

BIOL-27 Syllabus and Course Schedule

Syllabus for BIOL-27 (Biology of Marine Mammals)

Course Information:

- Semester & Year: Fall 2023
 - Course ID & Section #: BIOL-27 E6388
 - Instructor's name: Christopher Callahan
 - Day/Time: Monday/Wednesday 11:40pm to 1:05pm
 - Location: SC-210
 - Number of units: 3.0
-

Instructor Contact Information

- Office location: SC-216A
 - Office hours: Monday/Wednesday 1:05pm to 2:00pm or by appointment
 - Phone number: 707-476-4257
 - Email address: christopher-callahan@redwoods.edu (<mailto:christopher-callahan@redwoods.edu>)
-

Required Materials

- Textbook Title: *Guide to Marine Mammals of the World*
 - Edition: 1st National Audubon Society
 - Author: Reeves, Stewart, Clapham, and Powell
 - ISBN: 0-375-41141-0
-

Catalog Description

An introduction to the biology, natural history, and conservation of whales, seals, manatees, and other marine mammal groups. Topics include anatomical, physiological, and behavioral adaptations for a marine existence, evolutionary history, and taxonomy of major marine mammal groups with emphasis on local species identification.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

1. Produce specific examples of how evolutionary history is reflected in marine mammal biology, and be able to cite specific evidence for the evolution of marine mammals from terrestrial ancestors.
 2. Describe defining anatomical, physiological, and behavioral characteristics of particular species, and how these affect interactions with conspecifics, other species, and the environment.
 3. Apply knowledge of marine mammal biology in a discussion of global conservation concerns, strategies, and practices.
 4. Identify common species on sight, and be able to use field guides and taxonomic keys to identify unknown species.
-

Evaluation & Grading Policy

Assignment		Points
Lecture Exams	3 exams @ 100 points each	300
Syllabus Quiz	must be completed by 8/28	5
Reading Quizzes	12 quizzes @ 10 points each	120
Homeworks	various assignments	100
iNaturalist Observations		25
Witness for the Whales		25
Environmental Ethic		50
Gap in Nature		50
Marine Mammal ID Quiz		50
	Total Points Attainable:	725

If you receive 95-100% of total points you will receive an A; 90 to 94% earns an A-; 87-89% earns a B+; 84-86% earns a B; 80-83% earns a B-; 75-79 earns a C+; 70-74 earns a C; 60-69% earns a D; and 59% or below earns an F. There is no 'curving' or extra credit opportunities for missed work.

Prerequisites/co-requisites/ Recommended Preparation

Prerequisite: N/A

Pre- or Co-requisite: N/A


Student Feedback Policy

All work will be graded within two weeks of submission for evaluation. Grades will be posted on Canvas and will not be communicated through email. If you would like to discuss grades you'll have to set up an appointment with me.

Institutional Policies

Accessibility

Students will have access to online course materials that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and College of the Redwoods policies. Students who discover access issues with this class should contact the instructor.

College of the Redwoods is also committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you have a disability or believe you might benefit from disability-related services and accommodations, please contact your instructor or [Disability Services and Programs for Students](http://www.redwoods.edu/dsps)  (<http://www.redwoods.edu/dsps>). Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS based on their campus location:

- Eureka: 707-476-4280, student services building, 1st floor
 - Del Norte: 707-465-2324, main building near library
 - Klamath-Trinity: 530-625-4821 Ext 103
-


Admissions deadlines & enrollment policies


Fall 2023 Dates

- *Classes begin: 8/19/23*
- *Last day to add a class: 8/25/23*
- *Last day to drop without a W and receive a refund: 9/1/23*
- *Labor Day Holiday (no class meeting): 9/4/23*
- *Census date: 9/5/23*
- *Last day to petition to graduate or apply for certificate: 10/26/23*
- *Last day for student-initiated W (no refund): 10/27/23*
- *Last day for faculty-initiated W (no refund): 10/27/23*
- *Veterans Day Holiday (no class meeting): 11/10/23*
- *Fall Break (no classes): 11/20/23-11/22/23*
- *Thanksgiving Day Holiday (no class meeting): 11/23/23-11/24/23*
- *Last Day to file P/NP (only courses where this is an option): 12/15/23*
- *Final examinations: 12/9/23-12/15/23*
- *Semester ends: 12/15/23*
- *Grades due: 12/22/23*
- *Grades available for transcript release: approximately: 1/5/24*



Students who have experienced extenuating circumstances can complete & submit the **Excused Withdrawal Petition** to request an Excused Withdrawal (EW) grade instead of the current Withdrawal (W) or non-passing (D, F & NP) grades. The EW Petition is available from the Admissions and Records Forms Webpage. Supporting documentation is required.

