GCRL Field Program
2017
The Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL) Field Program offers a unique, hands-on field experience. Our classes focus on studies of plants and animals in their natural habitats and of physical processes in marine and coastal environments. Courses are designed to provide students with an unrivaled academic experience in a marine lab setting. Classes are small to enhance the experience and allow students the opportunity to work side-by-side with experts in the marine field.

Classes are extremely intense and will immerse you in the subject matter. Most classes are conducted in a focused laboratory and field setting. Courses that include heavy fieldwork utilize the GCRL fleet of research vessels to explore the Mississippi Sound and barrier islands. In addition to local boat and field trips, some classes take overnight trips to other areas of the Gulf of Mexico. Students fully embrace the beautiful Gulf and the unique habitats in our area.

In order for you to really experience the field, you have to

Get out There, Get on the Water and Get Your Hands Dirty. So...

Are YOU Ready to Learn?

Room and board is available for students selecting on-campus housing. Dorm rooms come with WiFi access and free laundry facilities. Meals are served in the GCRL dining hall, located adjacent to the dorms. The GCRL campus has many amenities for students, including kayaking in the bayou, fire pit, sand volleyball, basketball and pier access. Make sure to pack your fishing pole, fishing off the pier shouldn’t be missed! Most importantly, the local beach and Gulf of Mexico are steps away from the GCRL campus.

While you’re not in class or studying, take advantage of our central location and enjoy all the amenities of south Mississippi. Sandy beaches, water sports, fishing, golf, tennis, biking and hiking are among the local opportunities for recreation. The GCRL is in Ocean Springs, a picturesque town with many activities to entice any outdoor enthusiast. Our quaint town also offers great night life, restaurants, shopping and other activities.

Coastal living, the science life and earning college credit all add up to an experience of a lifetime!
BARRIER ISLAND ECOLOGY
This field course will familiarize students with concepts of coastal ecology with emphasis on the diversity of plant and animal communities unique to the northern Gulf of Mexico barrier island ecosystem. Field excursions to barrier islands off Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana coasts are planned for this course and will cover topics such as marsh and barrier island vegetation; aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates; mammals; birds and reptiles; brackish pond and lagoon communities, submerged seagrass communities; intertidal and shallow subtidal communities; and geologic processes of island dynamics. Prerequisites: Three semesters of science or permission of instructor. COA 448/448L: Barrier Island Ecology, three credit hours (1/2)

SIRENIAN BIOLOGY
This field course will explore the biology of Sirenians (manatees and dugongs) through lecture, discussion, group research projects and a multi-night trip to Florida to observe manatees in the wild. Sample topics include anatomy, physiology, behavior, evolution of Sirenians and sensory capabilities. An emphasis will be placed on conservation issues and the class will explore select case studies in depth. Additionally, this course will delve into scientific primary literature and cover basic data analysis techniques. Prerequisites: Two semesters of biology or permission of instructor. COA 445/545: Sirenian Biology, three credit hours
BARRIER ISLAND ECOLOGY
This field course will familiarize students with concepts of coastal ecology with emphasis on the diversity of plant and animal communities unique to the northern Gulf of Mexico barrier island ecosystem. Field excursions to barrier islands off Mississippi and Florida coasts will be conducted during this course and will cover topics such as marsh and barrier island vegetation; aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates; mammals; birds and reptiles; brackish pond and lagoon communities; intertidal and shallow subtidal communities and geologic processes of island dynamics. Prerequisites: Three semesters of science or permission of instructor. COA 448/448L: Barrier Island Ecology, three credit hours (1/2)

COASTAL HERPETOLOGY
The coastal plain of the Southeast boasts an outstanding diversity of amphibians and reptiles, making the region an excellent place to study these often reclusive and elusive creatures. This course provides students with an introduction to herpetology through lectures, discussions on original research papers and a class project. Topics covered include the ecology, evolution, life history, diversity, behavior and conservation of amphibians and reptiles. There will also be field excursions highlighting the methods and techniques for capturing and studying amphibians and reptiles. Prepare to get wet and muddy while exploring the marshes, pine woods, bayous and other habitats as we search for and learn about the amphibians and reptiles of the northern Gulf Coast. Prerequisites: Two semesters of biology or permission of instructor. COA 412/512: Field Exercises in Coastal Herpetology, three credit hours

