

Biology 27
 Callahan
 Biology of Marine Mammals
 Fall 2015

| Syllabus for: BIOL27 Biology of Marine Mammals | |
|---|---|
| Semester & Year: | Fall 2015 |
| Course ID and Section Number: | BIOL27 Biology of Marine Mammals D8438 |
| Number of Credits/Units: | 3 |
| Lecture Day/Time: Lecture Location: | MW 10:05-11:30am DM 29 |
| Instructor's Name: | Christopher Callahan |
| Contact Information: | Office location: E2 Office hours: M/W 1130-1230, T 10-11 or by appointment Phone: 707-465-2379 Email: Christopher-callahan@redwoods.edu |
| <p>Course Description : An introduction to the biology of marine mammals emphasizing anatomy, physiology, behavior, population ecology, evolution, and conservation.</p> <p>Notes: (3 Units LEC) P/NP option Prerequisite: ENGL-150 Transfers to: UC and CSU</p> | |
| <p>Student Learning Outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. | |
| <p>Special accommodations: College of the Redwoods complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written accommodation request at least one week before the first test so that necessary arrangements can be made. No last-minute arrangements or post-test adjustments will be made. If you have a disability or believe you might benefit from disability related services and may need accommodations, please see me or contact Disabled Students Programs and Services. Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS.</p> | |

Academic Misconduct: Cheating, plagiarism, collusion, abuse of resource materials, computer misuse, fabrication or falsification, multiple submissions, complicity in academic misconduct, and/ or bearing false witness will not be tolerated. Violations will be dealt with according to the procedures and sanctions proscribed by the College of the Redwoods. Students caught plagiarizing or cheating on exams will receive an “F” in the course.

The student code of conduct is available on the College of the Redwoods website at:
<http://www.redwoods.edu/District/Board/New/Chapter5/Ap5500.pdf>

College of the Redwoods is committed to equal opportunity in employment, admission to the college, and in the conduct of all of its programs and activities.

Biol 27 – Biology of Marine Mammals

REQUIRED TEXTS

Parsons, E., An Introduction to Marine Mammal Biology and Conservation, 1st Ed.
(I will have a copy on reserve in the library)

Additional readings will be assigned. Those will be available to you on the CANVAS course website.

Field Guide: Pick your personal favorite(s):

- National Audubon Society Guide to Marine Mammals of the World, by Stewart, Clapham & Powell
- Whales, Dolphins, and Other Marine Mammals of the World (Princeton Field Guides), by Shirihai & Jarrett
- Whales & Dolphins (Smithsonian Handbooks), by Mark Carwadine
- The Sierra Club Handbook of Whales and Dolphins, by Randall Reeves
- The Sierra Club Handbook of Seals and Sirenians, by Randall Reeves

OTHER MATERIALS

Course notebook

I recommend a three ring that can hold your notes, handouts, and additional unlined paper for drawing. This book should contain *all* your coursework.

CANVAS course website

Additional readings will be posted on the CANVAS course website. It is your responsibility to download the material ahead of time and read the material prior to class.

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COURSE ORGANIZATION

Lecture and activities. This course meets twice a week for 3 hours. Instead of lecturing for three hours, I will usually spend the first hour presenting a topic on marine mammal biology. The remainder of the class period will include activities and/or videos that will give us the opportunity to explore in more detail the exciting field of marine mammal biology.

Exams include one mid-term exam and a final exam. The mid-term exam will be held during the beginning of the period and will be followed by a lecture/activity. Your final exam during finals week will be cumulative. All exams will include a combination of practical, short answer, and essay questions.

You also have one graded writing assignment, author a species account online, and an oral presentation (Witness for the Whales) and must participate in two extracurricular activities. The writing assignment is based on a species account of a marine mammal (more details to follow in lecture). The oral presentation will be based on the Witness for the Whales project. The extracurricular activities are chosen from a set of both group and solo activities. You must participate in two. There will be a few scheduled field trips (whale watching, Northcoast Marine Mammal Center, HSU-Vertebrate Museum), and may be spontaneous trips such as inspecting a beached whale or some other unpredictable zoological event. Solo options must be okayed by me first, e.g., a trip to Ocean World.

