

Logistics for SIO 290, Marine Organisms, 2017 (Winter) Nick Holland (course coordinator)

This is the core course for the marine biology curricular group; for PhD students and Masters degree students (but only those taking the degree with a thesis). Sign up for a letter grade; no pass/fail.

Structure of the course:

Friday afternoon labs 2-5 pm: Some labs will barely fit into the allotted three hours, so please be here ready to participate by 2 pm (not a quarter after). Keep in mind that many labs depend on living material and are logistically impossible to make up if you miss them (if your research requires you to be away from SIO for a substantial period over winter or spring 2017, please discuss problem with me asap).

Purpose of this part of the course: to give you the big picture of organismal diversity in the sea (from virus to marine mammals). The lab material is designed to help you recognize higher taxonomic groups (the forest not the trees). We will use live material as much as possible; sometimes we will make it behave (say by feeding it victims); in general, there is no time to deconstruct organisms and look at their insides (although we will look into some transparent creatures). The lectures accompanying the labs are intended to give you the perspective needed to understand the organisms; you will not be examined on most lecture material (for instance if a recent good review is mentioned, it is in case you are interested in following up the subject and it not a reading assignment).

The bulk of the grade will depend on recognizing organisms in a final lab practical. I'll give a practice lab practical instead of a mid-term so you will get the idea of what is involved.

Please do not use laptops and cell phones (picture taking) or engage in texting during class (it is a small group and electronic inconsideration is very conspicuous). Almost all the organisms covered are represented by very good color pictures if you google the name. If you have trouble finding a good picture on google, let me know and I will email you one. So all you really need is a pen/pencil and paper to write on. When complicated diagrams (say phylogenetic trees) are part of the material, you will be given these as a handout.

Wednesday morning lectures. 9:10-11:00 am. Please: 9:10 am does not mean 9:20 am.

Purpose of this part of the course: The intent here is social as well as scientific. That is, to familiarize you with faculty and research staff from SIO, SDSU, and NOAA. This arrangement allows you to meet many interesting San Diego marine biologists, who are geographically scattered. Moreover, once you learn about what some of them do, first year students might consider putting some of them as dissertation committee members. The Wednesday lectures will sometimes be broad reviews and sometimes be more focused on the speaker's current research. The speakers customarily send you a copy of powerpoint and sometimes other material. Until last year, I included some very general questions on the Wednesday lectures on the final. Many of the students found this an imposition. So last year, no Wednesday lecture material was on the final. But I took role on Wednesdays; so a tradeoff. It worked ok, so that will be the arrangement this year as well.

PS- The compound microscopes barely fit into the wall cabinets and are prone to damage if inserted too brusquely; so please ease them in slowly with a steady hand. If there is a need for forceps, pipettes, ect., they will be supplied.