



Principles of Marine Biology (BSC 3312)
Fall 2021
Tuesday/Thursday 9:00-10:20 am
BA 119

Instructor: Dr. Christa Diercksen



christa.diercksen@ucf.edu



BIO 201A

Office hours will be by appointment
via Zoom or conducted outside

Communication

- E-mail is the fastest and preferred way communicate with Dr. Diercksen. Please do NOT use Webcourses messages!
- All attempts will be made to answer emails within a 24-hour time period, M-F and Sun. *Note: Dr. Diercksen tries to be off-line on Saturdays.*
- Faculty can ONLY communicate with students via Knightmail or through Webcourses' messages. Students must set up a Knights account at www.knightsemail.ucf.edu and check it regularly.
- Please include the course name and sign off the email with your full name and UCF ID# in your email.
- Emails should be written in a professional and respectful manner. Florida has a very broad open records law (F.S. 119) so all emails sent to UCF email may be subject to public disclosure.



Official Class GroupMe:

- Use this link: https://groupme.com/join_group/68351738/KerCrF1h
Or scan the QR code below to join



- Use this GroupMe to talk to other students in the class, ask questions about course content, set up study sessions or anything else you want to talk about! It should NOT be used to share any information pertaining to assessments or anything related to academic dishonesty and violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct!
 - When posting in the GroupMe, students are expected to treat others with respect in accordance to the Inclusion, Safety and Disability Accommodation at UCF statement found below. Violators of this policy will be removed from the GroupMe and face potential disciplinary action.
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Course Description

- *Credit hours:* 3
 - *Course Prerequisites:* Biology 1 (BSC 2010) and Biology 2 (BSC 2011)
 - *Purpose of the course:* BSC 3312 is an introductory exploration of the marine environment that will provide students with an initial understanding of the different marine ecosystems and the organisms that occupy those ecosystems. This course can provide the foundation for more advanced classes in topics of marine science as well as giving students the knowledge and skills to understand the connections between the marine environment and human society.
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General Course Objectives

- Learn basic oceanography and the physical marine environment as it relates to the organisms that live in the ocean
 - Learn about the different types of marine ecosystems and their specific characteristics that shape those environments and the organisms that live there.
 - Explore the major classes of organisms that live in the marine environment with focus on their unique adaptations that allow them to live in their different habits
 - Investigate and question the impact of humans on the world's oceans
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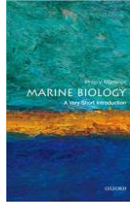
General Course Topics

- Basic salt water chemistry and oceanography
- Basic concepts in marine ecology
- Community structure of different ocean ecosystems (deep sea, coral reefs, coastal, etc.)
- Major animal and plant groups that live in marine environments (algae, phytoplankton, marine invertebrates, marine mammals, etc.)
- Human impact on oceans

Course Materials



- “*Marine Biology, A Very Short Introduction, 2nd edition*” by Philip V. Mladenov, ISBN 978-0-19-884171-5



- *Note: The first edition of “Marine Biology, A Very Short Introduction” would be ok as well but keep in mind that page numbers are different between the editions.*
- Other readings or background information and/or links will be provided on Webcourses.
- Only the content on oceanography, marine ecosystems and human impact on oceans is covered in “*Marine Biology, A Very Short Introduction*”. Necessary information on the marine organisms will be provided in our Webcourse, lecture slides and slide notes.

webcourses@UCF

- Access Webcourses: <https://webcourses.ucf.edu> and enter your NID and NID password.
- For technical support, please contact Online@UCF Support:
 - <https://cdl.ucf.edu/support/> or call 407-823-0407 or email: webcourses@ucf.edu
- **Important:** Please adjust your Webcourses’ settings to allow notification of Webcourses’ Announcements and/or check the Announcement section regularly.
- Students will need the ability to access the internet on a regular and reliable manner to access some course materials and assessments.
- It is highly recommended you access Webcourses through the Google Chrome browser for the best experience.



Important Information for Financial Aid Students!

Academic Activity Assignment: Reflection #1: Due date: Friday, Aug. 27, 2021 at 5:00 pm

- Faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course in order for proper distribution of financial aid.
- In order to document that you began this course, please complete the “**Reflection #1**” in Webcourses by the end of the first week of classes, or as soon as possible after adding the course. Failure to do so could result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid!

