Syllabus
Marine Science II: Marine Biology
MAR 301/301L Summer 2015

University of Southern Mississippi
Gulf Coast Research Laboratory
Ocean Springs, Mississippi 39564-7000

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Lectures: Lectures will begin at 8:30 AM and end at 11:30 AM. Lectures will be in approximately 50-minute blocks with ten minute breaks. Lecture exams will be based on material presented or discussed at this time, including student presentations, plus the assigned readings.

Laboratory: On days when there are no boat trips we will either work in the lab or use the vans for local excursions. Lab activities begin at 1:00 PM and formally end at 5:00 PM but may go later. Lab activities will focus on the identification of organisms and analysis of samples collected during our cruises. These data will be used in student laboratory reports. In short; you are conducting a research project.

Field Work: We will be outside many afternoons and full days one or two days per week. Please refer to the student handbook for appropriate preparation and dress. Be sure to wear sunscreen (high SPF) and sunglasses. No wandering, you must be within vocal range of your instructor at all times.

For your safety you must have footwear that covers the entire foot. Old sneakers work well. No sandals or flip-flops. I prefer that students observe some organisms live. If you wish to take advantage of this opportunity, wear a swimsuit under your field clothes. Masks, fins, and snorkels may be helpful when we visit the barrier islands but most sites will have low visibility. Speedo type goggles work near the surface or in shallow water. Stay with our co-instructor or me during all field activity. What we say during field trips is an important part of your learning.

Boat Trips: We have a cruise or two scheduled each week of class. Specific times will be announced. Cruises depart as close to 8:00 AM as possible. We will return between 4:00 - 5:00 PM.

Aquaria: We will visit two local aquaria. The Estuarium is on Dauphin Island Alabama. During the last week of class we will travel to New Orleans to visit the large public aquarium. We will spend the morning viewing the renovated displays and lunch in the French Quarter. You will need to provide your own lunch but admission will be covered.

Presentations: Each student will prepare a brief (15 - 20 minute) lecture on a selected topic. The presentation will be based on research in the primary and secondary literature. Electronic resources may also be used and may be required for some topics. A two page written summary of the topic will be prepared and provided to students and instructor. The material from these presentations will be included on the lecture exams. This summary must include six (+/- one) references. Three must be from the primary literature.

Grades: Lecture grades will be based on the three lecture exams plus student presentations. The third exam is the final, which will be comprehensive. Grades will be calculated as follows:

Lecture Grade: Exam 1 = 20%  Exam 2 = 25%  Exam 3 = 35%  Presentation = 20%
**Laboratory Grades** will be based on two lab practical exams and the lab report. Each lab practical will count as 30%, and the report as 40% of the grade. The first lab practical will be primarily descriptive in nature, testing your knowledge of the characteristics and types of organisms collected plus information learned from dissections. The second practical will include both descriptive and concept-based questions. The latter will focus in the environments you have explored and organism response or adaptations to those environments. Laboratory reports will be group projects. You will be assigned to work with a group of two to four students. All students receive the same grade for the one report that is submitted.

Do not expect to complete your work in the scheduled lecture/laboratory time period. This is an intensive five credit 300 level course. Be prepared to spend nights and much of the weekend in the lab or library. Please feel free to ask if you have questions or need assistance.

Students are expected to pitch in and help as needed. **This will include keeping the lab/classroom clean at all times.** You will need to help gather and load gear for field trips and **clean and store the gear when we return.** During field trips you are expected to work the nets and catch, learn the equipment, and record data. Some of this is very labor intensive, please be prepared.

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**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 Suzy Hebert at Suzanne.Hebert@usm.edu.