Academic dishonesty

In the academic community, the high value placed on truth implies a corresponding intolerance of scholastic dishonesty. In cases involving academic dishonesty, determination of the grade and of the student's status in the course is left primarily to the discretion of the faculty member. In such cases, where the instructor determines that a student has demonstrated academic dishonesty, the student may receive a failing grade for the assignment and/or exam and may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct ([AP 5500 \(https://redwoods.instructure.com/courses/15098/pages/student-code-of-conduct-and-disciplinary-procedures?module_item_id=654705\)](https://redwoods.instructure.com/courses/15098/pages/student-code-of-conduct-and-disciplinary-procedures?module_item_id=654705)) is available on the College of the Redwoods website. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the [College Catalog](https://www.redwoods.edu/catalog)  (<https://www.redwoods.edu/catalog>).

and on the [College of the Redwoods website](https://www.boarddocs.com/ca/redwoods/Board.nsf/Public?open&id=policies) 
(<https://www.boarddocs.com/ca/redwoods/Board.nsf/Public?open&id=policies>).

Disruptive behavior

Student behavior or speech that disrupts the instructional setting will not be tolerated. Disruptive conduct may include, but is not limited to: unwarranted interruptions; failure to adhere to instructor's directions; vulgar or obscene language; slurs or other forms of intimidation; and physically or verbally abusive behavior. In such cases where the instructor determines that a student has disrupted the educational process, a disruptive student may be temporarily removed from class. In addition, the student may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct ([AP 5500 \(https://redwoods.instructure.com/courses/15098/pages/student-code-of-conduct-and-disciplinary-procedures?module_item_id=654705\)](https://redwoods.instructure.com/courses/15098/pages/student-code-of-conduct-and-disciplinary-procedures?module_item_id=654705)) is available on the College of the Redwoods website. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the [College Catalog](https://www.redwoods.edu/catalog)  (<https://www.redwoods.edu/catalog>) and on the [College of the Redwoods website](https://www.boarddocs.com/ca/redwoods/Board.nsf/Public?open&id=policies) 
(<https://www.boarddocs.com/ca/redwoods/Board.nsf/Public?open&id=policies>).

Policies for this Class

Class participation

Lecture Exams: There are three lecture exams including the lecture final. Exams are not comprehensive and will only cover new material.

Weekly Chapter Quizzes: Each week you will take a quiz covering that week's lecture material. We will not have a quiz on the week we take a lecture exam.

Homeworks: Homeworks are designed to prepare you for the lecture exams and will be assigned prior to each exam.

iNaturalist Observations: You will use iNaturalist to observe 5 species over the course of the semester.

Witness for the Whales activity: We will molecularly identify unknown whale products to determine which species are harvested in the clandestine meat-markets of Japan and Korea. Details will be forthcoming on CANVAS.

Environmental Ethic paper: We will watch the movies *The Cove* and *Superfish* Bluefin Tuna, and read two essays on human consumption of tuna and dolphin meat. You will synthesize these ideas into your own environmental ethic in a written essay. Details will be forthcoming on CANVAS.

Gap in Nature presentation/paper: You will research marine mammal that is endangered or has gone extinct in the last 500 years. You will submit a written species account along with a 3-5 minute presentation in lab on your findings.

Marine Mammal ID Quiz: At the end of the semester you will be quizzed on your marine mammal identification skills. You will be shown 25 marine mammals and should be able to identify them to species using proper taxonomic names.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is expected and required. This is not a self-paced course and you will have assignments due each week. You must complete assignments on time. No late assignments will be accepted and no extra credit opportunities will be given.

Academic Integrity and Honor Pledge

As a College of the Redwoods student enrolled in an online class you are expected to conduct yourself with integrity. Please review the [Academic Integrity](https://redwoods.instructure.com/courses/15098/pages/academic-integrity?module_item_id=654706)

(https://redwoods.instructure.com/courses/15098/pages/academic-integrity?module_item_id=654706)

page and then complete the [Syllabus Quiz](https://redwoods.instructure.com/courses/15098/quizzes/81288?module_item_id=654708)

(https://redwoods.instructure.com/courses/15098/quizzes/81288?module_item_id=654708) by Monday, August 28th at midnight.



Information for this Class

Recommended textbooks & other materials

Will be using the National Audubon Society's Guide to Marine Mammals of the World by Reeves, Stewart, Clapham, and Powell. In addition we will read other resources available to you for free through the Canvas website.