Background Primers

- Biology 1 and Biology 2 are pre-requisites for this class and knowledge of the content covered in those courses is expected.
 - If you wish to refresh your Bio 1 & 2 information, view the “*Primer of Biological Principles and Ecology*” and “*Primer of the Properties of Water*” Powerpoints (in the Course Information Page in Webcourses) which contain a basic review of background concepts and important vocabulary necessary for BSC 3312.
 - Additionally, there is a link in our Webcourses to a free Khan Academy crash course for Bio 1 & 2 and Ecology that students can use to review this basic content if needed.
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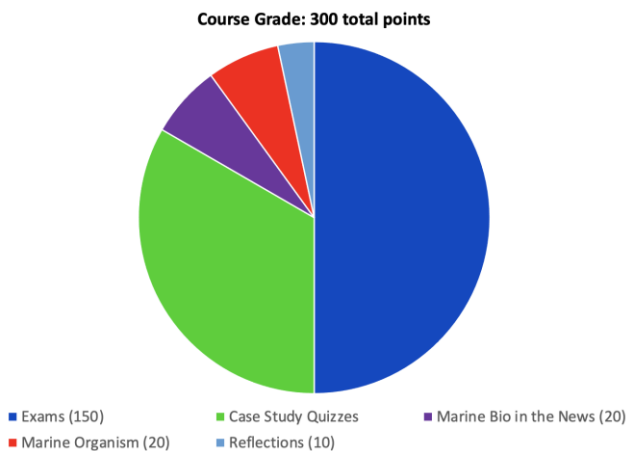


Attendance Policy & Class Structure

- While attendance for lecture days that **do not involve exams or presentations** is not strictly mandatory, students who regularly attend class generally have higher success rates in this course. Regardless if you are in attendance or not, you will be expected to be fully aware of any information given in lecture!
 - For lecture exam days, please see the information below concerning make-up policies.
 - The class will meet during our scheduled course days and time (**T/TH from 9:00-10:20 am**).
 - Generally, course content will be discussed on most Tuesday lectures while the Thursday lectures will sometimes be used for in-class group case study work, assessments and/or presentations.
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Grading



A	90-100%
B+	87-89%
B	80-86%
C+	77-79%
C	70-76%
D+	67-69%
D	60-66%
F	<60%

- The final course grade will be awarded using the above scale by calculating the percentage of your total earned points during the semester out of 300 possible points. *Note: No minus grades, e.g. "A-" or NC grades.*
- Final grade percentages will be rounded up from 0.5 to the next highest whole number, e.g. An 89.6% would round to 90% and the letter grade would be an "A". An 89.4% would round to an 89%, and the letter grade will be a "B+". There are NO exceptions to this rounding scheme.
- **Withdrawal Date: Friday, October 29, 2021**
 - Please refer to the Undergraduate Catalog for detailed information about the implications of the withdrawal date.
 - Students must initiate withdrawal themselves. Dr. Diercksen will NOT automatically withdraw any student from the course.
 - Late and Medical Withdrawals and Incompletes are granted for only very compelling and documented reasons.
- Grades will be posted in Webcourses as available but are NOT to be considered official grades at any one given moment.
- No grades will be given over the phone or by email according to Federal law (FERPA regulations).
- Grades will NOT be routinely curved unless warranted by Dr. Diercksen's discretion.
- **Extra Credit:** Extra credit is NOT routinely available although opportunities *may* arise throughout the semester.
- **Make-up work:** Make-ups for missed exams, quizzes or other due dates must be approved at the discretion of Dr. Diercksen and *will require documentation.*

Grade Details



Reflection #1 (5 pts.)

- **Due: Friday, August 27 at 5:00 pm**
- As described above, this reflection will serve as the Academic Activity and will be scored for completion only.
- It is very important for Financial Aid students to complete this assignment in order to have their financial funds distributed properly.



Three (3) Exams (50 pts. each; 150 pts. total)

- **Exam 1** (Chapters 1-3): **September 23** during lecture time
- **Exam 2** (Chapters 4-6 + Open Ocean): **October 21** during lecture time
- **Exam 3** (All organisms + Human Impact): **December 9** from **7:00-9:50 AM**
- Three multiple choice lecture exams will be given on course content that is covered in readings and lectures. *Note: Exam 3 (taken during the Final Exam period) will have one short response question in addition to the multiple choice questions.*
- Scantrons will be provided for exams. Students should be prepared to show their UCF ID.



