

# Marine Mammal Biology – Spring 2026

ZOO4485

## I. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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**Professor:**

Stefanie Gazda, Ph.D.

Carr Hall room 522A

Email: [stefanie.gazda@ufl.edu](mailto:stefanie.gazda@ufl.edu)

Office Hours: To be determined.

If you want to meet over Zoom, please sign up for a slot on Canvas in the Calendar.

## II. COURSE INFORMATION

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This course will meet Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9:35 AM to 12:35 PM in Carr Hall room 0611. There are several all-day field trips (see the syllabus for the schedule of dates); students should expect to meet very early in the morning on Campus and return in the late afternoons.

Students can drive themselves to field trip sites if they would prefer; you are responsible for reaching the destination on time and all transportation costs (parking, tolls, etc.). Assignments will be turned in through the Canvas course site. You can directly access the Canvas login at <https://elearning.ufl.edu/>.

## COURSE COMMUNICATION

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All e-mail correspondence to the Course Instructor must originate from your ufl.edu account, have your full name in the body of the e-mail, and contain your course number in the subject line. E-mails not meeting these requirements may not be recognized by our e-mail filters, and thus may not be answered.

## COURSE TEXTBOOK AND SOFTWARE

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The textbook is required for this course (please bring it to class meetings). You may choose to buy a hard copy of the textbook or the eBook.

Marine Mammals, Evolutionary Biology, **Edition 3**, by  
Annalisa Berta, James L. Sumich and Kit M. Kovacs.  
Publication date: 23 Apr 2015

eBook ISBN: 9780123972576

Hardcover ISBN: 9780123970022

Students will need a laptop, the MS Office Suite, and a working copy of the Raven Lite 2.0 acoustic software from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

Raven Lite 2.0 is required and is free for students. Order it here: <http://ravensoundsoftware.com/raven-pricing/#raven-lite-license>

System Requirements (your machine must be able to support it) can be found here: <http://ravensoundsoftware.com/system-requirements/>

Students will need to bring headphones to complete the Sound Lab.



## COURSE DESCRIPTION

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Some terrestrial mammals evolved adaptations in the past that allowed them to move towards either a full or a partial marine existence. This course will provide an understanding of a charismatic group of species, the marine mammals (cetaceans, pinnipeds, sirenians, sea otters and the polar bear), including evolutionary biology, physiology (locomotion, diving, thermoregulation, osmoregulation, reproduction), ecology (foraging/feeding behavior, distribution and habitat use, population dynamics), conservation and management. This course is an important upper division offering for Biology and Marine Biology majors.

This course relies heavily on discussions in class. It is expected that students will have read the material prior to the lectures. Attendance and participation are expected.

## PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

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Prerequisite: BSC2010 and BSC2011 or the equivalent. It is highly recommended that students have taken Evolution and General Ecology either in a prior semester or concurrently.

## MINIMUM TECHNICAL SKILLS

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To complete your tasks in this course, you will need a basic understanding of how to operate a computer, and how to use word-processing software. You will need to use presentation-based software such as PowerPoint, and you may need to access Zoom (with a webcam) during Office Hours.

**.HEIC image files are not accepted for any assignments or discussions.** Please save images as .jpeg files.

All assignments should be typed whenever possible, including tables: Only type-written documents in a recognizable file format will be accepted; photos/scans of hand-written text or screenshots of typed documents will not be graded and will result in no credit for that assignment (the only exception is for some diagram labels which may be hand-written; these will be made clear on the assignment instructions).

Files should be uploaded in PDF format; do not save text as images within a PDF. If your PDF cannot be read by the Turnitin software (a grey icon will appear in your gradebook next to the assignment), you will need to resubmit it in a readable format **prior** to the due date. **If your assignment/discussion/quiz/other does not meet these requirements it will not receive credit.**

It is the responsibility of the student (not the instructor) to make sure their submissions are readable. Resubmissions after the deadline due to improper file submissions are not allowed.

## STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

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The goals of this course are to provide a broad overview of the biology of marine mammals. Students will understand the evolution and systematics of this group as well as gain a functional knowledge of their anatomy and physiology. They will also learn about the behavior, ecology and population biology of marine mammals and understand the relevant theoretical bases of these disciplines through lectures, discussions, projects, and guest speakers. A broader outcome of this course will be training students to read, interpret and synthesize scientific literature on specific topics.

The SLOs of the course will be achieved if, by its conclusion, students can:

- Identify the major groups of marine mammals and describe their unique physiological and ecological characteristics.
- Discuss the major threats to marine mammal conservation and evaluate why certain species are particularly susceptible to these threats.
- Synthesize the primary literature into a written analysis on a marine mammal species and related course topic of your choice.

## COURSE EXPECTATIONS

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Each student is solely responsible for reading and following the instructions, guidelines, and schedules in this syllabus. Not having read the information in this syllabus or in Instructor announcements will not constitute an excuse for missing an assignment or other assessment.

## III. COURSE POLICIES

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As part of ZOO 4485, you are required to complete assignments. If at any time you have questions about these assignments, please contact the instructor. A schedule will be posted on eLearning with

the due dates for each assignment. All assignments must be completed by the stated due date and time for credit. No credit will be given for assignments completed after the deadline. **Extensions will NOT be given because of technical or personal issues that occur within 24 hours of the assignment deadline.** Many assignments may take several days to complete, so make sure you have time to devote to that assignment before you begin. You are expected to work by yourself on the assignments (other than group-based work) and cheating will not be tolerated. Note that all due dates for assignments are clearly posted on the course website and reflect the most up-to-date information.

## ATTENDANCE

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**Students are expected to attend all course sessions.** Attendance is part of the course participation grade. Please visit the [UF Attendance Policies page](#) for more information.

Students are expected to check the Canvas course regularly for announcements, assignment due dates, and other course-related information. Students are to complete all assigned work (quizzes, activities, and discussions) by the due dates. Students are expected to read the assigned chapters prior to class and before attempting any of the assignments as this will make it easier to comprehend the material.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at:  
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

## TIME COMMITMENT

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The UF College of Liberal Arts and Sciences assumes that each student will devote 3-4 hours per week per credit-hour to each course, including time in lectures and labs. Because ZOO 4485 is four credits, each student should therefore expect to devote 9-12 hours per week to this course during a regular semester. This is higher during an immersion semester (27-36 hours per week). A recommended time allocation is in the table for an immersion semester. If you find yourself spending more than the recommended number of hours per week on average on these activities, discuss this with your course Instructor to see if you can refine your study habits. If you find yourself spending less than the recommended number of hours per week on average, you should recognize that you may have difficulty learning and comprehending the material in this time, and this will probably be reflected in poor performance on the various assessments, causing you to receive a lower overall course grade.

Activity	Hours/Week
Lectures	6
Exercises	6-12
Readings	6-9
Review and Study	6-12

# COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR INSTRUCTOR

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When you have a question about the assignments, check the following sources first to see if it is already answered, before e-mailing your instructor:

- Course Syllabus
- eLearning Announcements (this is the primary means that your instructor has to communicate with you in a timely manner)

If you still cannot find the answer to your questions:

- Ask during your class meetings.
- If it is a question specific to you (e.g., account or grade specific), e-mail your instructor. Barring unusual circumstances, expect a reply within 24 hours (48 hours on weekends; do not expect an immediate response in the evenings). E-mails are checked at least once per day, but sometimes not more than that.

## COURSE ACTIVITIES AND MATERIALS

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There are several different types of assignments that students will have to complete. For most assignment types (activities, presentations, etc.) you will receive a grade based on the grading rubric provided. **There are no make-ups available for assignments.** See the “Late Work” and “Make Ups” sections below for more detail.

### Attendance and Participation

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Participation will be measured by student contributions to discussions in the lectures. This includes asking and answering questions from your Peers and the Instructor.

