Biol 284: Introduction to Marine Biology Lab  
Fall 2015

Instructor: Dr. Zack Darnell  
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Phone: (985) 448-4709  
Office: Beauregard Hall Rm. 112  
Office hours: MWF 8–9:40 AM, 10:35 AM–12:00 PM

Catalog description: 1-0-3. Prerequisite: Credit or concurrent enrollment in BIOL 283. A laboratory to accompany BIOL 283. Requires mandatory weekend field trip to a marine laboratory. (26.1302)

Class meetings: W 12:45–3:35 PM plus several field trips outside of class hours. Note that we will not have class meetings every week, but please keep the scheduled class time open in case we have to reschedule labs due to weather.

Course overview and objectives:  
This lab-and field-based course is designed to complement BIOL 283. Students should be concurrently enrolled in BIOL 283 or have taken 283 in a previous semester. The primary goal of this course is for students to experience the marine environment first hand, and observe in laboratory and in the natural environment the principles discussed in BIOL 283.

Class grading:  
Lab activity handouts (25%): During our two lab sessions at Nicholls, students will work their way through a lab handout, answering questions, making observations, etc.

Lab reports (25%): Each student will submit two lab reports based on work done during field trips to LUMCON. More information will be provided prior to the field trips.

Field notebook (25%): Each student is required to have a field notebook to record data (e.g., date and time, water quality, sampling site descriptions, weather conditions) and species collected from each field trip and species identified in the lab.

Participation (25%): This is a lab- and field-based course, which requires student participation. Your participation grade will be based on participation in activities and discussions and will be negatively impacted by not taking part in discussions and consistent absences.

Grading scale:
A  90–100
B  80–89
C  70–79
D  60–69
F  <60
Schedule (subject to change):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Lab Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8/19</td>
<td>No lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8/28</td>
<td>Lab introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9/2</td>
<td>No lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9/9</td>
<td>No lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>9/16</td>
<td>Salinity, density, and mixing</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>9/23</td>
<td>No lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>9/30-10/3</td>
<td>LUMCON trip prep</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Saturday: LUMCON trip #1 (AM only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10/7</td>
<td>No lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10/14-17</td>
<td>LUMCON trip prep</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Friday-Saturday: LUMCON trip #2 (overnight)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10/21</td>
<td>Ocean circulation, water masses, and primary production</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>10/28-31</td>
<td>No lab</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Saturday: Audubon Aquarium (AM only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>11/4</td>
<td>No lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>11/11</td>
<td>No lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>11/18</td>
<td>Seagrass photosynthesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>11/25</td>
<td>No lab</td>
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Required field trips: All field trips are required. If you are unable to make a field trip, please contact Dr. Darnell ASAP to arrange a backup lab activity.

*LUMCON trip 1:* This will be a day trip to LUMCON in Cocodrie, LA. We will meet at LUMCON at 7:30 am and will be done at LUMCON at 12 pm.

*LUMCON trip 2:* This will be a weekend trip to LUMCON. We will meet at LUMCON at 5 pm (or later, if necessary due to class schedules) on Friday and will be done at LUMCON by 8 pm Saturday. All meals between (and including) Friday dinner through Saturday dinner will be provided at LUMCON. Housing will be in LUMCON dorms and will be provided by the course.

*Audubon Aquarium:* This is a day trip to the aquarium in New Orleans. Transportation (meeting there vs. driving Nicholls vehicles) TBD closer to the field trip date. We will be done by 1 pm.
**Late Assignments**
Assignments turned in late will incur a 10% penalty per day (including weekends). For example, an assignment due on Thursday and turned in on Friday would be eligible for a maximum grade of 90%. Assignments turned in on the due date but after the specified time will be considered 1 day late.

**Academic Honesty Policy:** Students are expected to be honest during examinations. Students caught cheating will be expelled from the class. Instructor and student will follow the procedures outlined in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism or any other form of dishonesty detected in reports or exams will result in a course grade of F.

**Students with Disability:** If you have a documented disability that requires assistance, you will need to register with the Office of Disability Services (ODS) for coordination of your academic accommodations. The ODS is located in Peltier Hall, Room 100-A. The phone number is (985) 448-4430 (TDD 449-7002)

**Academic Grievances:** The proper procedure for filing grade appeals or grievances related to academic matters is listed in Section 5 of the Code of Student Conduct and at the following link: [http://www.nicholls.edu/documents/student_life/code_of_conduct.pdf](http://www.nicholls.edu/documents/student_life/code_of_conduct.pdf).

**Continued Learning following an Extreme Emergency:** In order to make continued learning possible following an extreme emergency, Students are responsible for:
- reading regular emergency notifications on the NSU website;
- knowing how to use and access Blackboard (or university designated electronic delivery system);
- being familiar with emergency guidelines;
- evacuating textbooks and other course materials;
- knowing their Blackboard (or designated system) student login and password;
- contacting faculty regarding their intentions for completing the course.

Faculty are responsible for:
- their development in the use of the Moodle (or designated) software;
- having a plan for continuing their courses using only Blackboard and email;
- continuing their course in whatever way best suits the completion of the course, and being creative in the continuation of these courses;
- making adjustments or compensations to a student’s progress in special programs with labs, clinical sequences or the like only in the immediate semester following the emergency.

**Assistance with Studying and Assignments**
- The Tutoring Center at 143 Peltier Hall. Call 985-448-4100, email: tutoring@nicholls.edu, or visit [http://www.nicholls.edu/academic-enhancement/](http://www.nicholls.edu/academic-enhancement/)
- The Writing Center at 144 Peltier Hall. Call 985-448-4100, email: tutoring@nicholls.edu, or visit [http://www.nicholls.edu/academic-enhancement/](http://www.nicholls.edu/academic-enhancement/)
- Online Tutoring through Moodle. Look for the Brainfuse log-in link on the home page, [http://moodle2.nicholls.edu/moodle/](http://moodle2.nicholls.edu/moodle/)