Case Studies (20 pts. each; 100 pts. total)

- Five (5) case studies exploring course content in more “real-life” applications will be discussed throughout the semester, usually in the Thursday lecture period as time allows.
- Some case studies may have assigned pre-class reading or videos (available in Webcourses) with additional content provided during the lecture period the case study is discussed.
- Students will work together in randomly assigned groups on the case studies in class.
- Assessment of the case studies will be individual quizzes conducted in Webcourses. The quizzes will be a mixture of multiple choice questions and short response.
- Case Study quizzes will be available in Webcourses the day after the case study is discussed in class and **available for 1 week** (see due dates below and on the Course Schedule).
- Attendance on case study days is NOT considered mandatory however working on case studies in groups and participating in larger classroom discussion about the case studies will give students a higher degree of potential success on the case study assessments.
- Case study quizzes will have a **60 minute time limit** once a student begins the quiz and only **one attempt** will be allowed per quiz. Quizzes are considered **OPEN NOTES**, but students should not complete quizzes with other students or discuss quizzes with other students until the due date has passed.

Name of Case Study	Lecture Day of Case Study	Due date of Case Study Quiz (11:59 PM)
Ocean Acidification	September 2	September 9
Missing Sea Otters	September 16	September 23
Apo Island	October 7	October 14
Horseshoe Crab	November 4	November 11
Dead Zone	November 30 (Tuesday)	December 9



Marine Biology in the News (20 pts.)

- **Due: October 14 at 9:00 AM (beginning of class)**
 - NO late submissions will be accepted unless documentation is approved by Dr. Diercksen.
- Each student will be asked to share with the class one thing they learned about the ocean (outside of our class!) from a current online article.
- A link to the article will be submitted in our Webcourses Discussion board, but students will be asked to also verbally share the story in small groups during lecture on 10/14.
- **Five (5) of the 20 points** will be awarded for discussing the article in class. Approved documentation is required if a student is unable to attend lecture on 10/14.



Marine Organism (20 pts.)

- **Due: December 2 at 9:00 AM (beginning of class)**
 - NO late submissions will be accepted unless documentation is approved by Dr. Diercksen.
- Students will be randomly assigned a marine organism to research around mid-semester.
- More details for this assignment will be in the individual assignment's instructions but overall, students will research their marine organism and create a single Powerpoint slide summarizing the information. This slide will be submitted in the appropriate Assignment in Webcourses.
- **Five (5) of the 20 points** will be awarded for presenting the organism to other students in small groups in class on 12/2. Students should be prepared to either print their slide for presentation or display it on a laptop or tablet. Color printing is not required but encouraged if possible.
- Approved documentation is required if a student is unable to present on 12/2.



Final Reflection (5 pts.)

- **Due: Thursday, December 2 at 11:59 PM**
- This reflection will ask students to think about the course as the semester is coming to a close.
- The reflection will be scored for completion only.

Make-up Exams & Assignments

- Per university policy, students are allowed to submit make-up work (or an equivalent, alternate assignment) for authorized university-sponsored activities, religious observances, or legal obligations (such as jury duty).
- All potential make-up work (assignments or assessments such as exams) will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Please contact Dr. Diercksen ASAP if you are unable to complete an assignment or assessment for any reason.
- Documentation (e.g. Doctor's note) will be required for make-ups and must be approved at Dr. Diercksen's discretion.

Fall 2021 Schedule (subject to change)

Key:



Reading



Lecture Topic



Case Study



Assignment



Quiz/Exam

BOLD: Required class attendance

Week 1: August 24 & 26



Chapter 1: *Ocean Environment*; Chapter 7: *Intertidal Life* (pages 135-136)

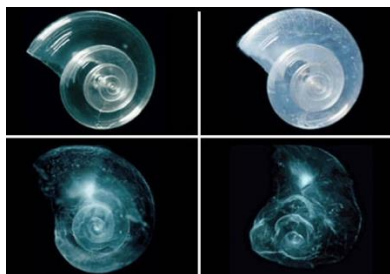


Introductory Oceanography



Reflection #1: Due 8/27 at 5:00 PM (Academic Activity)

Week 2: August 31 & September 2



Chapter 1: *Ocean Environment*; Chapter 7: *Intertidal Life* (pages 135-136)



Introductory Oceanography continued



Ocean Acidification Case Study (9/2)

Week 3: September 7 & 9



Chapter 2: *Marine Biological Processes*
Chapter 3: *Life in the Coastal Ocean* (pgs 38-50); Chapter 7: *Intertidal Life* (pgs 136-146)



Marine Primary Production
Coastal Communities



Ocean Acidification CS Quiz due 9/9



Week 4: September 14 & 16



Coastal Communities continued



Missing Sea Otters Case Study (9/16)

Week 5: September 21 & 23



Chapter 4: *Polar Marine Biology*



Polar Environment



Missing Sea Otters CS due 9/23



Exam 1 (Chapters 1-3) on 9/23

Week 6: September 28 & 30



Chapter 5: *Marine Life in the Tropics*



Coral Reefs & Mangroves

Week 7: October 5 & 7



There is no specific reading on the Open Ocean.

