BEACH ECOLOGY – Spring 2012

General Information
Title of Course, Catalog Number, Section:
MBIO1118.21 Beach Ecology Lecture
MBIO1128.21 Beach Ecology Lab

Pre-requisites:
BIOL1251, BIOL1253, BIOL1252, BIOL1254 General Biology I, II (or equivalent).

Class Room and Meeting Times and Dates:
Tambora Beach Hotel

Instructor:
Dr. I.R. Isquith

Office Location and Office Hours:
Tambora Beach Resort

Telephone with voice mail:
201-692-2395

Email Address:
isquith@fdu.edu

Course Description
Lecture: Visits to various coastal marine environments studied in MBIO 1128. Identification and experiments on marine organisms to gain an understanding of their ways of life.

Laboratory: Field work and experiments illustrating the topics discussed in MBIO 1118 Beach Ecology.

Text and Materials
No required text.

Marine Biology Program Objectives
1. use the scientific method and understand its strengths and weaknesses;
2. research a marine biological topic using traditional and computer technology;
3. read and evaluate professional scientific literature;
4. write and communicate science;
5. utilize mathematical reasoning and quantitative skills in marine biology;
6. possess observational and technical skills;
7. possess major field knowledge
8. successfully compete in marine biologically related fields

Course Objectives (parenthetical numbers indicate which marine biology program objectives are emphasized)
1. Gain knowledge of beach ecology including (1-4)
   1. underlying principles of general ecology
   2. how ecologists work
   3. ecology and evolution
   4. organismic diversity
   5. physical conditions and resources
   6. populations: effects of birth, death and migration
   7. community characteristics
   8. competition
   9. symbiosis
   10. predation
   11. energy in ecosystems
   12. sustainability
   13. pollution
   14. conservation
II. Learn field techniques (6 and 7)

**Teaching Methodologies/Activities**
Modes of instruction that will be used by the instructor:
1. Power point supported lectures
2. Video presentations
3. Guided field trips

The following will be used to assess student learning:
1. Lecture Exams
2. Graded Lab reports
3. Class room participation

**Rules and Regulations**

**Attendance and lateness policy:**

Students are expected to be available for class work seven days per week. Since this course requires scheduling flexibility, students are expected to be in continuous contact with the professor or Sr. Ramirez about last minute changes. Students are required to follow all FDU study abroad regulations, which are enumerated elsewhere.

**Makeup and missed work policy:**

Exams:
1. Each exam will predominantly cover the material taught since the previous exam (see the course outline). However, due to the nature of the subject matter, all materials from earlier in the semester will be needed as a foundation for the more advanced topics. On tests, you are responsible for all the material covered in class, whether or not you were present. Therefore, you should ask your classmates and instructor to go over any work you missed.

**Grades and Grading Policy**

Grade components

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture exam #1</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lecture exam #2</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lab reports</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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This average will then be placed on the following scale for your grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>91-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-86</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>78-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>75-72</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>71-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>68-60</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>59-0</td>
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**Lab Reports**

Lab reports are all to be prepared in the manner of a scientific paper. They should consist of the following components:
- Introduction
- Materials and Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusions
- Literature Cited (Bibliography)

*Introduction:* Introduces the subject of the report. It contains materials from scientific papers and texts. All materials should be cited and included in the List of Literature section. Do not use numbered footnotes. Use a combination of the following formats:

"Smith (1998) found a new cat species."

"In 1998, Smith found a new cat species."

"A new species of cat was found. (Smith, 1998)"
Materials and Methods: Exactly what you did. No detail is too small. Based on your Materials and Methods, anybody should be able to exactly reproduce what you did. This section does not include your results.

Results: This is the data that you produced. Whenever possible it should be in tabular form. The data are not interpreted here, but only presented in a logical, readable format.

Discussion: What did your data mean? What is its significance? How does it relate to published results? If your results were not the same as other peoples', why weren't they? Cite any references.

Conclusions: Basically, a very brief summary of the work.

