

Marine Biology Lab, OCB 3043L, Fall Semester 2015

Course & Instructor Details

1 credit
Prerequisites BSC 1010 + 1011
T/TH 2:00PM to 4:50PM
Biscayne Bay Campus
Lab Classroom: MSB 220B

TA: Mark Barton Office MS 250K or 234
Office Hours TBA Email: mbart034@fiu.edu

Alastair Harbourne Marine Biology Office MS 355
Office Hours TBA 305-919-4190

Lab Description: An ecological approach to the biology of organisms in the marine environment with an emphasis on zonation and adaptation to the physical environment. Intended for biology majors or other science majors.

Required Text: Required reading will be made available online following the first class.

Lab Grading Scheme: Grades will be based on the following:

1. Homework 20%
2. Participation 10%
3. Pop Quizzes 10%
4. Final Assignment 10%
5. Exam 1 25%
6. Exam 2 25%

Grading system

A: 94-100%, A-: 90-93% B+: 87-89% B: 84-86% B-: 80-83%
C+: 77-79% C: 74-76% C-: 70-73% D+: 67-69% D: 64-66% D-: 60-63%
F: <60%

A student who earns a failing grade based on the total number of points and fails to complete at least 60% of the course requirements will receive a grade of F (F zero). A grade of IN (Incomplete) will only be given in extremely rare cases where unusual circumstances occur after the Drop date (see below).

Course Content:

The class will be broken up into lab groups of 4 students. The participation grade will be based on attendance and **individual and team effort** in lab groups. Furthermore, each week we will be having scientific paper discussion and your participation in these discussions will be assessed.

Aside from lab activities, you will have 4 homework assignments covering material from each lab that you must complete with your group and hand in during the next lab. These homework assignments will require you to familiarize yourself with Microsoft Office Excel to analyze data collected during lab.

Each of you will be required to participate in a debate about controversial topics in marine biology. You will be expected to research the topic thoroughly in primary literature, and formulate structured arguments. You will be required to reference the literature in your debates and hand in a properly formatted annotated bibliography on the day of the debate. The bibliography should be in "Ecology" format, and include a short blurb under each entry explaining the important points for each reference. A coin will be flipped at the beginning to decide which will open the debate, each group should prepare a 3 minute "opening statements". Each member of the group is expected to contribute equally during the debate. The debate will be no longer than 20 minutes.

A midterm and final exam will be administered. Unlike other lab courses, these exams will be essay questions allowing you to show me your comprehensive understanding of the materials. The final will be **cumulative**, students are expected to know all the material learned throughout the semester. **A study guide will not be provided.**

We will partake in outdoor activities almost every single class so wear your swimming gear under your clothes. **Don't forget to bring a towel!** Always wear close toed shoes and a lab coat while in the lab. There are a few labs that will use chemicals and sharp object, they are identified on the course schedule, and you will be required to wear your long pants, shoes, goggles, and a lab coat. If a student cannot participate because they are not prepared, they will not be excused and this will reflect in their participation grade.

Course materials:

To minimize student costs, no text book will be required for this lab course. Instead, you are **required** to invest in some snorkeling gear! This means **MASK, FINS AND SNORKEL!** (If you are prone to getting cold, a wetsuit is not a bad idea).

Course Website: Blackboard for OCB 3043L

Course materials (lab sheets) will be available on the website. You will be expected to print out the appropriate lab sheet before class and bring it to class. Failure to do so will reflect on your participation grade.

The course is taught in a lab so you must be wearing close toed shoes and a lab coat. You must have protective glasses or goggles with you in each class though you will only be required to wear them during labs in which chemicals or sharp objects are involved.

General Course Policies

1. Attendance: Students are expected to come to every class, arrive on time and arrive having learned the material for the week by class time. This class follows standard FIU policy regarding student absence for sickness, religious observations, etc.
2. Excused Absences: Sometimes things happen that are beyond our control. Certain cases are considered reasonable excuses to miss class. These are death in the **immediate** family, personal injury, or severe illness. Some common occurrences that are **not excusable** include common colds and traffic jams. If you find yourself in

a situation where you cannot attend class for an excused reason, e-mail your TA in advance so that we can arrange for you to attend a different lab section. **DO NOT TRY TO ATTEND A DIFFERENT LAB SECTION WITHOUT APPROVAL FROM BOTH TAs!** If you do, you will not be allowed to join and will not receive points for that class.

