

BIOL 4395/ Special Topics in Biology/ BIOL 5380 Topics in Advanced Biology: Marine Biology

Fall 2024

Instructor: Dr. Tanya Brown Assistant Professor Biology

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Location: HPR 00253

Time: Wednesday 5-7:50PM

Office Hours: Wednesday 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, 2-3 PM or by appointment.

Course Description:

An introduction to marine biology. The course will investigate the various marine ecosystems that make up our planet from cold water to tropical ecosystems. The course will also delve into current manmade obstacles as well as ways that these are being mitigated. The class will rely on peer review articles.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the semester students will:

- 1) Identify differences between different marine ecosystems and the problems facing them.
- 2) Describe research questions that can be addressed in marine ecosystems and have a better understanding of the challenges facing marine field work.
- 3) Analyze and interpret data from primary literature.
- 4) Effectively communicate and interpret the significance of research findings.
- 5) Discuss and evaluate conclusions reached from marine biology primary literature based on the proposed hypothesis and presented results.
- 6) Present an effective science communication project.

Required Course Materials: No required textbook.

Class Schedule:

Note that this schedule is subject to change.

Aug 28: Intro, marine bio-overview, how to read a paper

Sept 4: Cold communities-intertidal rocky shores/kelp forest

Sept 11: Paper discussions

Sept 18: Temperate communities- soft sediment/ salt marshes

Sept 25: Paper discussions

Oct 2: Tropical communities- Mangroves/seagrass/coral reef

Oct 9: Paper discussions

Oct 16: Open Water

Oct 23: Paper discussions

Oct 30: Climate Change on Marine Ecosystems/overfishing

Nov 6: Habitat degradation/ paper discussion

Nov 13: Guest Lecture: Dr. Cindy Lewis, Director Keys Marine Lab /Restoration

Nov 20: Management/ paper discussion

Dec 4: Sci comm presentations

Assignments:

Marine Biology in the news: Read a current news article from a newspaper related the ocean. You will send me the article for approval on September 18 and write up a summary (250-300 words) on the article for October 2.

Lead paper discussion: Each graduate student will be assigned a paper to discuss in class and they will lead a discussion about the paper. Other students are expected to participate. Various weeks

Pokémon card: Students will be assigned a marine organism and will be tasked with creating a Pokémon style card. Information on what to put on your card will be found on Canvas. Due: November 6

Sci communication project: Students will choose a topic (October 16) and present the project to the class. Due December 4

Participation: You will be assessed by how much you participate in class.

Grade Distribution Undergraduate Student:

Marine Biology article approval: 10%

Marine Biology article summary: 15%

Pokémon card: 15%

Science Communication Idea approval: 10%

Science Communication Presentation: 30%

Participation: 10%

Total: 100%

Grade Distribution Graduate Student:

Marine Biology article approval: 5%

Marine Biology article summary: 15%

Paper Discussion: 20%

Pokémon card: 15%

Science Communication Idea approval: 5%

Science Communication Presentation: 30%

Participation: 10%

Total: 100%

Attendance: Attendance is worth 10% of your grade. You may miss **ONE** lecture without losing points. Attendance will be checked during each class meeting. I am required to provide attendance data for Financial Aid, midterm, and final grades submissions; therefore, it is critical that you attend our class meetings. If you cannot attend for reasons of illness or other acceptable situations, please contact me to determine the best course of action.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

AI will not be used in this class. To best support your learning, you must complete all graded assignments by yourself to assist in your learning. This exclusion of other resources to help complete assignments includes artificial intelligence (AI). Refrain from using AI tools to generate any course context (e.g., text, video, audio, images, etc) for an assignment or classroom assignment.

Student Resources

Resources to assist you in this course

- [UT Tyler Student Accessibility and Resource \(SAR\) Office.](#) (provides needed accommodations to students with document needs related to access and learning)
- [UT Tyler Writing Center](#)
- [The Mathematics Learning Center](#)
- [UT Tyler PASS Tutoring Center](#)
- [UT Tyler Supplemental Instruction](#)
- [Upswing \(24/7 online tutoring\) - covers nearly all undergraduate course areas Links to an external site.](#)
- [Robert Muntz Library](#) and [Library Liaison](#)
- [Canvas 101](#) (learn to use Canvas, proctoring, Unicheck, and other software)
- LIB 422 -- Computer Lab where students can take a proctored exam
- [The Career Success Center](#)
- [UT Tyler Testing Center](#)
- [Office of Research & Scholarship Design and Data Analysis Lab](#)

Resources available to UT Tyler Students

- [UT Tyler Counseling Center](#) (available to all students)
- [My SSP App](#) (24/7 access to Student Support Program counseling through phone or chat and online wellness resources available in a variety of languages)
- [Student Assistance and Advocacy Center](#)
- [Military and Veterans Success Center](#) (supports for all of our military-affiliated students)
- [UT Tyler Patriot Food Pantry](#)
- [UT Tyler Financial Aid and Scholarships](#)
- [UT Tyler Registrar's Office](#)
- [Office of International Programs](#)
- [Title IX Reporting](#)
- [Patriots Engage](#) (available to all students. Get engaged at UT Tyler.)

