Marine Environmental Issues
Fall 2012

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My office is upstairs in the Terwilliger building. I do not have formal office hours but I am in my office most days and you may come see me any time. You can also make an appointment to see me if you would like.

Class Hours: Thursday 8.30 - 5, Friday 8.30 – 9.30.

Course Goals: In this class I plan to introduce you to some of the threats to marine ecosystems. We will focus on both the biology of the issues and some of the policy and management details to help us build a complete picture of a topic. As much as possible we will look at these issues in a global, national, and local context and explore some topics that are well understood and others that have little known information.

I use a variety of teaching techniques including lectures and activities within the lecture, field trips, student led presentations, and discussions of the literature. At times you will work in groups and I expect you to be prepared and an active participant. I welcome your questions, ideas and will ask for your input. I give a variety of assignments so that you have the opportunity to develop your writing and observational skills, oral presentations, and thinking skills. I use a variety of assessment and evaluation techniques including individual and group graded work.

All course documents are posted on Blackboard.

Required Reading: Overfishing: What Everyone Needs to Know” by Ray Hilborn and Ulrike Hilborn. For general reading I have posted three documents on Blackboard. The first is a draft of an introduction to a yet to be published book by Kevin Noone, Rashid Sumaila, and Robert J Diazlook from the Stockholm Environmental Institute, titled, “Valuing our Ocean”. The others are two very influential reports published in the mid 2000’s that cover the topics we will be studying:

- Pew Ocean Commission reports http://www.pewoceans.org/
- US Commission on Ocean Policy reports http://www.oceancommission.gov/

Blackboard also has links to reports/web sites that expand on the topics we cover or are good resources for more in depth information and for your projects.

The project for this term’s class involves building a class web site that focuses on restoration of marine habitats. Details of this project will be given in class and posted on the course blackboard site.

Week 1 Thurs Sept 24  Introduction to Issues
Habitat Alteration - Tour of Coos Bay - Coastal development in an estuary
Library visit
Friday  Marine Biodiversity

Week 2 Thurs Oct 4  Reading jigsaw 1: Biodiversity
Tools for reversing biodiversity decline - Habitat Restoration
Habitat Restoration field trip
What makes a good power point presentation?
Introduction to class projects
Friday  Empty Oceans Empty Nets Video

Week 3 Thurs Oct 11  Reading jigsaw 2: Shifting baselines
Global Climate Change Introduction
Fisheries
Seafood report
Project Work
Friday  Overfishing – Chapters 1 - 3
Week 4  Thurs Oct 18  Student presentations: Global climate change  
Fisheries continued  
Friday  Overfishing – Chapters 7 - 11  

Week 5  Thurs Oct 25  Reading jigsaw 3: Ecosystem-based management  
Fisheries continued  
Friday  Overfishing – Chapters 4-5  

SATURDAY October 27  Heceta Head Conference  

Week 6  Thurs Nov 1  Assessment of Heceta Head information  
Marine Reserves  
Student presentations: Introduced Species  
Project Work  
Friday  Overfishing - Chapters 12, 13 and 15  

Week 7  Thurs Nov 8  No class (Heceta Head attendance)  
Friday  Farming the Seas Video  

Week 8  Thurs Nov 15  Aquaculture  
Student presentations: Pollution  
Project work  
Friday  Overfishing – Chapters 6 and 14  

Week 9  Thurs Nov 22  No class Thanksgiving  

Week 10  Thurs Nov 29  Pollution  
Visit to sewage plant  
The restoration project power point presentations  
Friday  Overfishing – Chapter 16  

Week 11  Dec 6  Restoration web sites completed by 9 am. Peer reviews completed by 5 pm.  

Assessment and Grading – see Blackboard for grading rubrics for individual assignments.  
Participation and activities in class 15% - 30 points  
Overfishing reading assignment: 10% - 20 points  
Reading jigsaw summaries and associated writings - (3) 15% - 30 points (10/paper A: 10 points, A-: 9 points, B+: 8 points, B: 7 points, C: 5 points)  
Power point presentations (3) 30% - 60 points (20/presentation A: 20 points A-:17 points B+:16 points B: 15 points B-: 14 points C: 12 points)  
Restoration project 30% - 20 points for presentation, 30 points for web site and 10 points for web site review. (A:60 points A-: 57 points B+: 54 points, B:50 points, B-: 47 points C+: 44 points C: 40 points)  

Final Grade  Points  
A  188 – 200  
A-  181 - 187  
B+  176 – 180  
B  168 - 175  
B-  161 - 167  
C+  156 - 160  
C  148 – 155  
C-  141 – 147