

**Syllabus**  
**SIO 275A Fall 2024**  
**Tuesday, Thursday 10:00 - 11:20 AM**  
**Vaughan 100**  
**Instructor: James Leichter (jleichter@ucsd.edu)**  
**Office: Ritter Hall room 328**  
**Office hours: Thursdays 11:30 am– 12:30 pm, and by appointment**

### **Description and Requirements**

SIO 275A, *Benthic Ecology*, will focus on the the natural history and research topics in the ecology of seafloor habitats. A primary goal of the course is to help students increase their ecological knowledge of the range of seafloor habits and enhance their future research. The course will emphasize experimental ecological research and natural history in the broad range of coastal marine habitats. Course requirements include lectures, readings and in class discussion, submitting weekly written brief questions developed based on lecture materials, submitting two essays related to your chosen lecture questions, and submitting a research proposal in the format of an agency or foundation pre-proposal.

Readings will be drawn from selected chapters in Bertness et al. 2014 *Marine Community Ecology and Conservation*, and primary research literature. Reading materials and lecture schedule will be posted in the course online resource sections of Canvas.ucsd.edu

#### **Requirements:**

1. Class attendance and weekly readings.
2. One follow-up question from **each** class lecture or discussion (2 questions each week, **due weekly on Thursdays starting in week 2**).
3. Two short essays: ~500 words each on the topics of two of your lecture questions (**due the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> week of the quarter, Tues Oct 15 and Tues Nov 5th**).
4. One ~ 1500 word research proposal in the format of an agency pre-proposal (**due Tues Nov 19**).
5. Participation in a proposal peer review panel (date TBA at end of quarter).