Literature: Alphabetically use the following format:


Reports can be submitted once, before their due date, for an ungraded critical review. This does not alter their original due date. All parts of the report should be word processed. Data sheets are the only permitted exception. Representations of organisms can either be drawn, using a sharp, hard pencil, or digitally photographed and merged onto the data sheet. Whatever format of representation you use, the magnification should be sufficiently high as to permit observation of critical features. All pictures, no matter what format, should have an indication of the organism's size. If you are taking pictures in the field, the easiest thing to do is to include an object of known size, e.g. a 10cm ruler or a quarter, in the picture.

Academic Integrity Policy

Students enrolled at Fairleigh Dickinson University are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty. Students have the responsibility to each other to make known the existence of academic dishonesty to their course instructor, and then, if necessary, the department chair, or the academic dean of their College. Course instructors have the added responsibility to state in advance in their syllabi any special policies and procedures concerning examinations and other academic exercises specific to their courses. Students should request this information if not distributed by the instructor.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following:

1. Cheating—Giving or receiving unauthorized assistance in any academic exercise or examination. Using or attempting to use any unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in an examination or academic exercise.

2. Plagiarism—Representing the ideas or language of others as one's own. A more complete description is listed below in the section titled “Plagiarism Described.”

3. Falsification—Falsifying or inventing any information, data, or citation in an academic exercise.

4. Multiple Submission—Submitting substantial portions of any academic exercise more than once for credit without the prior authorization and approval of the current instructor.

5. Complicity—Facilitating any of the above actions or performing work that another student then presents as his or her assignments.

6. Interference—Interfering with the ability of a student to perform his or her assignments.

Plagiarism Described

As defined by the Council of Writing Program Administrators, plagiarism "occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source." ("Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices."<http://www.wpacouncil.org/positions/WPAplagiarism.pdf>)

Plagiarism can occur in the following ways:

- Using text from another source (e.g. websites, books, journals, newspapers, etc.) without documenting the source;
- Using direct quotation from a text without quotation marks, even if the source has been cited correctly;
- Paraphrasing or summarizing the ideas or text of another work without documenting the source;
- Substituting a word or phrase for the original while maintaining the original sentence structure or intent of the passage;
- Using graphics, visual imagery, video or audio without permission of the author or acknowledgment of the source;
- Translating text from one language to another without citing the original work;
- Obtaining packaged information, foreign language translation or a completed paper from an online source and submitting it as one's own work without acknowledgment of the source; and
- Presenting the work of another student as one’s own.

Fairleigh Dickinson students are responsible for authenticating any assignment submitted to an instructor should the instructor request it. Students must be able to produce proof that the assignment they submit is actually their own work. Therefore, students must engage in a verifiable work process on all assignments:

- Keeping copies of all drafts of work;
- Making photocopies of research materials (including downloads from websites);
- Writing summaries of research materials;
- Keeping Writing Center receipts;
- Keeping logs or journals of their work on assignments and papers; and
- Saving drafts or versions of assignments under individual file names on a computer, external drive or other source.
In addition to requiring students to authenticate their work, Fairleigh Dickinson University instructors may employ various other means of ascertaining authenticity—such as using search engines to detect plagiarism, using external plagiarism detection services, creating quizzes based on student work, and requiring students to explain their work and/or process orally. The inability to authenticate work is sufficient grounds for a charge of plagiarism.

If subsequent evidence of plagiarism should be found after a grade has already been assigned, instructors have the right to lower the grade and/or apply one of the sanctions listed below.

**Sanctions:** Any student violating academic integrity will, for the first offense, receive one or a combination of the following penalties imposed by the faculty member:

1. **No credit (0) or Failure for the academic exercise.**
2. **Reduced grade for the course.**
3. **Failure in the course.**
4. **Recommendation for Academic Probation** to the dean of the college in which the student is registered. The instructor shall file a notice of the penalty in the student's file maintained in the campus Office of Enrollment Services. In cases of interference and complicity, whether or not the student is registered in the affected course, the incident and penalty shall be recorded in the student's file maintained in the campus Office of Enrollment Services.

