



SYLLABUS

School:	School of Marine Sciences & Oceanography
Course Number:	OCB1000
Course Name:	Introduction to Marine Biology
Credit Hours:	3 credit hours
Prerequisite:	None

Course Description

This course is an introductory course for non-science majors. It explores the natural history of marine organisms, their taxonomic relationships and their interactions with each other. The evolutionary processes of various marine organisms and the scheme of biological classification are introduced. The fundamentals of marine biological science are provided with special emphasis placed upon observable major marine phyla in the local area and the interrelationships between individual organisms within these phyla and how they relate to world wide marine environments

Course Rationale

Rationale of the course:

Most of the life on our planet "Oceanus" lives in its oceans. Marine biology is the scientific study of organisms in the oceans and their estuaries. Marine biology is closely linked to marine ecology, biological oceanography and encompasses fields of fishery science and conservation - all focusing on the marine organisms' biological characteristics. Marine biology is often confused with marine ecology which studies relationships between marine organisms and with their environment.

This course introduces the biodiversity of marine organisms studied in phylogenetic order and species' adaptations to various marine environments – many of them vanishing due to human overpopulation and the resulting overexploitation, coastal development and ocean pollution. Vast biomasses of marine organisms significantly contribute to the oxygen cycle and help regulate the Earth's climate. Consequently marine environmental management and conservation are needed to protect marine species and preserve fragile marine ecosystems.

Program Learning Objectives

Upon completion of OCB 1000, Marine Biology, the learner will be able to

- apply problem solving, analytical, and communication skills based on the scientific method that will provide the foundation for lifelong learning and career development
- make use of appropriate technologies to organize, acquire, and convey information relevant to the interdisciplinary marine sciences

Course Objectives

The learner will be able to:

- **identify** the ecology and biodiversity of the marine environment including physical parameters
- **identify** the distribution and abundance of marine organisms and their adaptation to the marine environment
- **identify** the structure and function of marine primary producers such as phytoplankton, marine algae, seagrasses, mangroves and beach plants and their importance in the marine ecosystem
- **describe** and **identify** the taxonomy, life history, structure and function of marine invertebrates from the zooplankton and from benthic communities
- **describe** and **identify** the taxonomy, life history, structure and function of marine vertebrates such as fishes, birds, mammals and reptiles and their role in the marine environment
- **describe** how the ocean provides humans with resources and how to grow and culture marine organisms
- **examine** the behaviors required for a more responsible and productive citizenship

Course Resources

- Textbook information

Introduction to Marine Biology, Fourth edition by Karleskint/Turner/Small 2013.
ISBN: 978-1-133-36446-7

- Required materials

Websites: Online Website links for assigned studies are posted on Blackboard LMS at blackboard.irsc.edu.

- Required readings

Textbook chapters and assigned internet website studies.

- Supplementary readings/text

Online Study Guides: View before you begin reading the chapters. Complete each chapter study with the practice of the Chapter Review Quizzes. There is no need to submit your study results to your professor; these are study aids for you to get you prepared for the exams.

Textbook(s) - (available at IRSC bookstore):

Introduction to Marine Biology, Fourth edition by Karleskint/Turner/Small 2013.
ISBN: 978-1-133-36446-7

Note: The 3rd edition textbook version is acceptable and can be used to complete all assignments in this course.

Resources:

Additional resources will be referenced in the modules, where they will be available to students.

Course Requirements

This course consists of a series of activities and assessments to assist you in achieving the outcomes/objectives for the course and instructional modules/ units. Each week you will work on various combinations of assignments, activities, discussions, readings, research, etc.

Grades and Grading Scale

Assignment of letter grades is based on a percentage of points earned. The letter grade will correspond with the following percentages achieved. All course requirements must be completed before a grade is assigned.

A	100	-	90
B	80	-	89
C	70	-	79
D	60	-	69
F	59	-	and below

Note: Calculated grades will NOT be rounded to the next whole number.

W- Withdraw by deadline indicated in semester course-offering schedule. Instructor will not give a withdrawal past this deadline.*

I – An Incomplete may be given to passing students only in verifiable emergencies*.

