COURSE SYLLABUS

BIOLOGY OF SEA TURTLES

SPRING 2018
ZOO4926 – SECTION #07EE

Contact information  Dr. Karen A. Bjorndal
                    Carr Hall, room 320
                    352-392-1126
                    bjoerndal@ufl.edu

Class schedule      Tuesday, Periods 4-5 (10:40 – 12:35)
                    Thursday, Period 4 (10:40-11:30)

Class location      222 Carr Hall

Course website      To be completed

Office hours        Thursdays 5th period (11:45-12:35) in 320 Carr Hall or by appointment
                    If you are experiencing any problems with the class, please see me as
                    soon as possible – before or after class, during office hours, or by
                    appointment.

Objectives

This 3-credit course will focus on the current major issues in sea turtle biology, conservation, and management. Each Tuesday, there will be lectures by the instructor or guest speakers or the class will work on pre-designated group research projects. Each Thursday we will discuss readings, explore recent research, and identify research needs. Readings for class discussions will be both classic papers and recent literature.

Course Assignments

Group Research Projects
These projects will be conducted by small Research Groups in and outside of class. Each Research Group will be assigned to a research project. Class time will be devoted to discussions and planning sessions for each research project and presentations of progress reports, final reports and posters from each Research Group.
Discussion Sessions
We will have discussion sessions that focus on current major issues in sea turtle biology, conservation, and management. A Presentation Group, consisting of 3 students, will lead each session. Each group will select one of 8 pre-designated topics (with 2 or 3 associated papers), create a brief presentation (at most 5 images) and lead a discussion during one discussion session. The papers will be distributed to the class at least one week before the discussion session so that students have sufficient time to read the papers.

Before the beginning of each class, each student who is not a member of the Presentation Group that week will email me 2 substantive discussion questions, based on the assigned readings.

Basis of Grade
Course grade will be based on class participation (35%), Group Research Project (30%), presentation for discussion session (15%), and written discussion questions (20%).
If you have any questions about your grade, please see me as soon as possible.

Course Policies
Class discussions
This class cannot be a success if you do not attend. You should contribute to class discussions and be courteous to others in the classroom and respect each other’s viewpoints. You are encouraged to ask either factual or interpretative questions and discuss the assigned reading material. You are expected to have completed reading assignments before class and be prepared to discuss the material.

Class attendance
You are expected to attend all classes and arrive promptly. Please refrain from side discussions and distracting behavior (turn off cell phones). If you miss class due to an illness, family emergency, or approved University activity, you will need to provide documentation.

Academic Honesty
Quoted from the UF Website:

“Preamble: In adopting this Honor Code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students who enroll at the University commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the Honor Code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action. Student and faculty support are crucial to the success of the Honor Code. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon the community acceptance and enforcement of the Honor Code.

“The Honor Pledge: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code.

“On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."
University Support Services

Resources are available on campus to help students meet academic goals and solve personal problems. Resources include:

1. **UF Counseling and Wellness Center**, personal counseling (including mental health issues) and career counseling.
2. **Career Resource Center**, career development assistance and counseling.
3. **CLAS Academic Advising Center** and **CALS Academic Advising Center** provide advice on course selection and course planning to meet graduation requirements.

Disability Notice

Students with disabilities enrolled in this course who may need disability-related classroom accommodations are encouraged to make an appointment to see me before the end of the second week of the term. All discussions will remain confidential, although the Student Accessibility Services office may be consulted to discuss appropriate implementation of any accommodation requested.

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative ([www.umatter.ufl.edu/](http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/)) is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.