

# Marine Ecology

**Biology Field Immersion - PCB 4460**



**Dr. Melissa Meadows**  
melissa.meadows@ufl.edu  
(352) 222-1539  
Office Hours in Carr 522  
by appointment



**TA: Aileen Lavelle**  
aileenlavelle@ufl.edu

## Welcome to a transformative experience.

In this course, you'll have the opportunity to learn about marine ecology through a very special lens: our beautiful Florida! Florida has an incredible variety of marine ecosystem types. You will have the joy of carefully exploring MANY on the Atlantic Coast, the Gulf Coast, and in the Florida Keys. Meanwhile, you'll learn valuable field research skills and have FUN!

**2**

### WHAT WILL I LEARN?

And what materials do I need for class?

**3**

### HOW WILL I EARN MY GRADE?

Attendance Policy

**4**

### HELP!

Course Policies  
Schedule: 5

### Class Meetings

See schedule for location and time of each class meeting on campus.

### Travel

3/26-30: Whitney Laboratory  
4/2-6: Seahorse Key (NCBS)  
4/9-19: Keys Marine Lab

# What will I learn?

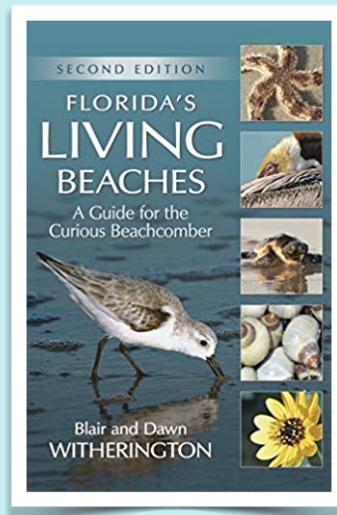
## What will I be able to do when I finish this course?

- Describe diverse marine ecosystems in Florida in detail, including coral reefs, salt marshes, mangroves, seagrass beds, rocky and sandy intertidal zones, mud/sand flats, estuaries, and more.
- Identify and describe the natural history of marine organisms in Florida.
- Keep a detailed field journal of your descriptions, observations, drawings of organisms and ecosystems, notes, experimental design ideas, and more!
- Develop, conduct, and present ecological field research projects that are non-invasive and utilize simple materials available.



## WHAT DO I NEED?

1. Textbook: Marine Biology 12th Ed. by Castro and Huber, available through UF All Access. RECOMMENDED as a supplement to lectures.
2. Field Guides: Florida's Living Beaches 2nd Ed by the Witheringtons is **highly recommended**, other field guides that you have are great. We will have some, but it is fun to mark what you see in your own personal copy and for the class to have access to a variety.
3. Seasickness meds! I cannot stress this enough for our Keys trip!
4. Snorkel gear: Mask, snorkel, fins, booties (optional), weight belt with a few pounds of weight (optional). Exposure protection: 3mm wetsuit recommended
5. Any waders, binoculars, nets, buckets, netting bags, dive/snorkel slates, underwater cameras, and other field equipment (including homemade!) that you have.
6. Purchase a bound composition-style book to use as your field journal. You may wish to buy a nicer book or a write-in-the-rain book so that your notes and memories will really last and not be damaged on the trips.
7. Rain gear and other appropriate clothing for a range of temperatures and field conditions. Fieldwork will be (mostly) rain or shine.
8. Warm sleeping bag for Seahorse Key Marine Lab - no heat in the lighthouse where we'll stay!

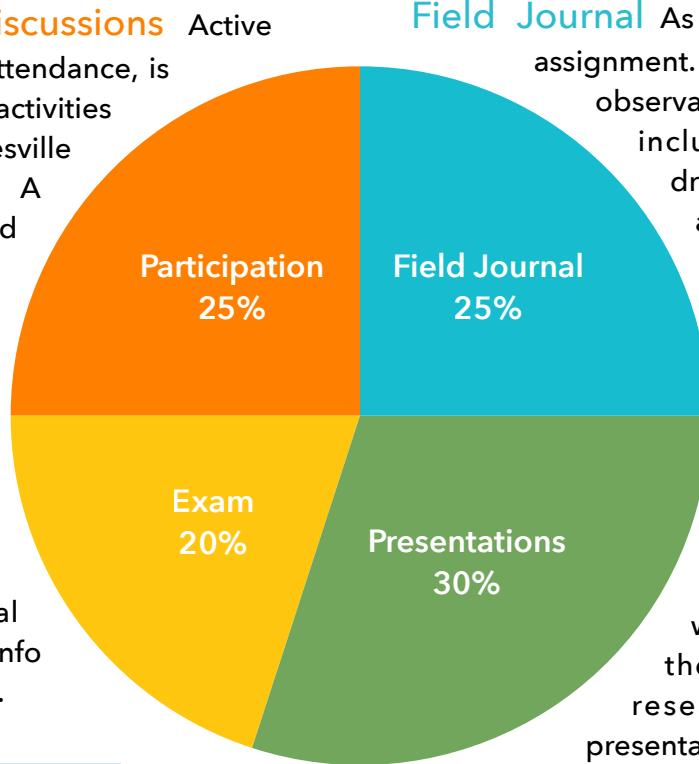


# How will my learning be assessed?

## Participation and Discussions

participation, and thus attendance, is required for all course activities and meetings in Gainesville and in the field. A community-centered and hardworking attitude will be vital to receiving full points for participation.

