

Syllabus for Marine Ecology OCB 1630

I. Course Information

Instructor Bob Griffin, Ph.D.
Title Course Instructor
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Office Hours By arrangement
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Homepage <http://CFCC Distance Learning>
Location Online
Class Dates August 15 – December 8, 2022/ Final exam Dec 5-8.
Course Credits 3

Required Text

Marine Biology. 11th Edition. P. Castro and M. E. Huber. 2019. McGraw Hill, Publishers.
ISBN10: 1259880036; ISBN13: 9781259880032

Rental access (\$49.99 per 180 days):

<https://www.mheducation.com/highered/product/1259880036.html#buying-options>

Please note: You may not be marked as attending this class until you have posted a response to the “Introductions” assignment.

II. Course Description

This course examines marine ecology from an ecosystem perspective. We begin with an overview of oceanographic dynamics that impact the formation and maintenance of marine habitats. We then focus on ecological processes and adaptations of marine organisms and examine marine communities throughout the world ocean. Topics include oceanographic principles, food webs and trophic relationships, and human impact on the oceans.

Course Prerequisites

No course prerequisites.

III. Student Learning Outcomes/Course Objectives

The student will:

1) Learn the general attributes of the physical oceanography and atmospheric dynamics of the world’s oceans; become familiar with how these dynamics influence currents, waves, and coastal characteristics;

- 2) Learn characteristics and patterns of marine habitat. Gain an understanding of biological productivity. Become familiar with characteristics of marine life.
- 3) Understand principles by which physical and biological components of the environment interact.
- 4) Understand ecological processes and adaptations of marine organisms, and examine marine communities throughout the world ocean

These objectives will be measured through use of assignments, exams, and discussions.

IV. Assessment

Course Requirements

You will be required to complete assignments and exams by the scheduled due dates. Completion of assignments is very important. An individual with an "A" average on exams will have a grade of "C" if no assignments have been submitted. Similarly, an individual with a "C" average on exams can bring their grade up to a "B" by doing well on assignments. When assignments are not completed by the scheduled due dates, the following policy will apply: If submitted one day after due date, your score will be eligible for reduction by 10%. **Submissions greater than one week after due date will not be accepted or graded.**

Grading Policy

Your final grade will be determined from the following: Class assignments and projects: 300 points (approximately 40%) Tests: 400 Points (approximately 60%) The grading scale is as follows: A 90-100% B 80-89% C 70-79% D 60-69%

Exam Policy

Exams will be available during a 48-hour period, running from 12AM to 12AM. Tests 1 through 3 will be available on **Friday and Saturday**. Test 4 days vary but is usually on Monday and Tuesday. See the expanded schedule below for the correct dates. Once an exam is started, you will be given 60 minutes to complete the exam, and the exam will automatically submit at the end of that time.

Dates for exams are listed below in the expanded schedule and are also provided online on the course Calendar. It is your responsibility to be aware of scheduled exam dates. When exams are missed, it is your responsibility to notify me if you wish to make up a mixed exam. Please do not miss more than one exam. I will only provide the opportunity to make up one exam.

Final exams **MUST** be completed during the scheduled period. If any other exam is not completed during the scheduled 48-hour period, I will, ***on request and on a one-time basis only***, reopen the exam for a period **not to exceed one week** after the exam was initially assigned. Students completing the exam during this time will be penalized 10% on their exam grade. This 10% penalty will not be waived. Students not completing the exam during this grace period will not be permitted to complete the exam **FOR ANY REASON** other than a verifiable medical excuse.

Extra Credit Policy

Extra credit opportunities are not provided in this course. At the end of the semester, please do not inquire if there is any extra credit you can do to bring up your grade. The answer is "NO".

Attendance Policy

It is your responsibility to withdraw from a class, if you so desire. The instructor cannot complete the withdrawal process for you. If you quit working in the class, yet do not drop the class from your schedule, you may be surprised with a "WF" at the end of the semester.

V. Course Schedule

In the following schedule, class weeks run Monday through Sunday. Online materials for the week will typically be available at 12AM at the beginning of a class week and will remain available until one week after the test dates for the material.

Unit 1

August 15-21 (Week 1): Orientation and introduction to the class

Chapter 2 The Sea Floor: Plate tectonics and the geological characteristics of the ocean basins

August 22-August 28 (Week 2): Chapter 3 Chemical and physical features of seawater and the world ocean.
Read section on "Ocean circulation".