[\(https://openoregon.pressbooks.pub/envirobiology/front-matter/introduction/\)](https://openoregon.pressbooks.pub/envirobiology/front-matter/introduction/)



Preferred Name in Canvas

Students have the ability to have an alternate first name and pronouns to appear in Canvas. Contact [Admissions & Records](https://www.redwoods.edu/admissions/Forms)  [\(https://www.redwoods.edu/admissions/Forms\)](https://www.redwoods.edu/admissions/Forms) to request a change to your preferred first name and pronoun. Your Preferred Name will only be listed in Canvas. It does not change your legal name in our records. See the [Student Information Update form](https://www.redwoods.edu/Portals/28/A.R.Forms.Docs/Miscellaneous/Student%20Information%20Update.pdf)  [\(https://www.redwoods.edu/Portals/28/A.R.Forms.Docs/Miscellaneous/Student%20Information%20Update.pdf\)](https://www.redwoods.edu/Portals/28/A.R.Forms.Docs/Miscellaneous/Student%20Information%20Update.pdf).

Canvas Information

- Log into Canvas at <https://redwoods.instructure.com> [\(https://redwoods.instructure.com/\)](https://redwoods.instructure.com/)
 - Password is your 8 digit birth date
 - For tech help, email its@redwoods.edu [\(mailto:its@redwoods.edu\)](mailto:its@redwoods.edu) or call 707-476-4160
-

Technology skills, requirements, and support

- Tech equipment and skills are required for student success, and of equal importance as required textbooks and materials.
 - Students can obtain a free [Office 365 license](https://www.redwoods.edu/Services/Office365)  [\(https://www.redwoods.edu/Services/Office365\)](https://www.redwoods.edu/Services/Office365) (includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint and more) with a valid CR email.
 - Before contacting Technical Support please visit the [Online Support Page](http://www.redwoods.edu/online/Help)  [\(http://www.redwoods.edu/online/Help\)](http://www.redwoods.edu/online/Help).
 - For password issues with Canvas, Web Advisor or your mycr.redwoods.edu email, contact its@redwoods.edu [\(mailto:its@redwoods.edu\)](mailto:its@redwoods.edu) or call 707-476-4160 or 800-641-0400 ext. 4160 between 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., Monday through Friday.
-

Student Support Services

The following online resources are available to support your success as a student:

- **CR-Online** [↗\(http://www.redwoods.edu/online\)](http://www.redwoods.edu/online) (Comprehensive information for online students)
- **Library Articles & Databases** [↗\(https://redwoods.libguides.com/az.php\)](https://redwoods.libguides.com/az.php)
- **Canvas help and tutorials** [↗\(http://www.redwoods.edu/online/Canvas\)](http://www.redwoods.edu/online/Canvas)
- **Online Student Handbook** [↗\(http://www.redwoods.edu/Portals/72/Documents/Students/CR-OnlineStudentHandbook.pdf\)](http://www.redwoods.edu/Portals/72/Documents/Students/CR-OnlineStudentHandbook.pdf)

Counseling and Advising [↗\(http://www.redwoods.edu/counseling/\)](http://www.redwoods.edu/counseling/) offers academic support and includes academic advising and educational planning

Learning Resource Center includes the following resources for students:

- **Academic Support Center** [↗\(http://www.redwoods.edu/asc\)](http://www.redwoods.edu/asc) for instructional support, tutoring, and learning resources.
- **Library Services** [↗\(https://www.redwoods.edu/library\)](https://www.redwoods.edu/library) to promote information literacy and provide organized information resources.
- Multicultural & Diversity Center
- Math Lab & Drop-in Writing Center


Special programs are also available for eligible students include


- **Extended Opportunity Programs & Services (EOPS)** [↗\(http://www.redwoods.edu/eops\)](http://www.redwoods.edu/eops) provides financial assistance, support and encouragement for eligible income disadvantaged students at all CR locations.
- The TRiO Student Success Program provides eligible students with a variety of services including trips to 4-year universities, career assessments, and peer mentoring. Students can apply for the program in **Eureka** [↗\(https://www.redwoods.edu/trio/eureka\)](https://www.redwoods.edu/trio/eureka) or in **Del Norte** [↗\(https://www.redwoods.edu/delnorte/TRiO\)](https://www.redwoods.edu/delnorte/TRiO)
- The **Veteran's Resource Center** [↗\(https://www.redwoods.edu/vets\)](https://www.redwoods.edu/vets) supports and facilitates academic success for Active Duty Military, Veterans and Dependents attending CR through relational advising, mentorship, transitional assistance, and coordination of military and Veteran-specific resources.
- Klamath-Trinity students can contact the CR KT Office for specific information about student support services at 530-625-4821
- The **Honors Program** [↗\(https://www.redwoods.edu/Honors/\)](https://www.redwoods.edu/Honors/) helps students succeed in transferring to a competitive four-year school.

