

BSC 3312: Principles of Marine Biology

Department of Biology, College of Science

3 Credit Hours

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Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Melinda Donnelly

- Email: Melinda.Donnelly@ucf.edu
- Office Location: Biological Sciences (BIO) Building, room 401A
- Office Hours: Tuesday, 10-11 AM and 3-4 PM and Thursday, 11 AM to 1 PM or by appointment

Email Policies:

- Include in your email subject line: course title (i.e., Marine Biology)
- Include in your email: (1) your full name, (2) course title
- The Instructor will try to respond within 48 hours, but some response times may be longer, particularly over weekends and holidays. Please plan accordingly and do not wait until the last minute to contact us with questions or concerns.
- Grades must be discussed with the instructor in-person and no grades will be given by email.
- All e-mail communications must be from your ucf.edu e-mail address, any other emails will not receive a response per UCF policy.

Course Information

- Term: Spring 2024
- Course Number & Section: BSC 3312, Section 1
- Course Name: Principles of Marine Biology
- Credit Hours: 3
- Class Meeting Days: Tuesday and Thursday, 1:30 pm to 2:50 pm
- Class Location: Engineering 2 (ENG2), room 102
- Course Modality: Face-to-Face (P)

Enrollment Requirements

Course Prerequisites: C or better in Biology I and II (BSC 2010C and 2011C)

Course Description

This 3-credit course will provide students with a foundation in the field of marine biology using a global perspective. The semester will be comprised of three units covering the following general topics:

Unit 1: Abiotic & Biotic Processes

Unit 2: Marine Taxonomy

Unit 3: Marine Ecology & Conservation

Course Materials and Resources

Textbook: There is no textbook to buy for this course. We will be utilizing open educational resources for this course and weekly reading material will be included in the module pages.

Internet Access and Webcourses

- Webcourses will be used for all aspects of this class, including class related material and communication:
 - Course Syllabus
 - Weekly Modules
 - Lecture Slides
 - Exam review material
 - Weekly Quizzes
 - Participation Assignments
 - Exams
 - Announcements

- To ensure that you receive important announcements, you are required to have your announcements setting turned on. You are responsible for information sent to students via Webcourses Announcements.
- Grades for all course components

Student Learning Outcomes

After completion of this course and all related assignments, students will...

1. Understand the basic abiotic and biotic processes of marine environment.
2. Learn primary terminology of marine biology.
3. Identify major taxonomic groups of marine species.
4. Apply the theoretical concepts of marine biology to real-world issues.
5. Become familiar with scientific research conducted in the field of marine biology.
6. Gain an appreciation of marine biology as a science and its role in understanding the man-nature interaction.

Assessment and Grading Procedures

Assessment	Grade Percentage
Class Participation (drop 2 lowest grades)	5%
Quizzes (drop lowest grade)	5%
Active Learning Exercises	10%
Module Activities (drop lowest grade)	5%
Exam 1	25%
Exam 2	25%
Exam 3	25%
TOTAL	100%

Grading Policies:

- All grades will be posted on UCF Webcourses.
- No grades will be given by e-mail, phone, or to anyone other than the student.

- Questions about grades should be addressed during office hours or by appointment to maintain confidentiality.
- Anyone requiring grade forms signed during the semester must bring form to office hours.
 - No grade forms will be signed before/after lecture or by e-mail.
- Final grades will be calculated by the instructor using the grading scale described in the syllabus.
 - **Warning: Webcourses often calculates grades incorrectly and the “final grade” and “current grade” values shown on Webcourses may be inaccurate.**
- For final letter grades in this course, grade percentages will be rounded to the nearest whole number (less than 0.5 will be rounded down, 0.5 and greater will be rounded up).

Grading Scale:

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

Course Activity Details

Attendance Verification for Financial Aid Students

- Faculty are required to document student attendance/participation in this course so that financial aid monies are disbursed appropriately and in a timely manner.
- To document your attendance and participation in this course you are required to complete the [Syllabus Quiz](#) in Webcourses no later than 5 PM on Friday, January 12th
 - Failure to complete this quiz will result in the delay of your financial aid funds
 - This quiz is related to the lecture syllabus. Your score on this quiz will count as part of the weekly quiz portion of your final grade (described below).