COASTAL ORNITHOLOGY
This course explores the highly diverse avian habitats found along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, focusing on the study of avian ecology. Class activities include a significant emphasis on the use of both sight and sound as means of field identification. Students will explore barrier island nesting grounds, boat the pristine Pascagoula River area, and explore local marshes and other unique coastal habitats. Students will be introduced to a variety of ornithology field techniques, including bird-banding, call-broadcast surveys, and monitoring methodologies. Prerequisites: Two semesters of biology or permission of instructor (ecology recommended but not required). COA 411/511: Coastal Ornithology, three credit hours

DOLPHIN AND WHALE BEHAVIOR
Students will learn tools and techniques used in the systematic observation and documentation of delphinid behavior in the wild. Course includes both classroom lecture and field studies focused primarily on dolphins of the Mississippi Sound. Prerequisites: Two semesters of biology or permission of instructor. COA 444: Cetacean Behavior, three credit hours

FIELD AND LAB TECHNIQUES IN MARINE FISHERIES
This course will introduce students to the principles of fishery survey design, field techniques and laboratory procedures. The course will consist of lectures, field trips in estuarine and marine environments and laboratory exercises to provide students with hands-on experience in marine fisheries science. Prerequisites: Two semesters of biology or permission of instructor. COA 417/517: Field and Laboratory Techniques in Marine Fisheries Sciences, three credit hours
SUMMER SESSION I  June 5 - 30, 2017

MARINE ANIMAL BEHAVIOR
This specialized course will provide an in-depth exploration of animal behavior in marine organisms, including both the physiological and ecological aspects of behavior. The course will introduce students to techniques for observing animal behavior in the field and laboratory, designing and conducting behavioral experiments, and collecting and analyzing behavioral data. The course will consist of lectures, field trips and laboratory projects designed to provide students with hands-on experience in marine animal behavior. Prerequisites: Two semesters of biology or permission of instructor. COA 490/590: Special Topics - Marine Animal Behavior, five credit hours

MARINE BIOLOGY
An ecological approach is taken to understand the biology of marine systems with emphasis on local organisms, their habitats, life cycles and survival strategies. Prerequisites: Two semesters of biology or permission of instructor. COA 301/301L: Special Topics - Marine Sciences II -- Marine Biology, five credit hours (3/2)

MARINE ECOLOGY
Marine Ecology is a study of marine organisms and their relationships to the environment, including such topics as primary production, populations and communities, biogeochemical cycles, trophic ecology, larval ecology, and human influences. Laboratory involves weekly quantitative studies implemented as class projects. Prerequisites: Four semesters of science or permission of instructor. COA 446/546, 446L/546L: Marine Ecology, five credit hours (3/2)

MARINE Ichthyology
Marine Ichthyology is an intensive marine biological field course, which engages students to collect and identify marine fishes in numerous habitats in the Gulf of Mexico. Students experience a variety of land-based and vessel-based collection techniques such as seining, cast netting, hook-and-line fishing, trawling, trolling, dip netting and many others. Students must work alone and in teams effectively and participate in field expeditions to complete the course objectives. Successful students gain an appreciation for taxonomic identities of fishes and the synergism between abiotic and biotic factors that drive marine fish distribution and faunal diversity in northern Gulf of Mexico. Prerequisites: Two semesters of biology and permission of instructor. COA 421/521, 421L/521L: Marine Ichthyology, six credit hours (3/3)

SHARK BIOLOGY
This specialized course will provide students with an overview of elasmobranch (sharks, skates and rays) biology, ecology and taxonomy. Lectures will cover such topics as evolution, anatomy and physiology, sensory systems, behavior, and ecology. Students will be introduced to the diversity of elasmobranchs and will learn how to identify species. Special emphasis will be given to the species common to the Gulf of Mexico. Laboratory work will consist of several inshore and offshore collecting trips as well as dissections. Prerequisites: Three semesters of biology, including marine biology or permission of instructor. COA 422/522, 422L/522L: Elasmobranch Biology, five credit hours (3/2)

“Once in a lifetime experience!”

- 2014 Student

“Being submerged in the field is a great way to learn; GCRL provides that.” - 2016 Student
MARINE BIOLOGY
An ecological approach is taken to understand the biology of marine systems with emphasis on local organisms, their habitats, life cycles and survival strategies. Prerequisites: Two semesters of biology or permission of instructor. COA 301/301L: Marine Sciences II - Marine Biology, five credit hours (3/2)

MARINE CONSERVATION
This course will introduce students to conservation biology and ecology with a focus on marine and coastal ecosystems. Topics may include biodiversity, marine ecosystem processes and threats, conservation of habitats and species, and human impacts, solutions and policy. The course will consist of lectures, field trips and laboratory exercises designed to provide students with hands-on experience in marine conservation biology. Prerequisites: Two semesters of biology or permission of instructor. COA 490/590: Special Topics – Marine Conservation. Five credit hours.