August 29-September 4 (Week 3): Chapter 10 An introduction to marine ecology

September 5-11 (Week 4): Chapter 4 Fundamentals of Biology.

Unit 2

September 12-18 (Week 5):

Chapter 5 The microbial world

Chapter 15 Life near the surface: Read section on "The plankton: a new understanding"

September 19-25 (Week 6): Coastal Habitat

Chapter 11 Between the tides

Chapter 6 Multicellular primary producers: seaweeds and plants

September 26--October-2 (Week 7): Chapter 12 Estuaries: Where rivers meet the sea

October 3-October 9 (Week 8): Chapter 13 Life on the continental shelf

Unit 3

October 10-October 16 (Week 9): Chapter 7 Marine animals without a backbone

Sponges; Cnidarians; Segmented worms; Molluscs; Arthropods Lophophorates; Arrow worms (Chaetognaths); Echinoderms; Hemichordates; Chordates without backbones

October 17-23 (Week 10):

Chapter 14 Coral reefs

October 24-30 (Week 11):

Chapter 15 Life near the surface (epipelagic)

Omit: Section on "The plankton: a new understanding"

October 31 - November 6 (Week 12): Chapter 8 Marine Fishes (entire chapter)

Types of fishes

Unit 4

November 7-13 (Week 13): Chapter 9 Marine reptiles, birds and mammals (entire chapter)

Marine Reptiles

Seabirds

Marine mammals

Polar Regions: Material will be provided

November 14-20 (Week 14): Chapter 16 The Ocean depths

November 21-Nov 27 (Week 15): Chapter 17 Resources from the sea

November 28-December 4 (Week 16): Chapter 18 The impact of humans on the marine environment

Exam Coverage

Test 1 (Chapters 2-4, 10, pt. 7)

Test 2 (Chapters 5, pt. 15, pt. 7, 11, 6, 12, 13)

Test 3 (pt. 7, Chapters 14, 15, 8)

Test 4 (Chapters 9, 16-18)

Four exams will be given during the semester. Prior to the exam, a review exam will be available to help you in your studies. Exams will generally consist of 40-50 questions and are worth 100 points. Questions will generally be multiple-choice, with some true/false and/or matching. Occasionally, an essay question may be offered.

Exam Review Schedule

Exam 1 Review: Sept 11-15

Exam 2 Review: Oct 9-13

Exam 3 Review: Nov 6-10

Exam 4 Review: Nov 30-Dec 4

Exam Schedule

September 16-17: Test 1 (Chapters 2-4, 10, pt. 7) (Weeks 1-4)

October 14-15: Test 2 (Chapters 5, pt. 15, pt. 7, 11, 6, 12, 13) (Weeks 5-8)

November 11-12: Test 3 (pt. 7, Chapters 14, 15, 8) (Weeks 9-12)

December 5-6: Test 4 (Chapters 9, 16-18) (Weeks 13-16)

Assignments

We will have approximately 8 assignments dealing with material covered in the text. These assignments will total approximately 200 points. Additionally, you will be required to write a short research paper. The paper will be worth 100 points. More information on these assignments will be available in online course materials.

Please note: Your Semester Assignment is due approximately one week before the official end of classes (due November 27).

Semester Project Policy

In this course you will be assigned a semester project. This assignment will be due one week before the Sunday preceding the initiation of finals week. If your semester project is not submitted when due, it will be subject to a minimum grade reduction of 10% of the possible points. Assignments not submitted until the weekend preceding the Monday initiation of finals week will be subject to a grade reduction of 15%. **Semester projects submitted during finals week will only be accepted if the student has previously filed an official SCF form requesting a grade of incomplete.**

Assignment Schedule

Introductions: Aug 15-Sept 11

Paper Topic: Aug 15-Sept 25

Semester Paper: Aug 15-Nov 11

Assignment 1 August 15-28 (Chapters 2, 3)

Assignment 2 August 29 – September 11 (Chapters 10, 4)

Assignment 3 September 12 – September 18 (Plankton)

Assignment 4 September 19– October 2 (Intertidal, Seaweeds, Coastal Plants, Estuaries)

Assignment 5 October 3 – October 9 (Chapters 13, 7)

Assignment 6 October 17 – October 23 (Chapters 14)

Assignment 7 October 31 – November 13 (Chapters 8, 9)

Assignment 8 November 16 – November 20 (Chapter 16)

STATEMENT: Due to unforeseen happenings, it may be necessary for the course assignment schedule to be altered. The instructor will always strive to be fair about any changes.