University Policies and Information

- **Withdrawing from Class** - Students, you are allowed to [withdraw](#) (drop) from this course through the [Withdrawal Portal Links to an external site.](#) Withdrawing from classes can impact Financial Aid, Scholarships, Veteran Benefits, Exemptions, Waivers, International Student Status, housing, and degree progress. Please read this page, speak with your instructors, consider your options, and speak with your instructor. UT Tyler faculty and staff are here for our students and often can provide additional support options or student assistance. Please read the implications for withdrawing from a course and the instructions on using the Withdrawal portal on the [Registrar's Withdrawal page.](#)

Texas law prohibits students who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at other 2-year or 4-year Texas public colleges and universities. Consider the impact withdrawing from this class has on your academic progress and other areas,

such as financial implications. We encourage you to consult your advisor(s) and financial aid for additional guidance. CAUTION #1: Withdrawing before census day does not mean you get a full refund. Please see the [Tuition and Fee Refund Schedule](#). CAUTION #2: All international students must check with the [Office of International Programs](#) before withdrawing. All international students are required to enroll full-time for fall and spring terms. CAUTION #3: All UT Tyler Athletes must check with the Athletic Academic Coordinator before withdrawing from a course. CAUTION #4: All veterans or military-affiliated students should consult with the [Military and Veterans Success Center](#).

- **Final Exam Policy:** Final examinations are administered as scheduled. If unusual circumstances require that special arrangements be made for an individual student or class, the Dean of the appropriate college, after consultation with the faculty member involved, may authorize an exception to the schedule. Faculty members must maintain student final examination papers for a minimum of three months following the examination date.

- **Incomplete Grade Policy:** If a student, because of extenuating circumstances, is unable to complete all of the requirements for a course by the end of the semester, then the instructor may recommend an Incomplete (I) for the course. The "I" may be assigned in place of a grade only when all of the following conditions are met: (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all coursework or final exam due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor, and

(c) the student presents these reasons before the time that the final grade roster is due. The semester credit hours for an Incomplete will not be used to calculate the grade point average. The student and the instructor must submit an Incomplete Form detailing the work required and the time by which the work must be completed to their respective department chair or college dean for approval. The time limit established must not exceed one year. Should the student fail to meet all of the work for the course within the time limit, then the instructor may assign zeros to the unfinished work, compute the course average for the student, and assign the appropriate grade. If a grade has yet to be assigned within one year, then the Incomplete will be changed to an F, or NC. If the course was initially taken under the CR/NC grading basis, this may adversely affect the student's academic standing.

- **Grade Appeal Policy:** - Disputes regarding grades must be initiated within sixty (60) days from the date of receiving the final course grade by filing a Grade Appeal Form with the instructor who assigned the grade; this is separate from the Application for Appeal form submitted to the Student Appeals Committee, which does not rule on grade disputes as described in this policy. If the student is not satisfied with the decision, the student may appeal in writing to the Chairperson of the department from which the grade was issued. In situations where there is an allegation of capricious grading, discrimination, or unlawful actions, appeals may go beyond the Chairperson to the Dean of the college from which the grade was issued, with that decision being final. The Grade Appeal form is found in the [Registrar's Form Library](#).

Disability/Accessibility Services: In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA), the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical, and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit

<https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with the Assistant Director Student Accessibility and Resources/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <https://www.uttyler.edu/disability-services>, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150, or call 903.566.7079."

- **Military Affiliated Students:** UT Tyler honors the service and sacrifices of our military-affiliated students. If you are a student who is a veteran, on active duty, in the reserves or National Guard, or a military spouse or dependent, please stay in contact with your faculty member if any aspect of your present or prior service or family situation makes it difficult for you to fulfill the requirements of a course or creates disruption in your academic progress. It is important to make your faculty member aware of any complications as far in advance as possible. Your faculty member is willing to work with you and, if needed, put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you. The [Military and Veterans Success Center \(MVSC\)](#) has campus resources for military-affiliated students. The MVSC can be reached at MVSC@uttyler.edu or via phone at 903.565.5972.
- **Academic Honesty and Academic Misconduct:** The UT Tyler community comes together to pledge that "Honor and integrity will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do." Therefore, we enforce the [Student Conduct and Discipline policy](#) in the Student Manual Of Operating Procedures (Section 8).
- **FERPA** - UT Tyler follows the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as noted in [University Policy 5.2.3](#). The course instructor will follow all requirements to protect your confidential information.
- **Absence for Official University Events or Activities:** This course follows the practices related to approved absences as noted by the Student Manual of Operating Procedures ([Sec. 1 - 501](#)).
- **Absence for Religious Holidays:** This course follows the practices related to [Excused Absences for Religious Holy Days as noted in the Catalog](#).
- **Campus Carry:** We respect the right and privacy of students who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>.