MARINE INVERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY
A concentrated study of the marine and estuarine invertebrates from the Mississippi Sound and contiguous continental shelf of the northern Gulf of Mexico. Emphasis is on structure, classification, phylogenetic relationships, larval development and functional processes. Prerequisites: Two semesters of biology or permission of instructor. COA 428/528, 428L/528L: Marine Invertebrate Zoology, six credit hours (3/3)

MARINE MAMMALS
An overview of the biology of marine mammals (cetaceans, pinnipeds, sirenians, sea otters and polar bear), including their classification, evolutionary history, anatomy, physiology, behavior, conservation and management. Prerequisites: Three semesters of biology. COA 443/543, 443L/543L: Marine Mammals, five credit hours (3/2)

OCEANOGRAPHY
This course provides a multidisciplinary foundation in oceanography, specifically the terminology, principles, processes, relationships and phenomena pertaining to three of its traditional sub-disciplines: physical, geological and chemical oceanography. The importance of the interaction of biotic and abiotic processes in the ocean will be addressed through exploration of timely issues in ocean science. Prerequisites: College algebra, one semester chemistry, one semester biology or permission of instructor. COA 300/300L: Marine Science I – Oceanography, five credit hours (3/2)

RESEARCH STUDY PROGRAM - Available in both Session I and II, this Research Study Program allows upper-level undergraduate students an opportunity to gain valuable experience in designing a research project, sampling, analyzing data and presenting research findings. Research options encompass a broad spectrum of disciplines in coastal sciences that include Marine Aquaculture, Marine Biodiversity, Marine Biomedicine, Marine Ecology, Marine Education, Marine Fisheries, Marine Pathology and Marine Toxicology. This course could easily form the basis of a senior or honors project. Prerequisites: Four semesters of biology or permission of instructor. COA 492: Special Problems – Research. One to six hours credit is available and is assigned by the instructor.
CALENDAR
There are two terms in 2017. The spring mini session runs January 3-13. The summer field program runs May 22-June 2 (Mini session), June 5-30 (Session I), and July 3-28 (Session II). A student may enroll in only one course each session. Students should not take classes at other campuses while taking field courses at the GCRL.

ACADEMIC CREDIT
All courses are offered through The University of Southern Mississippi’s Gulf Coast Research Laboratory in the Division of Coastal Sciences and are accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Upon completion, a transcript request must be submitted to transfer credit hours to home institution.

The Marine Education Center and Gulf Coast Research Laboratory are now part of USM’s School of Ocean Science and Technology.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS
1. $40.00 non-refundable application processing fee for undergraduate students or $60.00 for graduate students (fees not applicable to current USM students)
2. Official transcript (electronic transcripts preferred; send to margaret.firth@usm.edu)
3. Copy of immunization records
4. Completed “Application for Admission” form (found on next page) signed by either advisor, department head or on-campus affiliate coordinator.

Materials can be sent electronically to margaret.firth@usm.edu or mailed to
OFFICE OF STUDENT SERVICES
Division of Coastal Sciences
Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, Attn: Margaret Firth
703 East Beach Drive • Ocean Springs, MS 39564

QUESTIONS?
gcrlsfp@usm.edu
gcrl.usm.edu/summer_field
228.818.8852

ADMISSIONS DEADLINES
All application materials should be submitted by DECEMBER 1, 2016 for spring session and MARCH 31, 2017 for summer sessions (or until classes are filled).
**2017 GCRL Field Program: UNDERGRADUATE Course Fees**

**Please Note:** (1) A non-refundable application processing fee of $40 is required to process application materials. If you are applying for multiple sessions, only a single application fee is required. (2) You can only enroll in one course per session and the chart represents the costs associated with each course. If taking multiple courses, add the total cost for EACH course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th># of credit hours</th>
<th>Tuition ($315/hour)</th>
<th>Capital Improvement Fee ($2.92/hour; $35 max per term)</th>
<th>Lab Fee</th>
<th>Field Fee</th>
<th>Total Cost per Course</th>
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<td>$11.67</td>
<td>$500</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$19.45</td>
<td>$800</td>
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**Please Note:** Fees do not include books, supplies, parking fees, etc. ($75-200, depending on course). More information on the GCRL Field Program can be found at the following web address: [gcrl.usm.edu/summer_field](http://gcrl.usm.edu/summer_field)

**All fees are subject to change without notice.**

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**2017 GCRL Field Program: GRADUATE Course Fees**

**Please Note:** (1) A non-refundable application processing fee of $60 is required to process application materials. If you are applying for multiple sessions, only a single application fee is required. (2) You can only enroll in one course per session and the chart represents the costs associated with each course. If taking multiple courses, add the total cost for EACH course.