VI. College Policies (dates are for Fall 2022)

Academic Integrity – Academic dishonesty (such as plagiarism or cheating) will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary action under the Code of Student Conduct. Cases of academic dishonesty will be referred to a mandatory, two-hour Academic Integrity Seminar, which includes a fee (see *Student Handbook*). Failure to attend the Academic Integrity Seminar will result in the assignment of a final course grade of “FF” on the student’s transcript, denoting course failure due to a violation of the college’s Academic Integrity policy.

Disability Services for Students with Disabilities – To ensure students have equal access to educational opportunities here at the College of Central Florida, students with medical, sensory, physical, psychological, and/or cognitive disability are encouraged to register with the Office of Disability Services and request an application. If eligible, Disability Services will help facilitate approved accommodations for you. *Please do this as soon as possible, to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion for your academic success.* The Office of Disability Services is located in Building 5-204, on the Ocala Campus. For more information visit the Disability Services webpage at CF.edu/Access, or email Victoria Colleli at colleliv@cf.edu, or call 352-873-5843 for further information.

Professional counseling services are available for all college students who are experiencing anxiety, depression, PTSD, stress; basically all psychological issues that could affect their school, job, relationships, or their home lives. Services are provided by Florida licensed mental health clinicians. This confidential resource is for all college students who want to achieve their endeavors. The Counseling Department is located in building 5, office 205B or office 205F. For more information about Counseling, you may call 352-854-2322 Ext. 1760 or Ext. 1286 or Ext. 1580.

Attendance Policy – Regular, punctual class attendance is the responsibility of every student who enrolls at the College of Central Florida; therefore, the institution is committed to enforcing the attendance policy in an effort to assist students in achieving their educational objectives. The documentation of student absences will begin the first day of class, regardless of when the student registers. When a student has a legitimate reason for being absent, the instructor has the option of permitting the student to make up work missed and may require an explanation for the absence. The college reserves the right to evaluate individual cases of nonattendance. See *Student Handbook*, Policy Manual and Administrative Procedures.

Equal Access/Equal Opportunity – College of Central Florida does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, marital status, national origin, genetic information or disability status in its programs, activities and employment. For inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies, contact Carol W. Smith, Equity Officer, 3001 S.W. College Road, 352-854-2322, ext. 1437, or smithc@cf.edu.

Classroom Decorum – Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Disruptive students will be asked to leave the classroom. Continuous disruptive behavior will result in withdrawal from the course and disciplinary action under the Code of Student Conduct (see *Student Handbook*).

Withdrawal – If you want to withdraw from this class, you must fill out the necessary forms and have them signed by the appropriate parties. If you just stop coming to class after the posted drop date, you may receive the grade of F.

- Add.Drop period:
 - Fall C – Aug. 15-19
- Drop only:
 - Fall C – Aug. 20-21
- Last date for a refund:
 - Fall C – Aug. 21
- Last day to withdraw with a “W”:
 - Fall C – Oct. 27

The college reserves the right to evaluate individual cases of non-attendance.

Students should be alerted to the following:

- (1) Withdrawals do not count in the CF GPA, but may not be viewed favorably at the university level.
- (2) Withdrawals may negatively impact a student's financial aid eligibility.
- (3) A withdrawal counts as an attempt under the forgiveness/withdrawal policy and the course repeat policy.
- (4) There are increased costs to take the course on the third attempt (full cost of tuition, same as out-of-state rate).
- (5) There may be a reason a withdrawal request may be denied.

Please see the College's withdrawal procedures.

Attendance Verification for Financial Aid: Attendance Verification is submitted each semester, generally in the third week of the term. Federal Student Aid requires that attendance is based on academic attendance or attendance at an academically-related activity. For this class, your attendance is verified based on _____ (list assignment(s)).

VII. CF Student Assistance Program

The CF Student Assistance Program (SAP) is a confidential resource for assisting students who may have personal problems which could affect their school, work, or home lives. SAP provides early intervention and professional assessment and counseling to best meet the needs of the student. Services are free to all active CF students. The SAP is managed by BAY CARE LIFE MANAGEMENT, a health management organization. A student may call a toll free helpline during regular business hours Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. For crisis situations after hours, on weekends, or holidays a student may call the same number and the therapist on duty will be paged and will promptly respond to the call. For services a student may call the following toll free number: 1-800-878-5470. CF also has a counseling office where students may receive free confidential professional counseling by State licensed clinicians. For more information you may call 352-854-2322 ext. 1760 or visit the counseling office at the Bryant Student Union, room 204B, or email ballardm@cf.edu.