3. **Plagiarism/Academic Honesty:** Students are always expected to abide by the university's policies, particularly those governing academic honesty and plagiarism as they appear in the FIU Student Handbook. Students not familiar with how to avoid plagiarism, will find links to the FIU library tutorials and information in week one of the on-line materials. Additionally, if a student work cites data, research or information that he or she has not generated and which is not general knowledge it must be cited appropriately following one of the disciplinary conventions of the academic disciplines represented by the faculty teaching this course. More information about citation formatting will be provided via Blackboard. Students must become completely familiar with bibliographic styles and citation conventions. If others' work is not cited adequately by a student he or she can be accused of plagiarism, accusations FIU takes very seriously. The instructor reserves the right to use turnitin.com to check work and to alter the syllabus if needed to deter plagiarism. You will be notified of any changes.
4. **Personal Electronics:** Cell phones, PDAs, MP3 players, or computers may be used in class only when allowed by the teachers for class-related activities specifically, not for personal use and amusement.
5. **Special Needs Students:** SNSs should notify the instructor prior to or immediately upon commencement of this course about accommodation needs in accordance with FIU policy.
6. **Incomplete Grades:** An incomplete grade is a temporary symbol given at the discretion of the instructor for work not completed because of serious interruption not caused by the student's own negligence. An incomplete grade must be made up as quickly as possible, but no later than two consecutive semesters or it will automatically default to the grade the student earned in the course. There is no extension to the two consecutive semester deadline. The student must not register again for the course to make up the incomplete. In order to receive an incomplete for this class, valid documentation must be provided for the reason the student is requesting the incomplete. The reason, again, must be out of the student's control.
7. **Questions and Complaints:** If a student has a question about the class material, assignment, or other requirement, he or she may call and make an appointment ahead of time. Failure to meet this deadline indicates the student's agreement with the grade received. Instructors' office hours and email contacts will be available and kept up to date.

8. Syllabus Changes: **Please note that the instructor reserves the right to alter the syllabus due to need and emergent circumstances. Students will be advised about any change made to the syllabus, but should also check the website for updates.**

Lab Section: Tuesday/Friday - MS 220 - 1pm-3:50pm

Weekly schedule:

Note: For days we are to collect be sure to wear appropriate attire, including shoes and clothes that can get dirty and wet.

Date	Activity	Topic	Reading	Deadlines
Aug 23 th , 25 th	lab	Data Variability / Scientific Method Lab 1		
Aug 30 th , Sep 1 st	lab	Seawater Chemistry Lab 2	Hoegh-Guldberg et al 2007	
Sept 6 th , 8 th	lab	Erosion and Waves Lab 3	Feagin et al 2005	HW 1
Sept 13, 15 th	lab	Plankton Lab 4	Lampert 1989	Debate Topics
Sept 17 th	Field Activity	Fishing Trip		
Sept 20 th , 22 th	Lab and Field Activity	Marine Producers Lab 5	Hutchinson 1961	HW2
Sept 27 th , 29 th	Exam 1	Practical Exam 1	Lab 1-5	
Oct 4 th , 6 th	Field Activity	Paddle in the Bay		
Oct 11 rd , 13 th	lab	Fish Seining / Food Webs Lab 6	Cabana and Rasmussen 1994	HW3
Oct 18 st , 20 rd	lab	Island Biogeography and Settlement Lab 7	Mertz and Myers 1994	
Oct 25 th , 27 th	lab	Rocky Intertidal Diversity Lab 8	Paine 1969	
Nov 1 th , 3 th	lab	Fish Dissections Lab coat, shoes, goggles, pants Lab 9	Albins and Hixon 2008	HW 4
Nov 8 th ,	lab	Invertebrate Morphology	Fiorito and	Florida

10 th			Scotto 1992	Species ID Quiz
Nov 15 th , 17 th	lab	Student Debates		Final Debate
Nov 22 nd , 24 th	NO LAB	THANKSGIVING!	gobble	
Nov 29 th , Dec 1 st	Field Activity	Undecided		
Dec ?? th	Field Activity	Keys Marine Lab		
Dec 6 th , 8 th	Exam 2	Practical Exam 2	Lab 1-11	