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<th>Course</th>
<th># of credit hours</th>
<th>Tuition ($420/hour)</th>
<th>Capital Improvement Fee ($3.89/hour; $35 max per term)</th>
<th>Lab Fee</th>
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<th>Total Cost per Course</th>
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**All fees are subject to change without notice.**

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**2017 GCRL Field Program: Room & Board Fees**

Room & Board is optional. The fee includes a shared room in a GCRL housing facility and meals in the GCRL dining hall during the course dates. Please indicate your interest in room & board on your application and the GCRL Residence Life Coordinator will contact you for more details. If you have specific questions about GCRL housing, please contact Katie Donahoe (katie.donahoe@usm.edu; 228.818.8824)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Summer Session I</th>
<th>Summer Session II</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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2017 GCRL Field Program: Spring Session I & II

2017 GCRL Field Program: Summer Session I & II

2017 GCRL Field Program: Fall Session I & II

2017 GCRL Field Program: Winter Session I & II

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**Please Note:** All fees are subject to change without notice. Fees do not include books, supplies, parking fees, etc. ($75-200, depending on course). More information on the GCRL Field Program can be found at the following web address: [gcrl.usm.edu/summer_field](http://gcrl.usm.edu/summer_field)
COURSE SELECTION
See website for course offerings and syllabi: http://gcrl.usm.edu/summer_field. Students are not required to attend all sessions; however, students can only be enrolled in one course per session.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term/Session</th>
<th>First Choice Course</th>
<th>Second Choice Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>SUMMER Mini-Session</td>
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<td>SUMMER Session I</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUMMER Session II</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Are you registering for Graduate Credit? Yes ☐ No ☐
(Students within 9 credits of completing undergraduate degree can take courses for graduate credit)

HOME INSTITUTION APPROVAL
Adviser__________________________
(Print Name) (Signature) (Date)
Advisor Contact Information__________________________
(Email) (Phone Number)
Advisor Comments__________________________

GCRL RESIDENCE LIFE INFORMATION
Are you interested in GCRL room & board during your course(s)? Yes ☐ No ☐
(If you indicate “yes”, the GCRL Residence Life Coordinator will contact you for more details.)

STATEMENT OF AFFIRMATION
Please read the following carefully before signing below:
- I hereby affirm to the best of my knowledge that all information furnished on this application is complete and accurate.
- I understand that withholding requested information may make me ineligible for admission and enrollment.
- I agree to furnish academic records of any high schools or institutions of higher learning that I have attended.
- I affirm that I am eligible to return to the last college or university I attended.
- I affirm that I am in good academic standing with the last college or university that I attended.
- I understand that the application for undergraduate admission does not also serve as an application for financial aid or scholarship consideration and that separate applications are required.

Date__________________________ Applicant’s Signature__________________________

Please be aware that the application for undergraduate admission does not also serve as an application for financial aid or scholarship consideration. Separate applications are required.

Applications are considered complete once the following documents are received: (1) a completed application, (2) an official transcript (electronic transcripts preferred), (3) copy of immunization records, (4) paid application processing fee. If you are a current USM student, only the application is required. Only complete applications will be processed. Materials can be sent electronically to margaret.firth@usm.edu or mailed to: Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, Office of Student Services, Attn: Margaret Firth, 703 East Beach Drive, Ocean Springs, MS 39564.
RESIDENT FACULTY - Division of Coastal Sciences

PATRICK BIBER, Ph.D.
Marine Botany, Associate Professor

REGINALD B. BLAYLOCK, Ph.D.
Fish Diseases and Aquaculture, Associate Research Professor