GRADING AND POINT BREAKDOWN

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------|-----|
| Mid-term Exam | | 100 |
| Final Exam | | 150 |
| Term Paper | | 50 |
| <i>Witness for the Whales</i> (oral presentation) | | 50 |
| Species Account | | 50 |
| extracurricular activities | 50 X 2; the two of your choice | 100 |
| total points attainable | | 500 |

If you receive 90-100% of total points you will receive an A; 80-89% earns a B; 70-79% earns a C; 60-69% earns a D. Failing to attain at least 60% of the total points will result in your receiving an F in the course. There's no 'curving' or otherwise creative grading.

CLASS MAKE-UP POLICY

If you miss lecture, get lecture notes from a classmate. *It is not my responsibility to give you missed lecture notes or shepherd you through a missed activity.* Exams will be comprehensive so missed material that you fail to make up will result in a lower performance, and ultimately, a lower grade in the course.

EXAM MAKE-UP POLICY

Make-up exams will be administered only if you have contacted me with a *verifiable and compelling* excuse before the exam begins, or, in the case of emergencies, as soon as possible. Make-up written exams will be similar to the regularly scheduled exams.

ACADEMIC HONESTY & CONDUCT

You are expected to do your own, original work in this class. Cheating, including plagiarism will not be tolerated! The minimum punishment by the College for **cheating, including plagiarism**, is suspension for a term and an "F" in the particular course. Further penalties include suspension or expulsion. **Any sort of harassment, rudeness, uncooperativeness, or other behavior that interferes with the ability of other students to perform their best work will not be tolerated.**

Course Schedule

Reading assignments indicate your primary text resource for the material to be covered in lecture. You are tested only on material that is explicitly covered by me, but are expected to do all the assigned reading. You will have to judge for yourself whether it is better for you to do the lecture reading before or after lecture.

| Week | Activity | Topic | Readings |
|----------------|------------------|--|-----------|
| Mon 8/24 | Intro | Introductions, course expectations | Ch. 1 |
| Wed 8/26 | Lecture Movie | What is a marine mammal? Life of Mammals: <i>Return to Water</i> | |
| Mon 8/31 | Lecture | Marine Mammal Evolution | Ch. 2 |
| Wed 9/2 | Lecture | Marine Mammal Evolution | Wong 2002 |
| Mon 9/7 | Holiday | Labor Day – No Class Meeting | |
| Wed 9/9 | Lecture | Marine Mammal Classification & Systematics | Ch. 3 |
| Mon 9/14 | Lecture | Physiology and Adaptations to a marine life | Ch. 4 |
| Wed 9/16 | Lecture | Physiology and Adaptations to a marine life | Ch. 5 |
| Mon 9/21 | Lecture | Marine Carnivores | Ch. 6 & 7 |
| Wed 9/23 | Lecture | Sirenians | Ch. 8 |
| Mon 9/28 | Lecture | Pinnipeds | Ch. 9 |
| Wed 9/30 | Field Trip | Northcoast Marine Mammal Center | Ch. 9 |
| Mon 10/5 | Lecture | Mysticeti – Baleen Whales | Ch. 10 |
| Wed 10/7 | Activity | <i>Cetaceans that eat Crustaceans & Crustaceans that eat Cetaceans</i> | |

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| Week | Activity | Topic | Readings |
|------------------|----------------|---|-------------|
| Mon 10/12 | Lecture | Odontoceti – Toothed Whales I | Ch. 11 |
| Wed 10/14 | Lecture | Odontoceti – Toothed Whales II | Ch. 12 |
| Mon 10/19 | Exam | Lecture Exam I | |
| Wed 10/21 | Activity | Marine Mammals Ashore | |
| Mon 10/26 | Lecture | History of Whaling | Ch. 13 & 14 |
| Wed 10/28 | Activity | Witness for Whales | |
| Mon 11/2 | Lecture | Humans and Marine Mammals | Ch. 15 & 16 |
| Wed 11/4 | Movie | <i>Blackfish</i> | |
| Mon 11/9 | Holiday | Veteran's Day – No Class Meeting | |
| Wed 11/11 | Movie | <i>Whale of a Business</i> | |
| Mon 11/16 | Lecture | Marine Mammal Conservation I | Ch. 17 |
| Wed 11/18 | Movie | <i>The Cove</i> | |
| Mon 11/23 | Movie | Hot Tuna | |
| Wed 11/25 | Lecture | Marine Mammal Conservation II | |
| Mon 11/30 | Lecture | End of the Semester Wrap-up | |
| Wed 12/2 | Activity | Student Presentations | |
| Wed 12/9 | Final Exam | Final Exam 1045 - 1245 | |