PARASITES OF MARINE ANIMALS
COA 453L/553L
The University of Southern Mississippi
Summer Session II (2–30 July, 2018)
Instructor: Stephen S. Curran (stephen.curran@usm.edu)
Assistant: Apryle J. Panyi (apryle.panyi@usm.edu)

SYLLABUS

Prerequisites: Completion of 2 University semesters.

Description: The course is 6 semester hours and consists of two 3-semester hour sections that are taken together but graded separately. One section includes lectures and assignments and the other section includes field and laboratory activities. Students are expected to take both portions. Daily classes will usually consist of a lecture followed by a field collection and or laboratory dissections. A flexible class schedule is listed below but is subject to changes caused by bad weather. Lectures will introduce students to some of the major groups of marine parasites (with an emphasis on helminthes), their anatomy, biology, ecology, and systematics. Students will collect hosts during field activities and live parasites from them in the laboratory periods. Students will learn to prepare parasites for taxonomic examination. We will identify much of what we find using taxonomic keys. Voyages are scheduled on GCRL research vessels on which students will collect various marine invertebrates and vertebrates from the Gulf of Mexico for examining during laboratory. Additionally, a collection based road-trip to Florida will be incorporated into the class time if resources and enrollment permit. A more detailed schedule for the class period will be posted on this site soon.

Readings: No text need be purchased but readings will be assigned (and made available) to augment the lectures.

Grading:

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<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Lab</th>
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<tr>
<td>2 Written exams</td>
<td>2 Laboratory practicals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework assignments</td>
<td>Specimen preparation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>Host acquisition skill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>Participation</td>
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60%                             | 60%
25%                             | 30%
10%                             | 5%
5%                             | 5%

Two grades are administered, one for each of the 3-semester hour sections. Letter grades are awarded to students (COA 454L) as follows: 90-100%=A, 80-89%=B, 70-79%=C, 60-69%=D, 0-59%=F. Bonus points are available on exams and as optional writing assignments. Graduate students must write a term paper (due on the last day) and present a 15 minute oral summary of the paper to the class on that day. Exams will be mostly short answer and short essay and will include material encountered in reading, class lectures, field excursions and laboratory sessions. Homework assignments will be short writing oriented weekend projects. Quizzes will be periodically administered and relate to class and lab activities. Students should keep a notebook for making observations in the field and laboratory sessions. A laboratory practical will be administered on both exam days. Lab specimen preparation portion of the grade is based on our evaluation of each individual student’s 10 best specimens submitted for scrutiny at the class end. Students that exhibit self-motivation and skills pertaining to the study of natural history will be
most rewarded for their field and lab skills.

**Graduate Term Paper:** This should concern a topic relevant to Parasitology of Marine Animals, preferably related to the student’s own research. Topics and formats are flexible but should be determined before the end of the second week.

**Clothing and equipment:** Closed toe shoes of some sort should be worn at all times on vessels, and during field and laboratory work. Despite the summer heat, sometimes a long sleeve shirt and pants are advisable in the field. The classroom tends to be cold. You will need suntan lotion, water bottle, and bug spray. If you fish bring your equipment for collecting samples as fishing at GCRL is good. A headlamp is useful.

**Americans with Disabilities Act Statement:**
If a student has a disability that qualifies under the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Act 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.