

# APPLICATION

## BIOL 405 Natural History of the Everglades and Florida Keys (3 credits)

6:30-9:15 Mondays, Spring Semester with field trip Mar 10-22, 2010 (Spring Break + 2.5 days)

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_ Minor: \_\_\_\_\_

Current academic year (circle one): **HS** **Fr** **So** **Jr** **Sr** **Grad**

Contact info:

email \_\_\_\_\_

phone \_\_\_\_\_

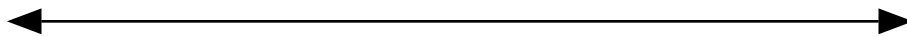
1. In what ways would this class benefit you both personally and in your career preparation?

2. This class includes a major field trip, during which we will “rough it” for periods of time (e.g., no shower for several days!). Do you enjoy that kind of experience? Give examples of similar things you’ve done that you really enjoyed.

3. (Optional) If there is other pertinent information that would help us assess your application, please explain below.

4. On a scale of 1 to 10, how badly do you want to participate on the trip?

not much 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 very much



**Thanks for your interest!** We will carefully review applications and let you know as soon as possible after the application deadline.

(See reverse for course information.)

**Due dates:**

Application–Oct 5

\$200 payment (if accepted into class)–Oct 19

# BIOL 405 Natural History of the Everglades and Florida Keys (3 credits)

## Course Information Sheet

**Who:** *Space is limited to only 13 students so apply early.* Biology majors/minors given preference, but others with a passion for nature will be considered. Note: The course has been approved by the Honors Director to count as an Honors elective.

**When:** Spring semester. We will meet each Monday night (except holidays) from 6:30-8:15 prior to the field trip, and perhaps 1-2 evenings after the trip. The field trip will be from Wednesday evening, March 10 through Monday evening, March 22; this includes an additional day on each side of spring break, so you will need to arrange this with your instructors early in the semester.

### Application and Admission Procedure:

- Submit this application to the biology office by Oct 5. We will review applicants shortly after this date, and we will promptly notify prospective students of our decision.
- Submit \$200 course payment by Oct 19 to hold a spot in the course. This (and tuition) will cover expenses during the field trip with the exception of food expenses on the drive down and back (2 days each way), laundry, and other voluntary personal expenses you may incur.
- Accepted students who have held their spots (see above) will be authorized to register.

**Coursework:** Classwork at AU will prepare you to make the most of the experience in Florida by surveying relevant environmental principles, introducing important groups of organisms we will study, and providing a solid understanding of the ecosystems in south Florida and their conservation status. The field trip will offer “total immersion” in those ecosystems, during which time you will collect data towards completion of a class project, which you will complete soon after returning.

**Field Activities:** Planned activities include the following:

- Visit a site with abundant manatees.
- Camp near Everglades City. Spend Sabbath at Corkscrew Swamp.
- Canoe through mangrove ecosystems (dolphins often spotted) in route to a key on the Gulf Coast. Study intertidal organisms on this island, where we camp for the night, then return to mainland the next day—very tired!
- Travel to the Florida Keys, where we will likely see the endangered (and very tiny) Key Deer. Do two snorkeling expeditions to coral reefs along Looe Key, where we will study rich ecosystems of these sub-tropical reefs.
- Travel to the Everglades, and study habitats in this unique ecosystem. Camp in the Everglades.
- Spend the last Sabbath visiting Anhinga Trail, where we will enjoy many birds, turtles, and alligators (among other things).

**What to Expect in the Field:** Lots of sun (bring/use sunscreen)... Lots of camping—and camp food... Periods of several days without showers... You will get wet and dirty, probably more than once... Physical exertion on some days, especially when canoeing... Close-up experiences with spiders, insects, birds, frogs, lizards, turtles, snakes, alligators (well, hopefully not too close up)... Make friends, have fun, learn biology, and gain a richer appreciation of God’s creation—all at the same time!

**Questions?** Contact Drs. Atkins ([atkins@andrews.edu](mailto:atkins@andrews.edu)) or Goodwin ([goodwin@andrews.edu](mailto:goodwin@andrews.edu))