

***Marine Mammals – Tentative Syllabus***  
***COA 443/543 and 443L/453L***  
**University of Southern Mississippi**  
**Gulf Coast Research Laboratory**  
**Ocean Springs, Mississippi**  
**Summer 2016 (June 30-July 29)**

***Instructor:*** Peter J. Adam, Ph.D  
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Department of Biology  
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***Teaching Assistant:*** TBA

***Course Description:*** An overview of the biology of marine mammals (cetaceans, pinnipeds, sirenians, otters, and polar bear) including evolution and systematics, zoogeography, aquatic adaptations, life history and reproduction, population dynamics, diet and feeding, diving physiology and additional topics. Prerequisites: Three semesters of biology including marine biology or marine ichthyology or permission of instructor. Five semester hours credit (3/2).

***Suggested Materials (Suggested But Not Required):***

- 1) Parsons, E.C.M. 2012. An Introduction to Marine Mammal Biology and Conservation. Jones and Bartlett Learning, Burlington, MA. ISBN 13: 9780763783440
- 2) Jefferson, T.A., M.A. Webber, R.L. Pitman. 2011. Marine Mammals of the World: A Comprehensive Guide to Their Identification. Academic Press, San Diego, CA. ISBN 13: 9780123838537
- 3) The following items are not required but are strongly recommended: colored pencils, bound notepad, clipboard, three-ring binder, stopwatch, suntan lotion, hat, binoculars, and camera.

***Regular Class Hours:***

**8:30-11:30 AM** (10 minute breaks at ca. 9:30 and 10:30)

**1:30-4:30 PM** (10 minute breaks at ca. 2:30 and 3:30)

**\* All field activities on boats have an 8:00 AM departure**

***Class Etiquette:*** During class, you are expected to behave in a manner that is conducive to a positive learning environment – both for yourselves and your fellow students. Please turn off your cell phones and i-Pods during class, and use computers only if you are using them appropriately (i.e., to take notes). Also, do not carry on conversations not relevant to course material with other students during class. Any student(s) causing a disruption during lecture will be asked to leave. Please be on time for class. Repeated disturbance, absence, or tardiness may result in a penalty to your grade.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty (cheating) will not be tolerated, will result in a grade of “F” for the course, and will be immediately reported to the appropriate authorities of the GCRL, University of Southern Mississippi, and your home institution.

**Course Grades and Evaluation:** There will be two in-term exams and one final exam in this class. All exams will be comprehensive, and will be short answer in format (short essay, fill-in-blanks, labeling, crosswords, definitions, drawing, problem-solving, identifications, etc.). Questions will be drawn from lectures, labs, assigned readings, and videos shown in class. Some exam questions may require students to extend their knowledge beyond material presented in class. Questions from field activities and student presentations will also be asked. Journal entries are intended to summarize observations made during field activities. Each student will also prepare one review paper and one oral presentation on topics approved by the instructor (and discussed in class). Please note that dates are subject to change (notice will be given in class).

	<b>Value (points)</b>	<b>Value (%)</b>	<b>Tentative Date</b>
<b>Exams (45 %):</b>			
In-term Exam I	150 points	15 %	July 11, 2016
In-term Exam II	150 points	15 %	July 18, 2016
Final Exam	150 points	15 %	July 29, 2012
<b>Field Trips and Exercises (25 %):</b>			
Trip I (Franks) – <i>dolphin behavior/photo identification</i>			July 5, 2016
Assignment I	50 points	5 %	July 13, 2016
Trip II (Franks) – <i>dolphin behavior/photo identification</i>			July 8, 2016
Assignment II	50 points	5 %	July 13, 2016
Trip III (Point Sur) – <i>census techniques/field I.D.</i>			July 20-22, 2016
Assignment III	50 points	5 %	July 25, 2016
<i>There will be several additional field trips to marine mammal rehabilitation centers, aquaria, etc. There will be several assignments associated with these trips, worth:</i>			
	50 points	5 %	TBA
<b>Term Paper and Presentation (30%):</b>			
Species Account	25 points	2.5%	July 6, 2016
Oral Presentation I	25 points	2.5 %	July 6, 2016
Proposal and Outline	50 points	5 %	July 13, 2016
Term Paper	150 points	15 %	July 26, 2016
Oral Presentation II	100 points	10 %	July 27-28
Class Participation	50 bonus points	5 % bonus	N/A

**Final grades will be awarded as follows:**

900-1000 points	“A”	90.0-100%
800-899 points	“B”	80.0-89.9%
700-799 points	“C”	70.0-79.9%
600-699 points	“D”	60.0-69.9%
≤599 points	“F”	0-59.9%

*There will be no opportunity for individual extra credit except as presented to the entire class on exams, assignments, and class participation*

**Tentative Schedule (subject to change with notice):**

**Week 1:**

Jun. 30 (Thu.) Introduction, Evolution + Systematics I  
Jul. 1 (Fri.) Evolution + Systematics II

**Week 2:**

Jul. 4 (Mon.) **July Fourth - No Class**  
Jul. 5 (Tue.) **Trip I (Franks, 8:00 AM)**  
Jul. 6 (Wed.) Adaptations to the Marine Environment I  
**Oral Presentation I/Species Accounts due**  
Jul. 7 (Thu.) Adaptations to the Marine Environment II  
Jul. 8 (Fri.) **Trip II (Franks, 8:00 AM)**

**Week 3:**

Jul. 11 (Mon.) **In-term Exam I**  
Field Methods  
Jul. 12 (Tue.) Special Senses  
Jul. 13 (Wed.) Energetics and Diving  
**Assignments I and II due**  
**Proposal and Outline due**  
Jul. 14 (Thu.) Foraging and Ecology  
Jul. 15 (Fri.) Reproduction and Reproductive Strategies

**Week 4:**

Jul. 18 (Mon.) **In-term Exam II**  
Exploitation and Conservation  
Jul. 19 (Tue.) Field Techniques II  
Jul. 20 (Wed.) **Trip III (Point Sur)**  
Jul. 21 (Thu.) **Trip III (Point Sur)**  
Jul. 22 (Fri.) **Trip III (Point Sur)**

**Week 5:**

Jul. 25 (Mon.) Lecture TBA  
**Assignment III due**  
Jul. 26 (Tue.) Lecture TBA  
**Term Paper Due**  
Jul. 27 (Wed.) Lecture TBA  
**Oral Presentation II**  
Jul. 28 (Thu.) Lecture TBA  
**Oral Presentation II**  
Jul. 29 (Fri.) **Final Exam**

## ADA Syllabus Statement

If a student has a disability that qualifies under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA) for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Disabilities covered by ADA may include learning, psychiatric, physical disabilities, or chronic health disorders. Students can contact ODA if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies.

Address:

The University of Southern Mississippi  
Office for Disability Accommodations  
118 College Drive # 8586  
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001

Voice Telephone: 601.266.5024 or 228.214.3232 Fax: 601.266.6035

Individuals with hearing impairments can contact ODA using the *Mississippi Relay Service* at 1.800.582.2233 (TTY) or email ODA at [oda@usm.edu](mailto:oda@usm.edu).