The participation portion of your grade for this class will be calculated on the basis of your attendance and your participation in class activities. Since the pedagogical approach of this course depends heavily on student engagement and interaction, you are required, at a minimum, to participate in class activities.

### Research Proposal and Presentations

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Throughout the semester you will work on a culminating product that will consist of a Research Proposal paper and a maximum 10-minute presentation to the rest of the class. This paper will be a 750-to-1000-word grant proposal for a hypothetical marine mammal study. The proposal should be about conducting a study on a marine mammal species/population of your choice (except for Orcas; they are not permitted as a study subject). It can be an experimental or an observational study (both have their own set of challenges). More details on the requirements for the paper can be found on Canvas.

Each paper will be peer reviewed by at least one other student. That student will send me a list of 5 questions that should indicate that they have reviewed the proposal thoroughly.

Students will present their proposal at the end of the semester in a 5-minute presentation followed by answering questions both from the students in the class and the questions received from the peer reviewer.

## Genera Presentations

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Each student will present a lecture to the class on genera (aka genus) of marine mammals. This will consist of a 10-minute presentation to the class (five PowerPoint slides maximum). More details can be found on Canvas.

## Homework

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There are approximately four to five smaller in size exercises that students will either complete in class or as homework. They will be submitted via Canvas.

## Lab Reports

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Students will complete approximately four Labs as part of this course. While the data collection can be collaborative, each student is responsible for submitting their own individually typed report. The lab reports will not follow the standard scientific paper format (Introduction, Methods, Results, etc.) but rather a more standard essay format that will emphasize your understanding of the ecology of marine mammals. More details can be found on Canvas.

## Journal Clubs

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On a regular basis, we will discuss relevant Journal articles in class. Students will work in pairs to lead one of the discussions. *Students will sign up the first day of class.* Participation from the rest of the class is also mandatory; that is part of the overall attendance and participation score.

## COURSE GRADING

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Assignment totals are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. All grades will be posted on eLearning, and it is the responsibility of the student to check their grades to make sure they are accurate. If there is a discrepancy, you must let me know within ONE week of the grade being posted on eLearning.

Assignments	Percentages
Attendance and Participation	20%
Research Proposal and Presentation	20%

Assignments	Percentages
General Presentation	5%
Homework	20%
Lab Reports	20%
Journal Clubs	15%

The minimum grade cutoffs are listed below. These cutoffs will not be raised; in other words, if you receive 90% of the possible points, you are guaranteed to earn an A grade. Final scores will NOT be rounded (i.e., 89.99% is not 90%).

Point Range (%)	Letter Grade
$\geq 90.00$	A
$\geq 86.66$	A-
$\geq 83.33$	B+
$\geq 80.00$	B
$\geq 76.66$	B-
$\geq 73.33$	C+
$\geq 70$	C
$\geq 66.66$	C-

Note that the current UF policy for assigning grade points is available at the following undergraduate catalog web page: [Grades and Grading Policies](#).

Please do not request individual special treatment regarding grading at the end of the semester; **I do not adjust grades for individuals for any reason**. Plan to do well on all exams and other assessments from the beginning of the semester; if you are having difficulty in the class, please let me know *immediately*.

## PARTICIPATION

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Group assignments require you to discuss answers in groups. You must adhere to the etiquette policies outlined below. Keep in mind that discussions should make educated initial comments about the topic and properly cite sources and provide constructive criticism and feedback for groupmates.

### Etiquette

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When participating in discussions in your class, you should:

- Make comments that are on-topic and within the scope of the course material.
- Take your comments seriously and review and edit your thoughts before stating them.
- Be as brief as possible while still making a thorough comment.
- Always give proper credit when referencing or quoting another source.
- Do not repeat someone else's comment without adding something of your own to it.
- Avoid short, generic replies such as, "I agree." You should include why you agree or add to the previous point.
- Always be respectful of others' opinions even when they differ from your own.
- When you disagree with someone, you should express your differing opinions in a respectful, non-critical way.
- Do not make personal or insulting remarks.
- Be open-minded.

