

Invertebrate Biodiversity on Coral Reefs – ZOO 4205C
Spring 2026 - Syllabus

Instructor: Gustav Paulay

TA: Abby Uehling

Lectures: One or two lectures per day (M-F)

Labs/field trips: Rest of each day (M-F)

Prerequisites: BSC2010 & 2011; PCB 4674 (Evolution) is recommended

Text / Materials:

- strongly recommended: Brusca, R. C. et al. 2022. Invertebrates. 4th Edition (3rd is also fine). Sinauer, Sunderland, MA; or Ruppert EE, Fox RS, Barnes RD. 2009. Invertebrate Zoology; a Functional Evolutionary Approach. 7th Edition. Brooks/Cole or Cengage Learning
- recommended: Humann, P. & Deloach, N. 2013. The Reef Set: Reef Fish, Reef Creature and Reef Coral (3 Volumes). New World Publications, Jacksonville FL
- Color pencils, lab notebook, ideally thick drawing paper assembled in loose-leaf binder, dissecting kit (forceps, scissors, scalpel)

Draft schedule (subject to change):

Week	Date	Topic
1	Mon Feb 16	Travel to Curacao
1	Tue Feb 17	Introduction
1	Wed Feb 18	Introduction
1	Th Feb 19	Annelida
1	Fri Feb 20	Annelida
2	Mon Mar 2	Worms et al
2	Tue Mar 3	Platyhelminthes, Acoelomorpha
2	Wed Mar 4	Ctenophora, exam 1
2	Th Mar 5	Porifera
2	Fri Mar 6	Cnidaria
2	Mon Mar 2	Cnidaria
3	Tue Mar 3	Mollusca
3	Wed Mar 4	Mollusca, exam 2
3	Th Mar 5	Mollusca
3	Fri Mar 6	Lophophorates, Chaetognatha
4	Mon Mar 9	Arthropoda
4	Tue Mar 10	Crustacea
4	Wed Mar 11	Crustacea, exam 3
4	Th Mar 12	Hemichordata, Urochordata
4	Fri Mar 13	Echinodermata
4	Sat Mar 14	travel to Gainesville
5	Mon March 16	Echinodermata
5	Tue March 17	Other invertebrates
5	Wed March 18	Other invertebrates
5	Th March 19	Overview
5	Fri Mar 20	Exam 4

Grading Policy: ZOO 4205C: lab notebook (50%), 4 open book exams (50%)

Grading Scale: (minimum grade; grading will be on a curve, with grade cutoffs usually adjusted downward)

90-100% = A; 80-89.9% = B; 70-79.9% = C; 60-69.9% = D; <60% = E. See <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/> for UF grading policies

Course Website: Because of the remote location in Curacao, we will not use E-Learning (Canvas) in this course.

Attendance Policy: Attendance and participation in all lectures, labs and field trips is required. See the UF policy on attendance for excusable absences, etc: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Accommodations: Students who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluations: Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Academic Integrity: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor 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.” The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [See the UF Conduct Code website for more information.](#) If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Resources Available to Students

Academic Resources:

- E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at [352-392-4357](tel:352-392-4357) or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- [Career Connections Center](#): Reitz Union Suite 1300, [352-392-1601](tel:352-392-1601). Career assistance and counseling services.
- [Library Support](#): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Call [866-281-6309](tel:866-281-6309) or email ask@ufl.libanswers.com for more information.
- [Academic Resources](#): 1317 Turlington Hall, Call [352-392-2010](tel:352-392-2010), or to make a private appointment: [352-392-6420](tel:352-392-6420). Email contact: teaching-center@ufl.edu. General study skills and tutoring.
- [Writing Studio](#): Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, [352-846-1138](tel:352-846-1138) | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- Academic Complaints: Office of the Ombuds; [Visit the Complaint Portal webpage for more information.](#)
- Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions): [View the Student Complaint Procedure webpage for more information.](#)
- UF Student Success Initiative: Visit <https://studentsuccess.ufl.edu/> for resources that support your success as a UF student.
- [Public Speaking Lab](#): (Dial Center, 501 Rolfs Hall). Offering online and in-person help developing, organizing, and practicing oral presentations. Contact email: publicspeakinglab@clas.ufl.edu.

Campus Health and Wellness Resources:

- UF Whole Gator Resources: Visit <https://one.ufl.edu/whole-gator/discover> for resources that are designed to help you thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally at UF.

Procedure for Conflict Resolution

Any classroom issues, disagreements or grade disputes should be discussed first between the instructor and the student. If the problem cannot be resolved, please contact the Undergraduate Coordinator or the Department Chair. Be prepared to provide documentation of the problem, as well as all graded materials for the semester. Issues that cannot be resolved departmentally will be referred to the University Ombuds Office (<http://www.ombuds.ufl.edu>; 392-1308) or the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu>; 392-1261). For further information refer to https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf (for residential classes) or <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaintprocess> (for online classes).