ZACHARY DARNELL, Ph.D.
Marine Invertebrate Biology, Assistant Professor

KEVIN S. DILLON, Ph.D.
Chemical Oceanography, Associate Professor

ROBERT GRIFFIT, Ph.D.
Toxicology, Associate Professor and Division Chair

JAY GRIMES, Ph.D.
Marine Microbial Ecology, Professor

LEILA HAMDAN, Ph.D.
Marine Microbial Ecology, Associate Professor

RICHARD W. HEARD JR., Ph.D.
Invertebrate Zoology and Ecology, Professor Emeritus

FRANK J. HERNANDEZ, Ph.D.
Fisheries Oceanography and Ecology, Assistant Professor

ROBERT T. LEAF, Ph.D.
Fish Population Dynamics, Assistant Professor

JEFFREY M. LOTZ, Ph.D.
Diseases of Marine Organisms, Professor

ERVIN OTYOS, Ph.D.
Geology, Professor Emeritus

ROBIN M. OVERSTREET, Ph.D.
Marine Parasitology and Pathobiology, Professor Emeritus

MARK S. PETERSON, Ph.D.
Fisheries Ecology, Professor Emeritus

ERIC N. POWELL, Ph.D.
Population Dynamics Modeling, Professor

CHET RACOCINSKI, Ph.D.
Benthic Ecology, Professor

ERIC SAILLANT, Ph.D.
Aquaculture and Conservation, Associate Professor

WEI WU, Ph.D.
Landscape Ecology, Associate Professor

OUR AFFILIATES

MISSISSIPPI - Alcorn State University, Lorman; Belhaven College, Jackson; Delta State University, Cleveland; Jackson State University, Jackson; Millsaps College, Jackson; Mississippi College, Clinton; Mississippi State University, Mississippi State; Mississippi University for Women, Columbus; Mississippi Valley State University, Itta Bena; Rust College, Holly Springs; The University of Mississippi, University; The University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg; William Carey University, Hattiesburg; ALABAMA - Auburn University, Auburn; ARKANSAS - Arkansas Tech University, Russellville; Hendrix College, Conway; Southern Arkansas University, Magnolia; University of Arkansas at Fort Smith; University of Arkansas at Little Rock; University of Arkansas at Monticello; University of Central Arkansas, Conway; University of the Ozarks, Clarksville; FLORIDA - University of Tampa, Tampa; GEORGIA - Berry College, Rome; Shorter College, Rome; ILLINOIS - North Central College, Naperville, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale; INDIANA - University of Evansville, Evansville; IOWA - Drake University, Des Moines; Iowa State University, Ames; Wartburg College, Waverly; KENTUCKY - Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond; Morehead State University, Morehead; LOUISIANA - Loyola University, New Orleans, University of New Orleans, New Orleans; MICHIGAN - Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant; MISSOURI - Central Methodist University, Fayette; Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville; Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau; Missouri State University, Springfield; Truman State University, Kirksville; NEW YORK - State University of New York, Potsdam; OKLAHOMA - Northeastern State University, Tahlequah; Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Weatherford; SOUTH CAROLINA - Presbyterian College, Clinton; TENNESSEE - Belmont University, Nashville; Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City; Christian Brothers University, Memphis; Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro; Rhodes College, Memphis; Tennessee State University, Nashville; Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville; Tennessee Wesleyan College, Athens; Trevecca-Nazarene University, Nashville; University of Memphis, Memphis; University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; University of Tennessee at Martin; WISCONSIN - University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire; University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point

VISITING FACULTY

PETER ADAM, Ph.D. - Northwest Missouri State University
MICHAEL ANDRES, Ph.D. - Southern Miss, GCRL
MATTHEW CHATFIELD, Ph.D. - Unity College, Maine
STEPHEN S. CURRAN, Ph.D. - Southern Miss, GCRL
JILL HENDON, M.S. - Southern Miss, GCRL
ARTHUR KARELS, Ph.D. - Southern Miss, GCRL
JESSICA KASTLER, Ph.D. - Southern Miss, GCRL
ATHENA RYCYK, Ph.D. - Eckerd College, Florida
JEFFREY SIEGEL, M.S. - Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College
BRENT THOMA, Ph.D. - Jackson State University
JAMES T. WETZEL, Ph.D. - Presbyterian College, South Carolina
MARK WOODREY, Ph.D. - Mississippi State University
A premier marine laboratory on the Gulf of Mexico,
The University of Southern Mississippi’s Gulf Coast Research Laboratory is home to the Division of Coastal Sciences; Marine Education Center; Center for Fisheries Research and Development; and the Thad Cochran Marine Aquaculture Center. Gulf Coast Research Laboratory is now part of USM’s School of Ocean Science and Technology.