

**Marine Biology and Oceanography**  
**OCB 3043 — Spring 2017**  
**Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 – 1:45PM ROOM MS 150**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Instructor: Dr. Kevin M. Boswell, MS 355, at BBC campus. Phone: (305) 919-4009;  
e-mail (preferable): [kevin.boswell@fiu.edu](mailto:kevin.boswell@fiu.edu) (**include OCB3043 in subject line**).

Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9:00-12:00 or by appointment.

**Required Text:** Levinton, J.S. *Marine Biology: Function, Biodiversity, Ecology*

**Syllabus**

Date	Lecture Topic	Chapter in Text
01/10	Introduction and organization of the course; Sounding the Deep: History of marine biology	1
01/12	Oceanic environment: ocean floor, water chemistry, circulation	2
01/17	Ocean environment: global change, waves, tides	2
01/19	Chemical and Physical Environment	4
01/24	Ecological and Evolutionary Principles	3
01/26	Ecological and Evolutionary Principles; Life in Fluids	5
01/31	Reproduction, Dispersal, Migration	6
02/02	<b>MIDTERM ONE</b>	1-6
02/07	Organisms of the Open Ocean: Plankton	7
02/09	No Class- Instructor in the field	
02/14	Organisms of the Open Ocean: Nekton and Marine Vertebrates	8
02/16	Processes in the Open Ocean: Factors in Plankton Abundance	9
02/21	Processes in the Open Ocean: Productivity, Food Webs, Climate Change	10
02/23	Diversity of Benthic Marine Invertebrates, Seaweeds, Sea Grasses	11,12
02/28	Diversity of Benthic Marine Invertebrates, Seaweeds, Sea Grasses, CONTD.	11,12
03/02	Benthic Life Habits	13
03/07	<b>MIDTERM TWO</b>	7-13
03/09	Tidelands	14
03/14	No class- Spring Break	
03/16	No class- Spring Break	
03/21	Tideland contd.	14
03/23	Seagrass Beds, Rocky Reefs	15
03/28	Rocky Reefs Contd.	15
03/30	Kelp Forests and Coral Reefs	15
04/04	Continental Shelf to Deep Sea	16
04/06	Biodiversity and Conservation of the Ocean	17
04/11	Fisheries and Food from the Sea	18
04/13	<b>MIDTERM THREE</b>	14-17
04/18	Fisheries and Food from the Sea; Environmental Impacts of Industrial Activities	18, 19
04/25	<b>FINAL EXAM 12-2PM, MSB150</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>

Reading assignment: chapters refer to those in Levinton

**Course Website:** Blackboard – Lecture slides will be posted online following the lecture.

**Lab Sections:** OCB 3043L Tues 2-4:50PM or Thurs 2-4:50PM TA: Mr. Mark Barton

The laboratory will be a separate one-credit course taught by a teaching assistant, although I will be involved integrally with designing and performing laboratory activities. The lecture and lab sections have been designed carefully to complement one another throughout the semester; however, the lecture and lab grades will be completely independent.

**Course description and learning outcome:** This course is designed as an introduction to marine biology and biological oceanography for majors in Biology and Marine Biology. It will also introduce the basics of physical and biological oceanography and the biology/ecology of the major marine ecosystems. Since this is an upper division level course, advanced knowledge in natural sciences, particularly chemistry and physics, is expected. **Successful completion of General Biology I and II is a prerequisite.**

**Course expectations:** Regular class attendance is expected as is appearance on time. Students are expected to have finished their reading assignment prior to each class.

**No cell phones are tolerated during class – please turn them off or turn them to “silent” before class begins.**

**Laptops can only be used for taking notes** and may not be used for email, internet, chatting, doing work etc. If you want to use a laptop to take notes you will be asked to sit in the front of class.

**The course will have three midterm exams.** Your highest two grades from the midterms will count towards your final grade (30% each of final grade). Your lowest midterm will be dropped. These exams are non-cumulative and cover only material since the last exam. **The final exam is cumulative and covers all information from the semester.** It counts for 30% of your final grade. Missed exams will count as zero points. Participation in the lecture will account for 10% of your grade and will comprise of a series of quizzes offered throughout the course covering material relevant to the topic we are discussing in lecture.

There will be absolutely no make-up exams for absences or tardiness unless for university-approved excuses. Examples of university-approved excuses include: documented medical emergencies, death of members of immediate family, and jury duty. A car accident will be accepted as an excuse only if the student provides a police report. Exams will not be curved.

Grade scale: A 90 – 100%; B 80 – 89%; C 70 – 79%; D 60 – 69%; F < 60%

**Grading %**

**Highest Midterm 1 – 30%**

**Highest Midterm 2 – 30%**

**Lowest Midterm – 0%**

**Final – 30%**

**Participation- 10%**

Students will be graded on their performance in the above areas ONLY. Future career plans will have ZERO influence on the grade you receive in this class. Incomplete grades will be considered only under extraordinary circumstances.

**Last day to withdraw with a DR grade March 20, 2017.**

**Instructor Communication:** All instructor communication and announcements will be done by email. When I send emails to the class to make announcements etc., I will only use your FIU email address. If students do not use their FIU email account, use the easy to set up automatic mail forwarding option to the email account you are using regularly. All email from students should contain “OCB3043” in the subject line to ensure a prompt response!

**Doing well in this class:** I want to see you succeed and learn the material. I am willing to help as much as I can both in class and during office hours to help you understand the material. But I cannot help you if you do not ask for help. Please do not wait until the last week of class to tell me you are having trouble understanding the lectures. By this point there is not much that can be done.

**Sexual harassment policy:** FIU is committed to eliminating sexual harassment. In accordance with the FIU Faculty Senate guidelines, this syllabus includes a warning that any misconduct will be reported. FIU's sexual harassment policy is available at: <http://www.fiu.edu/~eop/EOPSexH.pdf>

**Honor Code:** FIU is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly to demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook.

-Cheating and plagiarism are violations of the academic honesty section of the FIU student code of conduct and will be reported to Judicial Services.