## COURSE TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

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It is the responsibility of the student to maintain a functioning computing system and internet connection that can meet the minimum technical requirements of the course.

Computing/internet connectivity issues will NOT be acceptable excuses for missed deadlines unless they are brought to the attention of the instructor at least 48 hours prior to the deadline and accompanied by the ticket number from technical support.

Papers required for assignments can be found in the Course Reserves. If you are working from off-campus you will need to be on the UF VPN network to access the papers. More details can be found in the Orientation Module in Canvas.

## LATE WORK

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Late work will not be accepted, unless there is written documentation from the Dean of Students Office (<https://care.dso.ufl.edu/instructor-notifications/>), or due to a documented technical issue. You should submit the documentation to the DSO first and THEN email me saying that you have sent in the documentation. *Extension requests within 48 hours of the deadline need to be accompanied by the progress made in the assignment thus far in order to be considered.* Do NOT submit any medical documentation to me. It is up to the student to make sure that I receive the notification from the DSO in a timely fashion (within 5 business days of the absence). If there is an issue with you completing your assignments on time, contact your instructor immediately. Do not wait until the last minute!

## MAKE-UPS

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There are no make-ups available for assignments. Once assigned, assignments are always available online up until the deadlines. *Extension requests within 48 hours of the deadline need to be accompanied by the progress made in the assignment thus far in order to be considered.* It is especially important not to wait until just before the deadlines to complete assignments. A computer problem happening just before the deadline is not a valid excuse for not completing the assignment. If there is a technical problem with accessing the website or a particular assignment within CANVAS, you must contact eLearning technical support and the online instructor at least 48 hours prior to the deadline, so appropriate steps can be taken to fix the issue and appropriate extensions can be given if necessary. Thus, check early that you can access the assignments. You will not be granted an extension for technical problems if you do not contact the online instructor before the deadline. It is best to get your assignments done at least two days early. It is your responsibility to have and maintain all the equipment and services necessary to participate in an online course.

**Repeated for emphasis: Technical problems must be reported to the online instructor at least 48 hours prior to the submission deadline, no exceptions!**

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

It is not possible to make up the immersive parts of this course; therefore, it is expected that students will take precautions to keep themselves and the others in this course (peers and the instructor) as safe as possible.

## DROP/ADD/WITHDRAWAL

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A student can drop/add during the drop/add period with no penalty. After drop/add, a student who drops will receive a W until the date listed in the academic calendar. After that date, the student may be assigned an "E" (fail). Note: it is the responsibility of the STUDENT to withdraw from a course, not the instructor. Failure to participate/complete the class does NOT constitute a drop.

## COURSE EVALUATIONS

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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/>.

## IV. UF POLICIES

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Please read this section in full.

### UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC CONDUCT

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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 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." The [Student Honor Code](#) specifies the number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions, including at minimum a zero on the assignment and a letter grade drop in the course. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Use of GroupMe, Discord, and similar group chats facilitate communication and can be an important part of creating community in a course. However, such groups typically exclude instructional staff and present great temptation for unauthorized academic dishonesty as described above. In this course, the use of GroupMe, etc. to share answers, screenshots of quizzes, "compare" work, etc. is not authorized. Discussion of exam content, questions, in any fashion, on any medium, will result in an Honor Code report for everyone who participates in the forum on which the exam information is shared, a penalty of no less than a zero on the exam, and an automatic failing grade in the course for anyone found to have posted exam information. All students participating in such forums will be presumed to have benefitted from answers posted to a GroupMe or other chat will be subject to penalties outlined above.