VIII. Additional statements for this course (first 3 bullets are required; others should be included when appropriate for your course)

- **Early Support Program (ESP):** The College of Central Florida is committed to helping you succeed and achieve your academic, personal and career goals. One of the ways we can accomplish this goal with you is through an Early Support Program. Our philosophy, based on extensive research and practice, is that when students are connected early to resources and support systems on campus they are more likely to stay in classes, perform better in those classes, and complete their path more quickly. Therefore, you may be contacted by your First Year Success Specialist, program Advisor and/or other resources on our campus if there is a time during the semester I feel it would be beneficial to your continued success. I am always your first point of contact for any concerns that affect your success or with course content, so I encourage you to come to me to discuss those issues. Also, be assured that I will first communicate any concerns I have with you and will then connect you with the other areas on our campus to help develop a network of support for you.
- This course uses Canvas to post course materials. Go to [MyCF \(mycf.cf.edu/ICS/\)](https://mycf.cf.edu/ICS/), login, click on the Academics tab, and follow the link to Go to Canvas. If you are not familiar with Canvas, you may access a self-tutorial by hovering over the Courses tab in Canvas and clicking on the Getting Started in Canvas course. Additional Canvas tutorials can be found under the help menu in the upper-right corner

of your Canvas page. If you have any questions or encounter any problems logging on to Canvas or within the system, contact the Distance Learning Help Desk Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (fall and spring hours), or Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. (summer hours), at dlhelp@cf.edu or at 352-854-2322, ext. 1317. You may also use the 24/7 Canvas help desk by clicking the Help link in the upper right corner of Canvas.

- **Library Resources:** The CF Libraries are here to help with your research and information needs. Search the library catalog (library.cf.edu), or contact the Ocala campus library (library@cf.edu, 352-854-2322 x1345) or the Citrus campus library (citruslb@cf.edu, 352-249-1205) with questions. Learn more about research help, online and database searching, and citing your sources by visiting the [CF Virtual Library](http://cf.libguides.com) (cf.libguides.com) or by visiting the Ocala library (Building 3) or Citrus library (Building C2, Room 202) for one-on-one help. **Course reserves:** Course textbooks and/or supplemental course material may be on reserve at the Library. Please call to inquire. If the item you are looking for is not on reserve, ask your instructor if they are able to place a copy on reserve.

IX. PRIORITY REGISTRATION DATES

WHEN SHOULD I REGISTER FOR THE NEXT SEMESTER?

- Registration is conducted by a process called **Priority Registration**. Those students who have earned hours may register ahead of those who have not earned hours or who have less earned hours.
- This process provides opportunities for those students who are closer to graduation to enroll in classes before students with fewer numbers of earned credit hours. This ensures that students have an opportunity to register for the courses they need to be able to graduate on time before the courses are filled.
- The enrollment process for the next semester begins **EARLY** in the current semester. It is important that you know your priority registration date and have your course choices planned out prior to that date.
- Priority registration is also available to those students made eligible through the Disability Services office.

If you are unsure of what courses to enroll in or how to use the online registration system, it is highly recommended that you schedule an appointment with your academic advisor EARLY in the current semester.

It is important that you register for the upcoming semester courses as soon as your **Priority Registration** date opens in order to get the CORRECT courses & scheduled times that you will need for your degree and major.

X. Contact Information

Online issues

Students may need assistance with issues related to the Canvas platform or other issues with the online environment. Some issues may be attended to by your instructor, while other issues are best referred to the CF Information Technology Department.

Below you will find contact information for e-learning.

Connect to Online Learning

<http://www.cf.edu/go/elearning/index>

- For general e-learning information, such as course structure and technology requirements, call the E-Learning Help Desk, 352-854-2322, ext. 1317, or email dlhelp@cf.edu.
- [Learn more about Canvas.](#)

For Support

- Technical problems in your online course, call E-Learning Help Desk, 352-854-2322, ext. 1317, or email dlhelp@cf.edu.
- Web registration issues or MyCF portal login help, call 352-854-2322, ext. 1378.
- Once you are in Canvas, CF provides 24/7 technical help through Canvas Support. Look for the help menu on your left-hand navigation bar.