Participation Grade (5% of semester grade)

- Your Participation grade will be evaluated based on responses to questions presented in-class during lectures. A passcode will be given during in-class lectures to access the quiz. If you do not have access to electronic devices during lecture, please contact Dr. Donnelly for alternative arrangements.
 - Please note sharing the passcode with students not attending will be considered cheating and both students will be subjected to penalties as described in Academic Integrity section below.
- At the end of the semester, the lowest 2 participation grades will be dropped; thus, you can miss two assignments without impacting your final grade.
 - There are no make-ups or re-dos for any participation assignments.
 - Contact Dr. Donnelly if more than 2 participation activities are missed; documentation may be required at the discretion of instructor for additional excused participations.

Module Activities (5% of semester grade)

- Grade will be evaluated based on completion of on-line activities related to weekly modules and submission of associated quiz assignment on Webcourses.
- These activities are designed to support learning concepts from the weekly module readings and on-line resources. Associated quizzes will be untimed and you will have two attempts to complete.
- Assignments will open with the weekly module on **Mondays** and be due by **11:59PM on Friday**. Assignments will occur each week of the semester, except exam weeks.
 - **Important: There are NO makeups, re-dos or excused absences for missed quizzes** (unless a student can provide documentation affecting them longer than 1 week, e.g. extended hospitalization, sequestered jury duty, etc. that prevented computer access).
 - If you miss taking a quiz, you will receive a zero (0) for that quiz's grade. Therefore, do NOT wait until the last minute to take the quiz.
 - Technical or internet difficulties will NOT be accepted as an excuse for missing quizzes.
 - Students are responsible for knowing the quiz due dates which can be found on Webcourses.
- The lowest grade will be dropped from final grade calculation.

Weekly Quizzes (5% of semester grade)

- There will be ten online quizzes given through Webcourses, one per week except for the first week of classes and exam weeks.
 - Each quiz will consist of multiple choice style questions based on the week's module content.

- Quizzes will test knowledge of material presented in the weekly module and associated lectures.
- These quizzes are intended to help you learn along the way. The quizzes are open-book and you will have 30 minutes to complete each quiz. Quizzes are open notes but require prior preparation to successfully complete the quiz in the time allotted. If you are not satisfied with your grade on a quiz it may be taken a second time prior to the due date and the best score of the two will count.
- Your **lowest (1) quiz grade will be dropped** from your final grade.
- Quizzes will open on **Mondays** and close at **11:59PM on Friday**.
- **Important: There are NO makeups, re-dos or excused absences for missed quizzes** (unless a student can provide documentation affecting them longer than 1 week, e.g. extended hospitalization, sequestered jury duty, etc. that prevented computer access).
- If you miss taking a quiz, you will receive a zero (0) for that quiz's grade. Therefore, do NOT wait until the last minute to take the quiz.
- Technical or internet difficulties will NOT be accepted as an excuse for missing quizzes.
- Students are responsible for knowing the quiz due dates which can be found on Webcourses.
- **Important:** Final submission of the quiz must occur prior to the 30-minute deadline when the quiz is due or Webcourses will not accept it.

Active Learning (10% of semester grade)

- - The purpose of these assignments is to practice exam questions, promote critical thinking of unit material, and serve as a review for the exam.
 - Assignment information will be available on Webcourses one week before scheduled Active Learning Exercises lecture (see [Course Schedule](#) for dates) within the exam study modules.
 - During the lecture associated with each Active Learning Exercises, students will work in groups to answer questions and instructor will assist as needed.
 - Will use Webcourses quizzes for submission and grading- attendance of lecture for associated Active Learning Exercises is not mandatory to receive credit for Active Learning assignments.
 - There are no make-ups or re-dos for the active learning assignments.

Lecture Exams (75% of semester grade)

- Three exams will be given throughout the semester **on-line on Webcourses** during scheduled class time:
 - Exam 1: Thursday, February 8, 2024, 1:30 PM to 2:50 PM
 - Exam 2: Thursday, March 14, 2024, 1:30 PM to 2:50 PM
 - Exam 3: Thursday, April 18, 2024, 1:30 PM to 2:50 PM
- Each exam is worth 25% of final grade- **all exams count towards final grade.**
- Exam content is based on material covered in lectures, modules, and supplementary assignment and expect all exams to be cumulative as material builds on previous modules throughout the semester.
- Exams are open notes, however, Lockdown browser will be required when taking the exam.
 - Review the information about LockDown Browser (required for all exams) and download the [Lockdown Browser for UCF](#)
 - Once installed, test your browser with this practice quiz: [Lockdown Browser Practice Quiz](#)
 - Lockdown Browser help is available at [Student Support](#)
- Failure to take the exam during the assigned date and time will result in a zero (0) grade for the exam
- Each exam will have an 80 minute time limit and any students signing in late to the exam must complete the exam in the time remaining.
- Exams will not be given early and there are no re-dos of exams.