The use of artificial intelligence in academic settings is considered a violation of academic conduct due to its potential to undermine the principles of individual learning, critical thinking, and originality. Academic integrity is built on the foundation of students engaging with course material independently, demonstrating their understanding of concepts, and expressing their unique perspectives. Utilizing AI, such as automated essay generators or machine-based solutions, circumvents this essential process, leading to the submission of work that does not genuinely reflect the student's own comprehension or intellectual effort. Additionally, it compromises the fairness of evaluation, as it becomes challenging for educators to assess the true capabilities and knowledge of each student. Therefore, the incorporation of AI in academic work contradicts the ethical standards and principles of academic integrity.

### ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

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Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter that must be presented to the Instructor when requesting an accommodation. Note that the student should provide documentation

of a requirement for accommodation **by the second week of classes**. No accommodations are available to students who lack this documentation. It is the policy of the University of Florida that the student, not the Instructor, is responsible for arranging accommodations when needed. Once notification is complete, the Dean of Students Office of Disability Resources will work with the instructor to accommodate the student. Accommodations are not retroactive.

## CLASS DEMEANOR OR NETIQUETTE

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All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions, and chats. Review the [Netiquette Guide for Online Courses](#) for expected student behavior.

## MINIMUM TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

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The University of Florida expects students to acquire computer hardware and software appropriate to his or her degree program. Most computers can meet the following general requirements. A student's computer configuration should include:

- Webcam
- Microphone
- Broadband connection to the Internet and related equipment (Cable/DSL modem)
- Microsoft Office Suite installed (provided by the university)
- Ability to install and run Raven Lite 2.0

Individual colleges may have additional requirements or recommendations, which students should review prior to the start of their program.

## SOFTWARE USE

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All faculty, staff, and students at the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

## CLASS SESSIONS

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Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal

educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without the permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

## V. TECHNOLOGIES

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This course uses the following technologies:

### ZOOM

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Zoom is an easy-to-use video conferencing service available to all UF students, faculty, and staff that allows for meetings of up to 100 participants.

You can find resources and help using Zoom at <https://ufl.zoom.us>.

## VI. GETTING HELP

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Resources are available at [Distance Learning's Getting Help](#) for:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

Should you have any complaints about your experience in this course, please visit [Distance Learning's Student Complaint Process](#) to submit a complaint.

College can be a very stressful time in a person's life. Resources are available on campus to help students meet academic goals and solve personal problems, which may interfere with their academic performance. If you find that you are having difficulty emotionally or academically, there is substantial support available. See "*A Self Help Guide for Students*" or contact one of the following services:

- UF Counseling and Wellness Center, Radio Rd Facility, 392-1575
- Dean of Students Office, 202 Peabody Hall, 392-1261
- Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601
- CLAS Academic Advising Center, Farrior Hall, 100 Fletcher Drive, 392-1521
- UF Field and Fork Pantry, 564 Newell Dr., 294-3601

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students (202 Peabody Hall, 392-1261) for support. Furthermore, please notify your instructor(s) if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable us to provide any resources that we may possess.

## TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES

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For issues with technical difficulties for Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu> or (352) 392-HELP (4357).

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from the Help Desk when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

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- **U Matter, We Care:** If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact <mailto:umatter@ufl.edu>, 352-392-1575, or visit [umatter.ufl.edu](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- **Counseling and Wellness Center:** Visit [counseling.ufl.edu](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- **Student Health Care Center:** Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need or visit [shcc.ufl.edu](#).
- **University Police Department:** Visit [police.ufl.edu](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

- **UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center:** For immediate medical care in Gainesville, call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center](http://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center).

