

SIO 125: Biomechanics of Marine Life

Spring 2017

Lecture Syllabus

Instructor: Jennifer Taylor, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Marine Biology Research Division, SIO
Office: Hubbs Hall 4120
Telephone: 858-822-4712
email: j3taylor@ucsd.edu

Office Hours: After class or by appointment

Lectures: Tuesday/Thursday 2:00-3:20, Vaughan 100

Objectives:

The main goal of this course is to develop an understanding of the fundamental connection between the physical and biological worlds. This course explores how the physical principles of solids and fluids underlay the functional morphology, ecology, and adaptations of all living things, with emphasis on marine organisms. Specifically, this course explores the forces on organisms such as the mechanical forces from flows, hydrostatic pressures, impacts, and gravity, and how the shapes, habits, and materials of organisms reflect these forces.

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Describe the properties of biological materials
- Explain how organism body parts respond to external forces
- Explain how structural support systems of organisms work
- Describe the laws of static and flowing fluids
- Explain how the physics of fluids govern support in organisms
- Explain how animals move through fluids

Textbook:

Required: Vogel, S. 2013. *Comparative Biomechanics: Life's Physical World*. Second Edition, Princeton University Press, 580 pp. (first edition acceptable)

Course Requirements:

Field trips: There will be 3 required class field trips during the quarter, each with an assignment. Please note the dates in the schedule below. Two of these trips are within SIO and will take place during the scheduled lecture time, while the other is a day-long cruise aboard the Scripps research vessel *Gordon Sproul*. This cruise will take place on Saturday, April 29 and will be all day, from 6:00 am to 10:00pm. Detailed information will be provided at a later date.

- *Taylor laboratory*
 - Learn how a mechanical testing machine can be used to characterize animal materials through a hands-on activity.
- *Deep Sea, R/V Gordon Sproul cruise*
 - Explore the morphology of animals collected from deep sea benthic and pelagic environments, while gaining at-sea experience and learning the instrumentation used to study animals from these environments.

- *Scripps tidepools and sandy beach*
 - Explore the physical aspects of these environments and the mechanical adaptations of organisms that live there.

Exams: There will be one mid-term exam covering solid mechanics and one non-comprehensive final exam covering fluid mechanics. Exam format includes problem solving and short answer questions. The exams will be “open-book”, as they are designed to test your application of concepts and not memorization of facts and formulas.

There are no make-up examinations. Individual circumstances will be evaluated at instructor's discretion.

Problems Sets: Throughout the quarter you will be given 4 problem sets to complete as homework. Each problem set will consist of several questions that require you to apply the concepts covered in lecture and will include calculations and written answers. You will have 1 week to complete each problem set and they must be turned in at the beginning of lecture on the due date. The problem sets are not a group activity. You must complete them independently, without any discussion among your classmates. If you fail to abide by this rule, you will not receive credit for the homework.

Attendance: It is to your advantage to attend lecture on a regular basis. There will be no powerpoints or lecture notes available, and lecture content will be the main source of material for exams and problem sets. Also, we will likely deviate from the schedule provided below, so being in lecture will help you follow what we are working on.

Grading:

Exams	2 x 100 Points	200
Problem Sets	4 x 50 Points	200
Field Trip Activities	3 x 25 Points	75
Total		475 Points

Grading Scale:

≥ 97 %, 93-96, 90-92	A+, A, A-
87-89, 83-86, 80-82	B+, B, B-
77-79, 73-76, 70-72	C+, C, C-
67-69, 63-66, 60-62	D+, D, D-
≤ 59	F

Tentative Lecture Schedule:

Date		Lecture Topic	Text Chapter
Part I: Solid Mechanics			
Apr 4	Tue	Introduction, dimensions, units, and scaling Aquarium	Appx 1,3
6	Thu	Solids – properties of materials	15
11	Tue	Biological materials	16
13	Thu	Complex materials - composites <i>Problem Set 1</i>	17
18	Tue	Field Trip 1: Taylor lab, mechanical testing (Group 1)	
20	Thu	Field Trip 1: Taylor lab, mechanical testing (Group 2)	
25	Tue	Complex materials – viscoelasticity <i>Problem Set 1 Due</i>	18
27	Thu	Intro to the deep sea <i>Problem Set 2</i>	
29	Sat	Field Trip 2: R/V Gordon Sproul	
May 2	Tue	Structures – beams and columns	19
4	Thu	Structures – complex, hydrostatic <i>Problem Set 2 Due</i>	20,21
11	Tue	Exam 1 (Solids)	
Part II: Fluid Mechanics			
16	Thu	Resting fluids	4
18	Tue	Air-water interface	5
23	Thu	Flowing fluids <i>Problem Set 3</i>	6
25	Tue	Forces of flow	7
30	Thu	Moving in fluids – lift <i>Problem Set 3 Due</i>	12
Jun 1	Tue	Moving in fluids – Thrust <i>Problem Set 4</i>	13
6	Thu	Field Trip 3: Beach/tidepools	
8	Tue	Ecomechanics <i>Problem Set 4 Due</i>	
Jun 13	Tue	Exam 2 (Final Exam, Fluids- non-cumulative) 3:00 – 6:00 pm	