**Medical & family emergencies require proper documentation. See "Late or Missed Assignments" section.*

Assignment Name	Point Value/ Percent of Course Grade
Discussion Forum	100 points/20%
Exams	300 points/60%
Presentation	100 points/20%
Learning Outcome Quiz	10 points/ Extra credit on Final Exam

Schedule of Activities

The course schedule will be located in the Schedule of Activities link in the course control panel.

Course Guidelines

Online Course

This is an online course and therefore there will not be any face-to-face class sessions. All assignments and course interactions will utilize Internet technologies. The content of this course is fully online except for proctored exam(s).

Specific Course Policies

The lowest point grade prior to Final will be dropped. NO makeup exams will be given. Contact instructor before exam if you plan to miss it. Report medical and other emergencies* immediately (within 24 hours past exam deadline) and if you experience any technical problems contact IRSC's e-Learning department immediately to file a trouble report prior to the exam deadline in order to qualify for a make-up approval (See Examination guidelines section).

Communicating with the Instructor

When questions arise during this course, please remember to check these three sources for an answer:

1. Course Syllabus;
2. Announcements in Blackboard; and
3. The "Ask the Instructor" discussion board.

If you cannot find an answer to your question post your question to the "Ask the Instructor" discussion board. The "Ask the Instructor" discussion board can be answered to the benefit of all students by either your fellow students who know the answer to your question or the instructor. You are encouraged to answer questions from other students in the discussion forum when you know the answer to a question in order to help provide timely assistance.

If you have questions of a personal nature such as relating a personal emergency, questioning a grade on an assignment, or something else that needs to be communicated privately, please contact the instructor via the email. Please allow 24/48 hours for the instructor to respond.

All instructor correspondence should be conducted within your course mail.

Attendance/Participation

Preparation for class means completing all study activities required for that week. Attendance in an online course means logging into the Learning Management System (Blackboard) on a regular basis and participating in the all of activities that are posted in the course.

Studying and Preparation Time

The course requires you to spend time preparing and completing assignments. For **every credit hour** you should expect to spend at minimum of three (3) hours working on the course. Therefore, a 3-credit course would require approximately 9 hours of time per week.

Examination Guidelines

This course requires two exams (Midterm and Final) to be held at an Assessment Center. Assessment centers are available at all campuses. Students who cannot access any of the IRSC testing facilities must contact Assessment Services Manager Steven Daniello at (772) 462-7583 or sdaniell@irsc.edu to make other arrangements.

The exams must be taken at a Testing Center at the campus of your choice, and no books, notes or any other materials will be allowed.

A quick link to the Assessment Center (Testing) is located in Blackboard in the Institutional Resources section under IRSC Policies & Resources.

Late or Missed Assignments

All assignments, discussions, and the presentation must be finished and turned in to complete the course. Unless the instructor is notified BEFORE the assignment is due and provides an opportunity for the student to submit his/her assignment late, the missing assignment will be used as the lowest drop grade.

Make-up Policy: No make-up exams will be given after the exam deadlines. Students will be allowed to drop one lowest assignment point grade prior to the Final. This should cover any illness, emergency, or other situation. You should “bank” this opportunity thereby allowing you to DROP one poor point grade if you have taken all tests. Contact instructor before exam or quiz if you plan to miss it, and reasonable arrangements may be made.

If you experience any technical problems contact IRSC’s Virtual Campus immediately to file a trouble report prior to the exam deadline. To document the technical issue, include a screen shot in your email. Report medical and other emergencies (see below) immediately (within 24 hours past the exam deadline) by phone or email message incl. required documentations in order to qualify for a make-up approval.

MEDICAL & FAMILY EMERGENCY: If you miss an exam deadline notify me immediately by email or phone. I can only provide a make-up under the following conditions:

- A written excuse from your physician explaining why medically you were unable to take a test or complete an assignment.
- An obituary notice of a death in your immediate family that also states your relationship to the deceased (husband, wife, mother, father, grandparent, son, daughter, brother, sister, no other).

