

Environmental Biology

Ecosystems of Southwest Florida
BSC 1051C

Nature Journal II: Description and Task List

Nature Journal: This is to be hand-written and not typed. Field excursion and campus walk notes and observations, “Nature Spot” observations (~1/week), and *multi-page* summaries highlighting the importance of our journal tasks, guest speakers, and in-class videos must be included. The journal will be collected unannounced during the semester for spot-checks and one final time for grading on the final day of regular classes. **Think of this as a working study guide that helps encourage study habits and retention of course material.** You must include a **Table of Contents** and order your entries in the listed order for credit.

Your Nature Spot: Find a location, where you can spend 30 minutes observing the landscape that surrounds you. This can be a spot you locate on or off campus. It can be a private beach, a cypress dome, next to a pond, etc. Make sure it is a place you feel safe, secure, inspired, comfortable, and relaxed. Visit this spot and make careful observations in your journal according to the task list given below. Hopefully, this will turn into a location you come back to and visit throughout your college career when you need a place to study, think, or collect your thoughts.

Nature Journal Final Due Date: **Class # 11**

Grading Period II Entries (10 entries)

- Nature Spot Entry 4: Using your nature spot as inspiration, do we, as humans, have a duty to preserve our natural resources? Explain why you think we do or why we do not.
- Nature Spot Entry 5: What human impacts are likely to influence your Nature Spot soon? In 5 years? In 10 years? What can you do as a citizen of the planet to help preserve areas like your Nature Spot?
- Nature Spot Entry 6: Does your Nature Spot hold different meaning today than at the beginning of the semester? Are *you* different today because of your repeated visits to your Nature Spot? Will you return to your Nature Spot in the future to reflect and think about what is important? How have you gained an appreciation for nature, wilderness, and living in a sustainable manner as a result of the activities associated with this class?
- Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary Field Excursion Summary (use question sheet as a guide)
- Freshwater Ecosystems Wetwalk Summary (1 full page quality essay summary required)
- Cypress Dome and Crayfish Lab Summary (1 full page quality essay summary required)
- Age-Structure Diagram Exercise
- Bonita Nature Place and City Hall Field Excursion Summary (use question sheet as a guide)
- Barefoot Beach Field Excursion Summary (use question sheet as a guide)
- Use GoogleEarth (<http://www.google.com/earth/index.html>) to create an image of the Corkscrew Watershed. Mark each of the field excursion locations we visited. Copy your image and paste it into a word or powerpoint file. Print this map and include with you journal. Explain how each of the site visits related to the rest.

(CREW → CSS → BNP → Barefoot Beach)