Community College Student Health and Wellness

- Resources, tools, and trainings regarding health, mental health, wellness, basic needs and more designed for California community college students, faculty and staff are available on the California Community Colleges [Health & Wellness website](https://www.cccstudentmentalhealth.org/health-wellness-for-students/) (<https://www.cccstudentmentalhealth.org/health-wellness-for-students/>).
- [Wellness Central](https://ccconlineed.instructure.com/courses/1895?cf_id=2248) (https://ccconlineed.instructure.com/courses/1895?cf_id=2248) is a free online health and wellness resource that is available 24/7 in your space at your pace.
- Students seeking to request a counseling appointment for academic advising or general counseling can email counseling@redwoods.edu (<mailto:counseling@redwoods.edu>).

Emergency procedures / Everbridge

College of the Redwoods has implemented an emergency alert system called Everbridge. In the event of an emergency on campus you will receive an alert through your personal email and/or phones. Registration is not necessary in order to receive emergency alerts. Check to make sure your contact information is up-to-date by logging into WebAdvisor <https://webadvisor.redwoods.edu>  (<https://webadvisor.redwoods.edu>) and selecting 'Students' then 'Academic Profile' then 'Current Information Update.'

Please contact Public Safety at 707-476-4112 or security@redwoods.edu (<mailto:security@redwoods.edu>) if you have any questions. For more information see the [Redwoods Public Safety Page](https://www.redwoods.edu/publicsafety/)  (<https://www.redwoods.edu/publicsafety/>).

In an emergency that requires an evacuation of the building anywhere in the District:

- Be aware of all marked exits from your area and building
- Once outside, move to the nearest evacuation point outside your building
- Keep streets and walkways clear for emergency vehicles and personnel

Do not leave campus, unless it has been deemed safe by the campus authorities.

Course Schedule

New learning topics will be available in the course modules on the Sunday before the start of a new week. Topics are arranged by lecture exam (5 topics per exam). This schedule is subject to change with fair notice.

Week	Monday	Wednesday

1	<u>August 21, 2023</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Course Introduction ▪ What are Marine Mammals? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Read Ch. 1 	<u>August 23, 2023</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Video: The Life of Mammals - Return to Water
2	<u>August 28, 2023</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intro to Evolution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Read Ch. 2 	<u>August 30, 2023</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marine Mammal Evolution
3	<u>September 4, 2023</u> Labor Day Holiday - No Class Meeting	<u>September 6, 2023</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marine Mammal Diversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Read Ch. 3
4	<u>September 11, 2023</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adaptations to a Marine Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Read Ch. 4 	<u>September 13, 2023</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Underwater Sound <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Read Ch. 5
5	<u>September 18, 2023</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Polar Bears <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Read Ch. 6 	<u>September 20, 2023</u> Lecture Exam I
6	<u>September 25, 2023</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sea Otters and Keystone Species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Read Ch. 7 	<u>September 27, 2023</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Video: Serengeti Rules
7	<u>October 2, 2023</u>	<u>October 4, 2023</u>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sirenian Evolution and Diversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Read Ch. 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pinniped Evolution and Diversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Read Ch. 9
8	<u>October 9, 2023</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mysticeti: The Baleen Whales <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Read Ch. 10 	<u>October 11, 2023</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Video: Kingdom of the Blue Whale
9	<u>October 16, 2023</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Historical & Modern Whaling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Read Ch. 14 	<u>October 18, 2023</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Activity: Witness for the Whales (Conservation Biology)
10	<u>October 23, 2023</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cetaceans that Eat Crustaceans and Crustaceans that Eat Cetaceans 	<u>October 25, 2023</u> Lecture Exam II
11	<u>October 30, 2023</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environmental Ethics ▪ Video: Hot Tuna 	<u>November 1, 2023</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Video: The Cove
12	<u>November 6, 2023</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Odontocete: The Toothed Whales ▪ Sperm Whales and Beaked Whales <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Read Ch. 11 	<u>November 8, 2023</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Beluga and Narwal ▪ Biogeography of River Dolphins
13	<u>November 13, 2023</u>	<u>November 15, 2023</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Odontocete: The Oceanic Dolphins

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Porpoises and the Extinction of the Vaquita 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Read Ch. 12
14	<p><u>November 20, 2023</u></p> <p>Fall Break - No Class Meeting</p>	<p><u>November 22, 2023</u></p> <p>Fall Break - No Class Meeting</p>
15	<p><u>November 27, 2023</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Whale Culture and Killer Whales 	<p><u>November 29, 2023</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guest Lecture: Jeff Jacobsen will talk about Killer Whales
16	<p><u>December 4, 2023</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Threats to Marine Mammals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Read Ch. 15 and 16 	<p><u>December 6, 2023</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marine Mammal Conservation and Protections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Read Ch. 17
17	<p><u>December 11, 2023</u></p> <p>Final Exam 10:45am - 12:45pm</p>	