

Bio 272G: Tropical Marine Biology 2008

Expectations:

- We expect that everyone will give this course his or her full intellectual attention and enthusiasm.
- We expect full participation in all class activities and promptness for scheduled events, lectures, and class discussions. **Unless you are ill, you are expected to participate in all activities (including snorkeling and diving). Failure to participate for other reasons will be reflected in your participation grade. If you are unable or unwilling to participate in an activity, you must inform an instructor.**
- Have fun, but be respectful of others.
- Diving safety is not an option. Observe safe diving and snorkeling practices.

Schedule: The schedule of lectures/labs is included in your manual and is posted on Blackboard. A tentative schedule of activities in Roatan is also included (subject to changes due to weather and other scheduling difficulties).

Grading:

Two tests:	30%
Field activities:	50%
	Field notebook 32%
	Coral transect 5%
	Patch reef day/night 5%
	Field quizzes 5%
	Oral presentation 3%
Fish report:	15%
Subjective:	5% (Participation, discussion, punctuality, organization, etc.)

Papers and oral reports:

Each group will specialize on one fish or group of fishes. At the end of the class, you will write a synopsis of what you have found and give a brief oral presentation to the group. A full description of the paper and possible subjects is included in your manual and posted on blackboard.

Field notes:

A record of your observations and your hypotheses should be systematically recorded in your field notebook.

Notes for each dive/snorkel should include:

- A sketch or description of the area including a reef profile, if appropriate. (Examples of reef profiles can be found in the manual and in the lecture presentation.)
- Notes on distribution and abundance (be careful with shaky identifications).
- Notes on behavior and anything else interesting.
- Special notes on your assigned species.
- Questions and tentative hypotheses that arise from your observations.
- Answers to questions and supplemental information as needed from your manual, books, and research articles. Note: Don't get carried away with inclusion of external material. These notations are supplements to and not a substitute for keen field observations and pattern recognition.

Reminder: All students are bound by the standards of the Academic Honor Code, found at www.goucher.edu/documents/General/AcademicHonorCode.pdf

Schedule: Jan 2-6

Wed, Jan 2 5:30 PM Group meeting/orientation, pizza dinner
6:30 Introduction to marine environments: special considerations
of the Caribbean and Roatan. G27 (lab)

Assignment:

- 1. Read MANUAL on oceanography thru coral biology (pages 1-27)**
- 2. Lewis**
- 3. Warner**

Thurs, Jan 3 9:00 am Lab open; breakfast/coffee avail. G39 (seminar)
9:30 Cnidarian/coral biology G59
10:30 Anemone lab G27
LUNCH
1:00 Coral diversity; slides and lab specimens G27
3:00 Other invertebrates of the reef: G59
(esp. sponges, worms, echinoderms)
Evening Lab open for practice identifications

Assignment:

- 1. Read sections in manual on fishes (pages 29-39, 58-59)**
- 2. Use ID manuals to practice identifications**
- 3. Assigned fish readings (Freeman and Alvizon, Ogden and Buckman, Barlow)**
- 4. Coral reefs and climate change article**

Fri, Jan 4 9:00 Lab open, breakfast/coffee avail.
9:30 Review and Questions G59
Introduction to fish biology and behavior
10:30 Coral Reef Fish – Introduction to families/ slides G59
LUNCH
1:00 Fish ID/ Practice with DVDs G39
(seminar)
3:00 Marine habitats and the environment G59
4:30 Leave for aquarium Hoffberger lot

Assignment

- 1. Assigned readings from the literature(see above)**
- 2. Use ID manuals to practice identifications**

Sat, Jan 5 9:00 Lab open/ breakfast
9:30 Discuss fish paper/ assign groups;
distribute materials G27
10:00 Lab open/ DVDs, corals available for review

2:30 Exam I

G59

Sun, Jan 6 **3:15 AM** Meet for trip to airport. By Stimson dumpsters