

INTRODUCTORY MARINE BIOLOGY

Course Syllabus
BISC 320, Intro. Marine Biology
Phone: 662-915-7162

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TEXTBOOK: Jeffrey S. Levinton. 2013. Marine Biology, 4th Edition. Oxford University Press. The text is required.

NATURE OF COURSE CONTENT: This course will cover basic principles and specific topics concerning marine biology.

GRADING AND EXAMS: Attendance and participation in class are mandatory and may be used to determine your grade. There will be at least 3 tests and 1 final exam. These 4 tests form the basis of your grade (25% each; weighted equally). Any test may include material from former tests (comprehensive tests). Please make an appointment with Dr. Gaston if you need to review your tests. They are available for review one week after the tests are returned (not after that). Tests and exams may require Scantron sheets, and may include discussion and other testing methods. Pop tests may be given also. The final is comprehensive (includes material from the entire semester). Bonus points (0.5% each) may be earned during pop tests and other activities. These bonus points will be added to your final average and may affect your grade. Similarly, unexcused-absence points (0.5% each) will be subtracted from your grade. The grade scale for this course is: A = 90 - 100% of total points; B = 80 - 89%; C = 70 - 79%; D = 60 - 69%; F = 0 - 59%. I will not assign + and – levels to your final grades.

MAKE-UP EXAMS: A single comprehensive make-up exam (for the tests) will be given the day of the final exam. You must request permission to take the make-up exam within 48 hours of the missed test. Except in extreme cases you cannot make up quizzes or pop tests, and you will be given a zero for those tests missed.

CLASS ATTENDANCE: Students are strongly encouraged to attend classes. Attendance **may be used in calculating your final grade**, and students with more than 3 unexcused absences may be dropped from the course. Points from unexcused absences (0.5% each) will be subtracted from your grade. Excused absences must be requested by email to Dr. Gaston within 48 hours of the class missed.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Students should develop a good understanding of basic principles of marine biology and become familiar with the current topics and research discussed in class. Successful students will be educated in basic principles of marine science, and have a clear understanding of example species and their habitats as models of each principle.

SCHEDULE:

Introduction to the Marine Environment and Principles of Marine Biology (CH 1 - 3)
Biology of Marine Organisms (CH 4-5)
TEST 1 (CH 1-5) and vocabulary

Biology of Marine Organisms (CH 6)

Plankton, Nekton (plus sharks, tuna) (CH 7 - 8)
Whales (not in book)
TEST 2 (CH 6-8, notes on whales)

Coastal and Benthic Habitats (CH 13 - 15)
Deep-water habitats (CH 16)
TEST 3 (CH 13-16)

Sea Turtles (not in book)
How humans affect the ocean (CH 18-19)
FINAL EXAM