principles, interpretation, and field studies and (2) a final self-reflective writing assignment about how you have changed from being part of this class. **Takes place in the field (30pts) and during exam week (30pts).**

Percentage of Total Points	Letter Grade
94 – 100	A
90 – 93.99	A-
88 – 89.99	B+
83 – 87.99	B
80 – 82.99	B-
78 – 79.99	C+
73 – 77.99	C
70 – 72.99	C-
65 – 69.99	D
< 64.99	F

IMPORTANT NOTES & RESOURCES

Please let us know ASAP how we can work together to help you be successful in this class. Here are a few important areas to help us all work towards success.

Information on many of these is available through the [Canisius Cares!](#) resource.

Statement on Diversity and Inclusion at Canisius

Consistent with our Catholic Jesuit mission and identity, we stand in solidarity with and advocate for everyone of all abilities, identities, life experiences, and perspectives.

As a campus located in a diverse Buffalo community, we are committed to:

- Creating a culture of acceptance, awareness, learning, respect, and understanding inside and outside of the classroom
- Pursuing academic excellence through a curriculum of diverse ideas and vibrant interpersonal classroom experiences that challenge individuals to grow
- Promoting a safe and welcoming experience that encourages questioning and discussion
- Advancing equity by removing institutional barriers to success for all members of the community
- Developing lifelong learners who contribute to an increasingly diverse and global society

Important Campus Resources for Diversity and Inclusion

- [ALANA Student Center](#)
- All gender restrooms are located in the library near the writing center, on the 1st floor of Bagen across from student records and financial services, and near the atrium in science hall
- [Afro-American Society](#)
- [Bias Reporting Form](#)
- [Border And Migration Initiatives](#)
- [International Student Supports](#)
- [Office of Diversity and Inclusion](#)
- [Preferred First Name, Personal Pronoun, Gender Identity Supports](#)
- [Setting Preferred Pronouns in D2L](#) and [Zoom](#)
- [Title IX Supports](#)
- [UNITY](#)

Important Campus Resources for Student Success

- [Accessibility Support Services Office*](#)
- [Bouwhuis Library](#)
- [Canisius Undergraduate Code of Academic Integrity](#)
- [Griff Center for Student Success](#)
- [Quick Technology Guide for Students](#)
- [Tutoring Center](#)
- [Writing Center](#)

Important Campus Resources for Wellness

- [Campus Ministry](#)
- [Counseling Center](#)
- Palisano Fitness Center
- Petey's Pantry - lower level of Palisano (across from Shop 120)
- Prayer Room - Library 125
- [Student Health Center](#)

We all may experience challenges where supports are less clear including but not limited to caregiving, parenting, or unsafe living conditions. Our own health, mental health, and safety comes first. Please reach out to me, another trusted faculty member, and/or your associate dean if you need support that isn't addressed above or help navigating the resources available to you.

Academic Accommodations - The Griff Center – Student Accessibility Services (SAS) serves as the institute's advocate for students with disabilities and is responsible for arranging any necessary accommodations and/or supports. A student in need of academic accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services at (716) 888-2485 or stop by Old Main 317 to arrange a meeting to discuss their needs, the necessary support documentation and to register with the office. Upon registration, including provision of required documentation, SAS will notify the student's professors of the necessary academic accommodations via the iAdvise portal. Please note that a student may register for accommodations at any point throughout the semester.

Academic Integrity: "Academic integrity is the foundation of intellectual inquiry and growth. Demonstrating respect for intellectual work, whether one's own or others', fosters an atmosphere of trust and facilitates the free exchange of ideas, which is essential for learning. All members of the Canisius community agree to exercise complete honesty in their academic work and accept responsibility for maintaining academic integrity." The full Academic Integrity Policy can be viewed at www.canisius.edu/integrity

A diverse community includes the celebration of a range of religious holidays. Any student experiencing a conflict between a religious holiday observance and a required element of this course (attendance, exam, paper, etc.) should notify the professor as soon as possible so that an accommodation can be determined. The Canisius policy for

academic accommodation of religious obligations, in accordance with New York State law, can be found at <https://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/academics/academic-policies/religious-holidays/>.

Here are direct links to the university travel policies so we all have those easily to hand. Please note that we have university approval for you to make your own travel arrangements given the timing of the travel during winter break.

- <https://wiki.canisius.edu/display/HR/Volume+VII%3A+7.1+Accounting+Policies#VolumeVII:7.1AccountingPolicies-7.1.15TravelPolicy>
- <https://wiki.canisius.edu/display/HR/Volume+V%3A+5.4+Academic+Administration+Policies#VolumeV:5.4AcademicAdministrationPolicies-5.4.4AcademicFieldTripsPolicy>

DO YOU HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT US? Talk to us but know you can also report any concerns you don't feel comfortable addressing about us to our supervisors - Dr. Charlie Goodsell (goodselc@canisius.edu) is chair of the psychology department, Dr. Erin Robinson (robinso5@canisius.edu) is chair of Environmental Studies, Prof. Janet McNally (mcnallyj@canisius.edu) is director of Honors, and Dr. Tom Chambers (chambe27@canisius.edu) is dean of the College of Arts & Sciences.