

Marine Ecology

Biology Field Immersion - PCB 4460



Dr. Melissa Meadows

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Office Hours in Carr 522
by appointment



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Class Meetings

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

Travel

Feb 11 - 15: Whitney Laboratory
Feb 17 - 21: Seahorse Key (NCBS)
Feb 23 - Mar 5: Keys

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!

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WHAT WILL I LEARN?

And what materials do I need for class?

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HOW WILL I EARN MY GRADE?

Attendance Policy

4

HELP!

Course Policies
Schedule: 5

What will I learn?

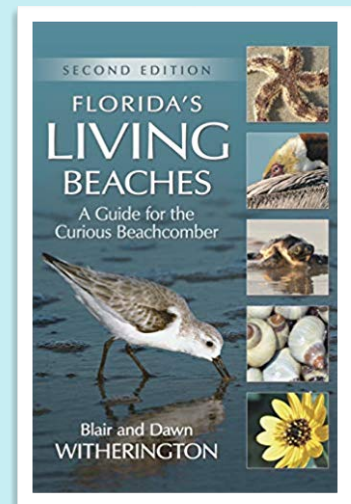
What will I be able to do when I finish this course?

- 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 11th Ed. by Castro and Huber, available through UF All Access.
2. Snorkel gear: Mask, snorkel, fins, booties (optional), weight belt with a few pounds of weight (optional). Exposure protection: 3mm wetsuit recommended
3. Field Guides: Florida's Living Beaches 2nd Ed by the Wetheringtons is required, 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.
4. Any waders, binoculars, nets, buckets, netting bags, dive/snorkel slates, underwater cameras, and other field equipment (including homemade!) that you have.
5. 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.
6. Rain gear and other appropriate clothing for a range of temperatures and field conditions. Fieldwork will be (mostly) rain or shine.
7. Light camping gear for Dry Tortugas camping. 1-2 person tent, sleeping bag/pad, backpacking camp chair, headlamp, mug, plastic plate/bowl, cutlery, etc.

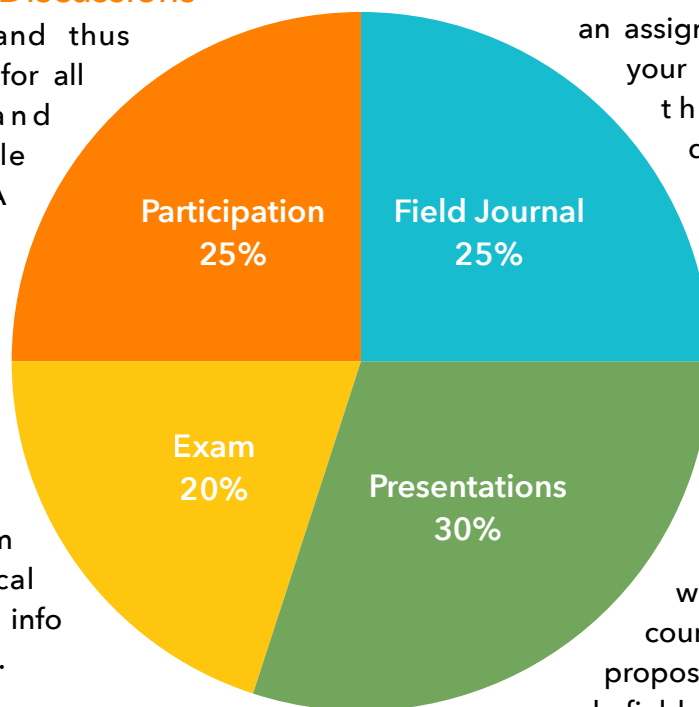


How will my learning be assessed?

Participation and Discussions

Active 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

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	≥ 90.00%
A-	≥ 86.66%
B+	≥ 83.33%
B	≥ 80.00%
B-	≥ 76.66%
C+	≥ 73.33%
C	≥ 70.00%
C-	≥ 66.66%
D+	≥ 63.33%
D	≥ 60.00%
D-	≥ 56.66%
F	< 56.66%

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.

HOW WILL WE CELEBRATE DIVERSITY?

We need diversity of opinion, social class, culture, religion, sexual orientation, gender, race, ethnicity, and ability in science. Maintain an environment of respect and inclusion at all times.
Listen and learn from all.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Any acts of cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty will result in a 0 grade. If you witness any academic dishonesty, please notify the instructor or contact the Student Honor Court (392-1631) or Cheating Hotline (392-6999). 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/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

WHAT IF I HAVE A DISABILITY?

Contact the Dean of Students Office of Disability Resources, Peabody 202, 352-392-1261. 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, contact umatter@ufl.edu or call the 24/7 crisis counselor at (352) 392-1575. Also available is UF Counseling and Wellness Center www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/ 392-1575.

WE CARE!

Dr. Meadows and Nerine 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 office visit.

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)" (<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
Wed Feb 9	120 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
Thu Feb 10	221 Carr Hall 9-12; 1-5 Complete Research Proposals Discuss Field Notebooks Research Proposal Presentations
Fri Feb 11 - Tue Feb 15*	Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience, St. Augustine - Leave UF at 8:00 AM sharp Feb 11, Arrive back at UF ~5:30 PM Feb 15. Atlantic side!
Wed Feb 16	No Class: Rest Day
Thu Feb 17 - Mon Feb 21*	Seahorse Key Marine Lab at the Nature Coast Biological Station, Cedar Key - Leave UF 8 AM Feb 17, arrive UF late afternoon/evening Feb 21
Tue Feb 22	No Class: Rest Day
Wed Feb 23 - Sat Mar 5*	Florida Keys Trip at Keys Marine Lab in Long Key, Camping in Dry Tortugas National Park (2 nights)
Sun Mar 6 - Sun Mar 13	SPRING BREAK
Mon Mar 14 & Tues Feb 15	9-12; 1-5 120 Carr Hall Last Presentations, Field Journals Due, Exam

*Detailed schedules for each trip will be available at a later date.