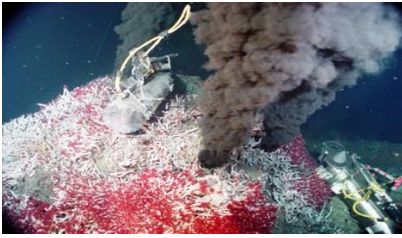


Open Ocean



Apo Island Case Study (10/7)

Week 8: October 12 & 14



Chapter 6: Deep Ocean Biology



Deep Ocean



Marine Bio in the News due 10/14, 9:00 AM



Apo Island CS Quiz due 10/14

Week 9: October 19 & 21



Marine Macroalgae & Plants (in Webcourses)



Marine Macroalgae & Plants



Exam 2 (Chap. 4-6 + Open Ocean) on 10/21

Week 10: October 26 & 28



Marine Invertebrates (in Webcourses)



Marine Invertebrates

Week 11: November 2 & 4



Marine Fishes (in Webcourses)



Marine Fishes



Horseshoe Crab Case Study (11/4)

Week 12: November 9 (11/11: No UCF classes)



Marine Reptiles & Birds (in Webcourses)



Marine Reptiles & Birds



Horseshoe Crab CS Quiz due 11/11

Week 13: November 16 & 18



Marine Mammals (in Webcourses)



Marine Mammals

Week 14: November 23 (No class 11/25)



Pgs. 61-70; Pgs. 84-86; Pgs. 102-110 & 113-114; Pgs. 132-134; Pgs. 143-146



Human Impacts on Ocean

Week 15: November 30 & December 2



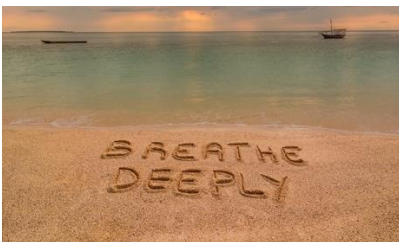
Dead Zone Case Study (11/30)



**Marine Organism Presentation
due 12/2, 9:00 AM**



Final Reflection due 12/2 at 11:59 PM



**Exam 3: All Marine Organisms on 12/9
7:00-9:50 AM**



Dead Zone CS Quiz due 12

Important Dates & Quick Links to Resources



Withdrawal Date



Grade Forgiveness Date



407-823-5555
or 911



[Student Handbook](#)



[UCF Cares](#)



[Accessibilities](#)



[Academic Resources](#)

University Resources & Policies

Required UCF Statement Regarding COVID-19

- *Statement Regarding Masks in Classrooms*
 - UCF **EXPECTS** that all members of our campus community who are able to do so **get vaccinated**, and we **EXPECT** all members of our campus community to wear masks indoors, [in line with the latest CDC guidelines](#). Masks are required in approved clinical or health care settings.
- *Notifications in Case of Changes to Course Modality*
 - If the instructor falls ill during the semester, there may be temporary changes to this course, including having a backup instructor take over the course or going remote for a short time. Please look for announcements or mail in Webcourses@UCF or Knights email for any temporary alterations to this course.
- *COVID-19 and Illness Notification*
 - Students who believe they may have been exposed to COVID-19 or who test positive must contact UCF Student Health Services (407-823-2509) so proper contact tracing procedures can take place. Students should NOT come to campus if they are ill, are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 or have tested positive for COVID-19.
 - Students should contact their instructor(s) as soon as possible if they miss class for any illness to discuss reasonable adjustments that might need to be made. When possible, students should contact their instructor(s) before missing class.

Academic Services and Resources

- A list of available academic support and learning services is available at [UCF Student Services](#). Click on "Academic Support and Learning Services" on the right-hand side to filter.

