

OCB 4070 Coastal Marine Conservation
BSC 6936 Topics in Biology

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:00PM-5:15 PM
Where: Glenn Hubert Library 170

Instructor:

Dr. Demian Chapman (Associate Professor)
MS 250B,

Preferred contact: dchapman@fiu.edu with “OCB4070” or “BSC6936” in the subject line.

Office hours: Tuesday 10:00AM-11:30 AM, Wednesday 10:00 AM-11:30 AM
Office phone: 305-919 4173

Course description and objectives

Marine ecosystems are experiencing tremendous pressure from anthropogenic activities, including overexploitation of wildlife, coastal development, and pollution. This solution-oriented course will outline the primary threats to marine ecosystems but focus on humankind's emerging responses to these issues. The course objective is for students to achieve a robust working knowledge of the major legal frameworks for marine conservation at the local, national, and intergovernmental levels and an understanding of important social, economic, and engineering-based approaches to conserve marine wildlife and better protect (or restore) the habitats and ecosystems they live in. Importantly, students will explore how scientists can influence and support marine conservation and policy. The class will apply all of this knowledge to conduct team projects aimed at influencing a contemporary marine conservation issue.

Class schedule (subject to change)

August 21: Introduction to the course, instructor, and group projects
August 23: A primer for marine conservation: what, who, where and how?
August 28: Direct threats to marine wildlife.
August 30: Direct threats continued.
September 4: Group project planning
September 6: Indirect threats to marine wildlife (i.e., threats to habitats and ecosystems)
September 11: Indirect threats continued.
September 13: Protecting species: Legislation in the U.S.A. and around the world.
September 18: Protecting species continued.
September 20: Fisheries management in the U.S.A. and around the world.
September 25: Fisheries management continued.
September 27: Regional Fisheries Management Organizations
October 2: Regional Fisheries Management Organizations continued.

October 4: International Trade Regulation for Marine Plants and Animals
October 9: International Trade Regulation continued.
October 11: Exam revision Q&A session
October 16: Mid-term examination
October 18: Marine Protected Areas
October 23: Marine Protected Areas continued
October 25: Marine Protected Areas continued
October 30: Protecting the environment: Legislation in the U.S.A. and around the world.
November 1: Protecting the environment continued.
November 6: Ex-situ conservation of marine wildlife; engineering the environment and climate.
November 8: Engineering continued.
November 13: Community-based conservation.
November 15: Alternative Livelihoods
November 19: A Word of Caution: Perverse Outcomes from Marine Conservation (** Essay DUE).
November 27: Group presentations
November 29: Group presentations

Weekly tasks and objectives

Regular, on-time class attendance is expected. Please try to participate in class by asking and answering questions. Following each lecture, you should ensure that you understand all the taught material and seek help with material you don't understand (meet with the instructor, ask questions in class). There is some required reading of journal articles (posted to Blackboard) associated with each topic that will be highlighted in class and discussed the following week. Cell phones are not tolerated during class – please turn them off or turn them to “silent” before class begins.

Assessment

- Mid-term examination 30% (October 16)
- Final examination 30% (Finals week)

Examinations will be in the form of short answers and mini-essays. They will be based on lecture material and assigned readings from the primary literature. Exams will take place on the stated dates. Make-up exams will generally only be granted in cases where there is a documented university- approved excuses. Examples of university-approved excuses include: medical emergencies, death of members of immediate family, and jury duty. Exam scores may be curved.

- Group project 25% (Presented to the class November 27 or 29)
- Participation in the group project (undergraduates); Leadership of group project (graduates): 5% (Evaluated November 27 or 29)

The group project will be an important part of your assessment. Each group will consist of one graduate student, who will serve as the group leader, and 2-3 undergraduates. Each group will be assigned a contemporary problem in marine conservation and will develop a mini-campaign aimed at influencing policy or the public (or both). Each group will be expected to produce the following: a strategic plan on how they intend to influence the issue, a fact sheet explaining the issue intended for a targeted audience of their choice, social media materials including Tweets, Instagram, and FaceBook posts. Each group will turn in these materials on November 27 and the undergraduates ONLY (coached by the group leader) will present the issue, the strategic plan, and the materials to the class in a 15-minute presentation on either November 27 or 29 (determined on the day by random draw). *Importantly, each group will be paired with one or more outside non-governmental organizations (NGO) that are involved in this issue, who will evaluate their materials and potentially use them in their ongoing campaign to actually advance policy/influence public opinion.* The grade for the entire group will be determined by the quality of the materials produced, the presentation, and the feedback from the outside NGO.

Each individual undergraduate student will receive a grade on his or her effort and participation (based on an evaluation from the graduate student in charge of the group).

Each individual graduate student will receive a grade on his or her leadership of the group (based on an evaluation from undergraduate students in the group).

- Essay 10% (Due by midnight on November 19)

Each student will produce a 3,000 word essay on an approved marine conservation topic of their choice. The essay should EITHER be a concise review of a contemporary topic in marine conservation, based on the primary literature OR an op-ed style piece presenting a well reasoned opinion on a contemporary controversy in marine conservation, backed up by the primary literature as required.

Grade scale

A 93-100; A- 90-92; B+ 87-89; B 83-86; B- 80-82; C+ 75-79; C 70-74; D 60-69; F < 60

Professional and academic integrity

Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all faculty members as well as students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their students or fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct (e.g. cheating, plagiarism, academic dishonesty), they will be subject to the Academic

Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the FIU Student Handbook under the “Academic Misconduct” section.” FIU is committed to eliminating sexual harassment. In accordance with the FIU Faculty Senate guidelines, this syllabus includes a warning that any misconduct will be reported. FIU’s sexual harassment policy is available at:
<http://www.fiu.edu/~eop/EOPSexH.pdf>