Extra Credit

Each student has the chance to get a **total** of 5% extra credit towards your final grade in the course by selecting from the following list of extra credit assignments. See the [Extra Credit Information](#) page for more details.

Option 1: Living Shoreline Restoration Activities: All dates will be given in class and posted on Webcourses on the [Extra Credit Information](#). Maps to off campus activities will be posted on Webcourses. You must be able to stay for entire scheduled time to receive credit. **On-campus dates to prepare materials will last 2 hrs and be worth 2.5% each attendance. Off-campus dates to assist with shoreline restoration will last 3-4 hrs and be worth 5%. Students must sign-in on class record sheet at on-campus events or take a selfie and email to Dr. Donnelly for off-campus events to receive extra credit. Photo documentation of off-campus events must be received within one week of event. No exceptions!**

Option 2: Marine Biodiversity Video Project: **Worth 5%, due date: 11:59 pm, April 12, 2024.** Create an original video about marine biodiversity. Video must be between 3-5 minutes and can be an individual submission or group submission (group of 4 students max). Videos should be uploaded to an on-line video website and video link must be submitted electronically to the class Webcourses site. All material used in videos must be original and plagiarism will result in 0 extra credit points.

Option 3: Current Events in Marine Biology: **Worth 2.5% per posting, final deadline for submitting is 11:59 pm, April 12 2024.** Post a short summary (100-150 words) and link to an article about current events in marine biology (peer-reviewed or non peer-reviewed, as long as valid source) to Webcourses Discussion Board. Article must have been published within one month of your posting on Webcourses and can not be a repeat of a submission of another student.

**If you are able to complete any of the above extra credit assignments, alternate assignments can be arranged with the instructor on a case by case basis. Please contact by e-mail or during office hours to arrange an alternate assignment.

Make-up Exams and Assignments

Per university policy, you 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). If this participation conflicts with your course assignments, I will offer a reasonable opportunity for you to complete missed assignments and/or exams. The make-up assignment and grading scale will be equivalent to the missed assignment and its grading scale. In the case of an authorized university activity, it is your responsibility to show me a signed copy of the Program Verification Form for which you will be absent, prior to the class in which the absence occurs. Other absences may require documentation to be excused at the instructor's discretion. In any of these cases, please contact me ahead of time to notify me of upcoming needs.

Make-up exams and other missed assignments need to be completed before the next exam and student's are responsible for contacting Dr. Donnelly as soon as possible to schedule make-up exams. All make-up assignments and exams must be completed by the last day of classes on Monday, April 22, 2024 for inclusion in final grade.

Consult the latest Undergraduate [catalog](#) for regulations and procedures regarding grading such as incomplete grades, grade changes, and grade forgiveness.

Course Schedule

See the complete [Course Schedule](#) for dates and deadlines.

Weekly modules will open on Mondays and include lecture files and links to on-line resources associated with the topics included in the module. The modules are designed for you to complete at your own pace over the course of the week. On all weeks except exam weeks, quizzes and other assignments will open on Monday with the module information and be due by 11:59 pm on the following Friday.

Any changes to the schedule will be announced to the class through Webcourses.

Study suggestions:

This is a fast-paced class covering multiple topics each week. To succeed it is essential that you stay caught up by reading modules, attending lectures, and studying the material. Students who prepare for the exams by simply attending lectures and reading their notes several times are unlikely to succeed on the exams. Course concepts build on each other and understanding one chapter is essential to understanding later chapters in this course. To succeed it is best to make your learning more active and focused. Active learning involves practicing the same skills you must perform on exams. In other words, quick recall of the appropriate information and applying it. To do this you should:

1. Treat studying like it's a job. Set a schedule, show up for work, pay attention (i.e. no multitasking) while on the job. A general rule of thumb is 2-3 hours for every hour of class.
2. Practice by Self-Testing. Make your own study questions: If you are like most people, you do not remember what you read/hear in sufficient detail to then be tested. However, it may be unclear which details you remember/understand and which you do not. The point in study questions is to figure out prior to an exam what you don't understand or have trouble remembering and work on that material. You do not want to realize during an exam that you don't understand something as well as you thought you did as it is now too late!

University Services and Resources

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

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

[Academic Integrity](#)

[Course Accessibility Statement](#)

[Campus Safety Statement](#)

[Deployed Active Duty Military Students](#)

[Copyright](#)

[Third-Party Software and FERPA](#)