



COURSE SYLLABUS & CLASS SCHEDULE

BIOLOGY OF SEA TURTLES

SPRING 2016

ZOO6406 – SECTION #07EF

ZOO4926 – SECTION #07EE

<i>Contact information</i>	Dr. Karen A. Bjorndal Carr Hall, room 320 352-392-1126 bjorndal@ufl.edu
<i>Class schedule</i>	Tuesday, Periods 6-7 (12:50 – 2:45) Thursday, Period 7 (1:55 – 2:45)
<i>Class location</i>	222 Carr Hall
<i>Course website</i>	http://accstr.ufl.edu/files/class.pdf
<i>Office hours</i>	Tuesdays 5 th period (11:45-12:35) in 320 Carr Hall or by appointment <i>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.</i>

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 and final reports from each Research Group.

Thursday Discussion Sessions

Each Thursday, we will have a discussion session that will focus on the 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 1 or 2 associated papers), create a brief presentation (at most 5 images) and lead a discussion during one Thursday session. The paper(s) will be distributed to the class at least one week before the discussion session so that students have sufficient time to read the paper(s).

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

Basis of Grade

Course grade will be based on class participation (40%), Group Research Project (30%), presentation for discussion session (20%), and written discussion questions (10%).

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.