For a subsequent violation of academic integrity, a student will be subject to any combination of the above sanctions, and, after due review by the academic dean according to the procedure below, one of the following:

1. **Suspension** from the University for one year. Readmission will be contingent upon the approval of the academic dean.
2. **Dismissal from the University.**
3. **Dismissal from the University identified on the student’s academic transcript** as a result of a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy.

**Procedure:** When a faculty member believes that a student has violated the Academic Integrity Policy, the faculty member shall discuss the incident with the student as soon as possible. If after the conference, the faculty member determines that an act of academic dishonesty has occurred, the faculty member may impose the appropriate sanctions. Within five days of the faculty member's action, the faculty member shall notify his or her department chair/school director in writing of the circumstances of the violation and the imposed sanctions. Within five days the academic department/school shall notify the student via certified mail/return receipt of the sanctions and the appeals' procedures. Copies of the notice shall be sent to the chair of the department or director of the school of the student's major, the dean of the college in which the course is offered and the campus Office of Enrollment Services. The student may appeal the instructor's decision as outlined below. Upon completion of the appeals process, the dean shall notify the student of the final disposition of the matter and the sanctions to be imposed, if any, via certified mail with copies to the faculty member, the department chair/school director and the campus director of enrollment services.

**Appeals Process:** A student who is charged with violating the Academic Integrity Policy by an instructor may appeal in writing to the chair of the department or the director of the school in which the alleged incident took place. The letter must state the specific grounds for the appeal. The student must submit a written appeal to the department chair or school director within 14 days of the receipt of the notification of the imposed sanctions. Failure to make an appeal within this 14-day period shall constitute a waiver of the appeal right. Within 10 working days of the receipt of the student's appeal, the chair/director will review the circumstances of the alleged violation with the student and the instructor and recommend upholding, modifying, or dismissing the sanctions imposed by the instructor. The chair/director, within five working days, shall notify the student in writing via certified mail of the outcome, with copies to the instructor, the chair/director of the student’s major, the academic dean of the college in which the course is taught and the campus director of enrollment services. If it is determined that a violation of academic integrity did not occur, the student's final grade in the course cannot be based on the assumption of such violation. If the differences between the instructor and the student are not resolved by this review, the student may appeal the outcome to the dean of the college in which the course is offered.

Within 10 working days of the department chair/school director's notification, the student may submit a written appeal to the dean of the college in which the alleged dishonesty took place. The letter must state the specific grounds for the appeal. Upon receipt of the student's appeal, the dean shall provide the faculty member and his or her chair/director with a copy of the student's appeal. Within 10 working days the dean shall convene a five-person hearing committee consisting of a faculty member at large from the college in which the course is offered, the dean or his or her designee, the campus dean of students or his or her designee, a faculty member from the department or school of the student’s major, and a student, selected by the campus dean of students, from the college in which the alleged dishonesty took place. The hearing will be chaired by the college dean or his or her designee. The role of the appeals committee is to review the record of the matter and determine whether a finding of academic dishonesty is founded and whether a sanction is consistent with the terms of this policy. The committee shall base its decision upon a review of the record but may meet with the student and the faculty member to secure additional information to help it in making a determination about the merits of the appeal. The committee can uphold, modify or dismiss the sanction imposed by the instructor. The college dean shall notify the student of the committee's decision within five working days of the hearing. For a second offense of academic dishonesty, the academic dean can suspend or dismiss the student as indicated above.
For a sanction of suspension or dismissal imposed by the academic dean, the student may file a **written** appeal to the University Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs within 10 working days of receiving the notification of the dean's decision. The University Provost, or his or her designee, shall review the case within 10 working days of the receipt of the appeal. The University Provost shall make the **final decision**, using any appropriate resource to assist in deciding the appeal. The University Provost shall then notify all parties in writing of his or her final decision within five working days of his or her decision.

Reviewed: August 2011