## ACADEMIC AND STUDENT SUPPORT

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- **Career Connections Center:** 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services [career.ufl.edu/](http://career.ufl.edu/).
- **Library Support:** Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources: [cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask](http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask)
- **Teaching Center:** 352-392-2010 General study skills and tutoring: [teachingcenter.ufl.edu/](http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/)
- **Writing Studio:** 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers: [writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/](http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/)

## VII. PRIVACY AND ACCESSIBILITY POLICIES

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For information about the privacy policies of the tools used in this course, see the links below:

Technology	Privacy Policy	Accessibility Policy/Statement
Instructure (Canvas)	<a href="#">Privacy Policy</a>	<a href="#">Accessibility</a>
Sonic Foundry (Mediasite Streaming Video Player)	<a href="#">Privacy Policy</a>	<a href="#">Accessibility</a>
Zoom	<a href="#">Privacy Policy</a>	<a href="#">Accessibility</a>
YouTube (Google)	<a href="#">Privacy Policy</a>	<a href="#">Accessibility</a>
Microsoft	<a href="#">Privacy Policy</a>	<a href="#">Accessibility</a>
Adobe	<a href="#">Privacy Policy</a>	<a href="#">Accessibility</a>

## VIII. COURSE SCHEDULE

Class Meeting Date	Subject	Readings and Homework (due by the NEXT class meeting)
<b>Week 1: March 23 – 27</b>		
3/23	<b>Lecture:</b> Overview, Introductions, Evolution and Systematics I <b>Lab Exercise:</b> Dichotomous Keys (present results to others); pick Genera to present on in class 3/25	<b>Readings and Homework to be determined in Spring 2026</b>
3/24:	<b>Lecture:</b> Evolution and Systematics II <b>Journal Club:</b> <i>Orbach et al 2017</i> and <i>Orbach et al 2020</i> <b>Lab Exercise:</b> Guardians of the Gulf Symposium	
3/25:	<b>Lecture:</b> Marine Mammal Genera (student presentations included) <b>Lab Exercise:</b> Prepare plans for Bone lab measurements	
3/26:	<b>Lab Exercise:</b> Bones Lab (in the MNH collections building)	
3/27:	<b>Guardians of the Gulf Symposium</b>	
<b>Week 2: March 30 – April 3</b>		
3/30:	<b>Lab Exercise:</b> UF Marine Animal Rescue (on plaza in front of Bartram/Carr)	
3/31	<b>Field Trip:</b> ZooTampa	
4/1:	<b>Lecture:</b> Research Methods; Cedar Key FL Research <b>Lab Exercise:</b> Senses	
4/2:	<b>Lecture:</b> Diet and Foraging; preparation for Cedar Key Trip <b>Journal Club:</b>	
<b>Week 3: April 6 – 10</b>		
4/6:	<b>Field Trip:</b> Cedar Key dolphin research, all day	
4/7:	<b>Field Trip:</b> Cedar Key dolphin research, all day	
4/8:	<b>Lecture:</b> Sound; Echolocation and Communication <b>Lab Exercise:</b> Dolphin Data Lab	
4/9:	<b>Lecture:</b> Senses (student presentations) <b>Journal Club:</b>	
4/9:	<b>Lecture:</b> Geography	

Class Meeting Date	Subject	Readings and Homework (due by the NEXT class meeting)
	<b>Lab Exercise:</b> Sound Lab ( <i>bring headphones!</i> )	
<b>Week 4: April 13 – 17</b>		
<b>4/13:</b>	<b>SeaWorld Orlando</b> (ethogram lab); overnight trip	
<b>4/14:</b>	<b>SeaWorld Orlando</b> (ethogram lab; report due 2/8)	
<b>4/15:</b>	<b>Lecture:</b> Reproduction and Mating; Population Dynamics <b>Journal Club:</b>	
<b>4/16:</b>	<b>Lecture:</b> Locomotion and Energetics <b>Journal Club:</b>	
<b>Week 5: April 20 – 22</b>		
<b>4/20:</b>	<b>Lecture:</b> Diving <b>Journal Club:</b>	
<b>4/21:</b>	<b>Lecture:</b> Long Term Research Studies <b>Journal Club:</b>	<b>Homework:</b> Prepare for the presentations tomorrow!
<b>4/22:</b>	<b>Research Proposal Presentations</b>	<b>Homework:</b> Everything outstanding is due by the 25 <sup>th</sup> at 11:59 pm!

## VIV. DISCLAIMER

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This syllabus represents the instructor's current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.