Instructor withdrawal requests require written excuses from your physician explaining why medically you were unable to participate in class activities and complete all assignments, or a copy of an obituary from a next of kin for you or your spouse (mother, father, son, daughter, sister, or brother – no others.)

Submitting Assignments

All assignments, unless otherwise announced by the instructor, **MUST** be submitted via Blackboard. Each assignment will have a designated location for submission.

Instructor Feedback

Your instructor will provide feedback within 7 to 14 days.

Subject to change notice

All material, assignments, and deadlines are subject to change with prior notice. It is your responsibility to stay in touch with your instructor, review the course site regularly, and communicate with other students to adjust as needed if there is any change in the course.

IRSC Resources

Quick links to the Indian River State College's resources and policies are listed in the Institutional Resources section of the course, including:

- MyIRSC – Register for classes, view grades and financial aid awards
- Student Handbook & Student Handbook Reference Guide
- Advising
- Catalog
- Drop/Add
- Equity Statement
- Financial Aid
- Incomplete Grade
- IRSC Mission Statement
- Office of Student Disabilities
- Student Activities
- Student Success Services
- Testing Services
- Transcripts
- Update Personal Information
- Withdrawal Policy

Academic Resources

Quick links to the Indian River State College's Academic Resources can be found in the Institutional Resources section in Blackboard. Quick links include:

- Academic Calendar
- Academic Support Center
- Academic Warning/
- Deficiency/Suspension
- Assessment/Examination Policy
- Graduation
- How to Succeed in this Course
- Incomplete Grade
- Netiquette Rules
- Smarthinking - Tutoring
- Student Responsibility
- Studying and Time Management

Library & Research Paper Resources

Quick links to the Indian River State College's Library and Research Paper Resources can be found in the Institutional Resources section in Blackboard. Quick links include:

- Library Link
- Course Specific Custom Library Guides
- Ask the Librarian (24/7)
- American Psychological Association Tutorial
- APA Guidelines
- MLA Guidelines
- CSE Guidelines
- Legal Citation
- Plagiarism Policy
- Writing a Research Paper

Writing Expectations:

All students should write at college level in all course communication and assignments. Please pay particular attention to the information listed below.

Citation and Reference Style:

Students should use the APA citation style unless otherwise directed by their instructor.

Technical Requirements

Course Specific Technology Requirements

None.

IRSC Computer Requirements

Students must have a reliable computer and Internet connection throughout the course. Quick links to the Indian River State College's Blackboard Technical Information can be found in the Institutional Resources section in Blackboard. Quick links include:

- Essential Technical Skills Checklist
- Browser Support
- Blackboard Learning Center
- Blackboard Technical Support for Students
- Blackboard Learn Mobile

Blackboard **Learning Management System** (LMS)

If you need assistance with Blackboard, please look at the tutorials on the log in page of Blackboard. Click on the Blackboard Tutorials link in the course control panel. Blackboard Video Tutorials include:

- Checking Your Grades
- Taking a Test Online
- Interacting with the Discussion Board
- Submitting an Assignment



Note: The preferred browser is Google Chrome.

Blackboard LOG IN:

USERNAME: Student ID number (no dashes)

PASSWORD: IRSC web registration/pay pin

Technical Support

If you can't find your answer within the help section at the [IRSC Blackboard Online Support Center](http://virtualcampus.irsc.edu), go to virtualcampus.irsc.edu and click on the Blackboard Student Help Desk icon.

Accessibility Statement

In compliance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, professional disability specialists and support staff at the Student Disability Services (SDS) facilitate a comprehensive range of academic support services and accommodations for qualified students with disabilities.

IRSC offers many disability resources at on-campus labs. The SDS works with online students to ensure accessibility. A quick link is located to the SDS in the Institutional Resources section in the course control panel. Students who wish to request an accommodation for a documented disability should contact the SDS immediately at 772-462-7782 or 772-462-7808.

Syllabus Disclaimer

The instructor views the course syllabus as an educational contract between the instructor and students. Every effort will be made to avoid changing the course schedule but the possibility exists that unforeseen events will make syllabus changes necessary. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as deemed necessary. Students will be notified in a timely manner of any syllabus changes in the course Announcements or course e-mail.