Non-Academic Services and Resources

- During your UCF career, you may experience challenges including struggles with academics, finances, or your personal well-being. UCF has a multitude of resources available to all students.
 - Please visit UCFCares.com if you are seeking resources and support, or if you are worried about a friend or classmate. Free services and information are included for a variety of student concerns, including but not limited to alcohol use, bias incidents, mental health concerns, and financial challenges.
 - You can also e-mail ucfcares@ucf.edu with questions or for additional assistance.

- You can reach a UCF Cares staff member between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. by calling 407-823-5607. If you are in immediate distress, please call Counseling and Psychological Services to speak directly with a counselor 24/7 at 407-823-2811, or please call 911.
- A list of non-academic support and services is also available at [UCF Student Services](#). Click on "Support" on the right-hand side to filter.
- If you are a UCF Online student, please consult the [UCF Online Student Guidelines](#) for more information about your access to non-academic services.

Policy Statements

- Students should familiarize themselves with [UCF's Rules of Conduct](#). According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in:
 - *Unauthorized assistance*: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.
 - *Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means*: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.
 - *Commercial Use of Academic Material*: Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.
 - *Falsifying or misrepresenting* the student's own academic work.
 - *Plagiarism*: Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.
 - *Multiple Submissions*: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.
 - *Helping another violate* academic behavior standards.
- For more information about Academic Integrity, students may consult [The Center for Academic Integrity](#).
- For more information about plagiarism and misuse of sources, see "[Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices](#)".

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating

- Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, [The Golden Rule](#). UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to academic misconduct. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, suspension or expulsion from the university, and/or a "Z Designation" on a student's official transcript indicating academic dishonesty, where the final grade for this course will be preceded by the letter Z. For more information about the Z Designation, see <http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/zgrade>.

[Inclusion, Safety, and Disability Accommodation at UCF](#)

- The University of Central Florida considers the diversity of its students, faculty, and staff to be a strength and critical to its educational mission. UCF expects every member of the university community to contribute to an inclusive and respectful culture for all in its classrooms, work environments, and at campus events. Dimensions of diversity can include sex, race, age, national origin, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, intellectual and physical ability, sexual orientation, income, faith and non-faith perspectives, socio-economic class, political ideology, education, primary language, family status, military experience, cognitive style, and communication style. The individual intersection of these experiences and characteristics must be valued in our community.
- Title IX prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment, and retaliation. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find resources available to support the victim, including confidential resources and information concerning reporting options at www.shield.ucf.edu and <http://cares.sdes.ucf.edu/>.

- If there are aspects of the design, instruction, and/or experiences within this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement, please notify the instructor as soon as possible and/or contact Student Accessibility Services.
- For more information on diversity and inclusion, Title IX, accessibility, or UCF's complaint processes contact:
- Title IX – EO/AA - <http://www.eeo.ucf.edu/> & askanadvocate@ucf.edu
- Disability Accommodation – Student Accessibility Services - <http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/> & sas@ucf.edu
- Diversity and Inclusion Training and Events – www.diversity.ucf.edu
- Student Bias Grievances – Just Knights response team - <http://jkrt.sdes.ucf.edu/>
- UCF Compliance and Ethics Office - <http://compliance.ucf.edu/> & complianceandethics@ucf.edu
- Ombuds Office - <http://www.ombuds.ucf.edu>
- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <https://my.ucf.edu> [Links to an external site.](#) and logging in. Click on “Student Self Service” located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue “Personal Information” heading on the Student Center screen, click on “UCF Alert”, fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click “Apply” to save the changes, and then click “OK.”
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors.
- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <https://my.ucf.edu> [Links to an external site.](#) and logging in. Click on “Student Self Service” located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue “Personal Information” heading on the Student Center screen, click on “UCF Alert”, fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click “Apply” to save the changes, and then click “OK.”
- Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.
- This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.
- During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need not make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.

In-class Recording

- Students may, without prior notice, record video or audio of a class lecture for a class in which the student is enrolled for their own personal educational use.
- A class lecture is defined as a formal or methodical oral presentation as part of a university course intended to present information or teach enrolled students about a particular subject.
- Recording class activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to lab sessions, student presentations (whether individually or part of a group), class discussion (except when incidental to and incorporated within a class lecture), clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving student participation, test or examination administrations, field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty member, and invited guest speakers is prohibited.
- Recordings may not be used as a substitute for class participation and class attendance, and may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements may constitute a violation of the University's Student Code of Conduct as described in the Golden Rule.