**Exam** There will be a final exam at the end of the course to include lecture and reading content, organism identification, ecological observations, and other info acquired during our trips.



## Field Journal

As much a keepsake as an assignment. Here, you'll record your observations each day in the field, including descriptions and drawings of habitats we visit and the organisms that live there; research project ideas, data, and results; and other small assignments in the field.

## Presentations

You will give several presentations in your working groups during the course, including a research proposal and a presentation at each field site on your results and observations.

## GRADE SCALE

A	$\geq 93.00\%$
A-	$\geq 90.00\%$
B+	$\geq 87.00\%$
B	$\geq 83.00\%$
B-	$\geq 80.00\%$
C+	$\geq 77.00\%$
C	$\geq 73.00\%$
C-	$\geq 70.00\%$
D+	$\geq 67.00\%$
D	$\geq 63.00\%$
D-	$\geq 60.00\%$
F	$< 60.00\%$

## How will attendance affect my grade?

Attendance of all class sessions as well as activities and meetings while in the field are required. There are some reasons you might miss class that are excused. Let me know ASAP that you'll be absent and why, and provide documentation. Please note that due to the compressed 5-week schedule of the course as well as its reliance on field work during trips, it will be very difficult to make up work missed. Please do not plan to be absent unless you have extreme circumstances. However, illness and unforeseen things happen, so we'll do our best to figure out how to proceed should you be away by necessity.



Please see the UF policy for excused absences here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

## WHAT IS EXPECTED IN CLASS?

PARTICIPATE. Ask questions. Connect. Be respectful. Silence your phone. Don't do anything that is distracting.

## LEARNING COMMUNITY

You will learn so much from each other - share your knowledge and perspective and be open to differing views.

## ACADEMIC HONESTY

Any acts of cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty will result in, at minimum, a 0 grade for the assignment or test AND a reduction in the course grade by 1 letter. For additional information on Academic Honesty, please refer to the University of Florida Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code at: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>

## WHAT IF I HAVE A DISABILITY?

Contact the Disability Resource Center, 352-392-8565. I will work with them to accommodate you.

More info: <https://disability.ufl.edu/>

## HELP!!!!

### QUESTIONS AND CONCERNs

If you don't understand something or are concerned about a grade, talk to me ASAP. Do not wait until later!! Ask in class, office hours, or via email.

### YOU MATTER

ASKING FOR HELP IS A SIGN OF STRENGTH. College can be stressful. If you or a friend is in distress, see <https://umatter.ufl.edu/>. Or contact the Counseling and Wellness Center at (352) 392-1575, 24/7. <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>

### WE CARE!

Dr. Meadows and Aileen are deeply invested in your success! Talk to us any time about any problem before, after, or during class; in the field at ANY TIME, or make an appointment for an individual discussion.

### EMAILING INSTRUCTORS

Please check the syllabus, other materials, and Canvas before emailing us about a question. We will respond to you within 24 hrs during the week (not immediately :)). For a little fun and insight, please see "[How to Email Your Professor \(without being annoying\)](#)" (<https://tinyurl.com/h5w5nyo>).

## TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES

Please contact the UF Help Desk at: <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>. Call (352) 392-HELP (4357)

Walk-in: HUB 132

# Schedule

**\*These locations and dates may get shuffled depending on the needs of these facilities.**



Date	TOPIC
Mon 3/23	109 Carr Hall, 9-12; 1-5 Course Introduction and Discussion Introduction to Marine Ecology Discuss Research Proposals, Intro to field sites, Set groups Work on Research Proposals Discuss Packing List, Food List
Tue 3/24	109 Carr Hall 9-12; 1-5 Complete Research Proposals Discuss Field Notebooks Research Proposal Presentations
Wed 3/25	No Class: Prep for trip
Thu 3/26 - Mon 3/30*	Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience, St. Augustine - Leave UF at 8 AM 3/26, return to UF evening 3/30
Tue 3/31 - Wed 4/1	No Class: Rest/ Prep for next trip
Thu 4/2 - Mon 4/6*	Seahorse Key Marine Lab at the Nature Coast Biological Station, Cedar Key - Leave UF at 8:00 AM 4/2, return to UF evening 4/6
Tue 4/7 - Wed 4/8	No Class: Rest/ Prep for next trip
Thu 4/9 - Sun 4/19*	Florida Keys Trip at Keys Marine Lab in Long Key
Wed 4/22	109 Carr Hall 9-12; 1-5 Last Presentations, Field Journals Due, Reflections, Exam

\*Detailed schedules for each trip will be available prior to each trip.