MARB - Marine Biology (MARB)

MARB 285 Directed Studies
Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Other Hours.
Special topics and problems in field and/or laboratory work suited to
analysis by individuals or small groups concerning aspects of marine
biology. Usually requires a report describing techniques and results. Only
3 credit hours may be used in the degree plan curriculum.
Prerequisites: 2.25 GPR, Approval of instructor.

MARB 289 Special Topics in Marine Biology
Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Lecture Hours.
Study of selected topics in an identified area of marine biology.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

MARB 300 Scientific Methods in Marine Biology
Credits 2. 1 Lecture Hour. 3 Lab Hours.
An introduction to field, laboratory and analytical methods, equipment
and instruments. The field portion will include making proper
observations, sampling techniques, and data recording. The laboratory
portion will include sample analysis methods, use of instruments,
introduction to data analysis including elementary statistics, introduction
to scientific literature and report writing style.
Prerequisites: BIOL 112. Curriculum sophomore, junior or senior
classification or approval of instructor.

MARB 301 Genetics
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Fundamental principles of genetics; physical basis of Mendelian
inheritance; expression and interaction of genes, linkage, sex linkage,
biochemical nature of genetic material, and mutation.
Prerequisites: CHEM 227, 228, 237 and 238. Curriculum junior or senior
classification or approval of instructor.

MARB 302 The Sea World Experience
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Exploration of marine organisms, survey topics in vertebrate marine
biology and the role that aquatic oriented parks play in education,
research and conservation; hands-on experiences by participating in
aspects of maintaining aquatic organisms in captivity including animal
care and nutrition, physiology, behavior, animal training and water quality;
exposure to marine organismal taxonomy, natural history, anatomy and
ecology.
Prerequisites: BIOL 111 with a grade of C or better; GPA greater than
2.00.

MARB 303 Biostatistics
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 2 Lab Hours.
Introduction to sampling, experimental design, analysis of data, and
testing of hypotheses, with emphasis on methods applied to biological
investigations. Parametric and non-parametric techniques. Descriptive
statistics, analysis of variance, correlation and regression.
Prerequisites: MATH 151 or MATH 142; sophomore, junior or senior
classification or approval of instructor.

MARB 310 Introduction to Cell Biology
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Cellular structure/function; prokaryotic vs. eukaryotic cells; examination of
cellular membranes and membrane transport; analysis of DNA
replication, transcription, and protein translation (an extension of their
use in MARB 301); introduction to the components and genetics of
immunology.
Prerequisites: BIOL 112, CHEM 228, MARB 301; junior or senior
classification or approval of instructor; MARS 360 is recommended but
not required.

MARB 311 Ichthyology
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Freshwater and marine fishes. Subject will be mainly systematic, but
evolution, ecology, life history, and economics of more important species
will be treated.
Prerequisites: BIOL 112 and MARB 315. Curriculum sophomore, junior or senior
classification or approval of instructor.

MARB 312 Field Ichthyology
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Field and laboratory studies on identification and ecology of freshwater
and marine fishes of Texas. Field trips required.
Prerequisites: MARB 311. Curriculum sophomore, junior or senior
classification or approval of instructor.

MARB 315 Natural History of Vertebrates
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Natural history of fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals, with
emphasis on coastal Texas vertebrates.
Prerequisites: BIOL 112. Curriculum sophomore, junior or senior
classification or approval of instructor.

MARB 320 Fisheries Techniques
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
An introduction to theory and techniques in fisheries biology and ecology.
Experience with fisheries equipment and techniques will be provided
in both field and laboratory. Practical sampling design, collection, and
interpretation of data from estuarine, coastal and offshore environments
will be addressed.
Prerequisites: BIOL 112, MARB 311. Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

MARB 325 Biospeleology
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
A field-oriented introduction to the biology of aquatic and terrestrial cave
organisms with discussions on the origin of caves, cave environment,
cave fauna, and evolution. Field trips required.
Prerequisites: BIOL 112, CHEM 101. Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

MARB 334 Biology of Sea Turtles
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Living sea turtles of the world, with emphasis on species in the Atlantic,
Gulf and Caribbean basins. Emphasis includes phylogeny, population
biology, ecology, life history, behavior, social and economic aspects and
their impact on sea turtle conservation and recovery.
Prerequisites: BIOL 112, MARB 315 or instructor approval.
MARB 335 Fish Physiology  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Study of the basic physiology of fishes. Examination of fish cardiovascular, renal, digestive, locomotor, reproductive, and central/peripheral nervous systems. Discussion of physiological adaptations enhancing survival in a water medium.  
Prerequisites: BIOL 112. Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

MARB 340 Tropical Marine Ecology  
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.  
This course provides for field-oriented experience in coral reef, mangrove, sea grass and other tropical marine ecosystems. Special emphasis will be placed on biodiversity, ecology and conservation issues specific to Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico.  
Prerequisites: BIOL 112. All students who dive must either be a current AAUS scientific diver or present a current medical examination (which will be provided by the Diving Safety Officer or instructor) completed within the past 12 months and signed by a doctor, to the instructor before class participation in the pool will be allowed. Prior to using scuba equipment, all students must provide proof of open water certification or equivalent diving experience (advanced certification recommended). Permission of the instructor and the Diving Safety Officer is required before any pool activity takes place. Divers Alert Network insurance, or equivalent, is required.

MARB 345 Introduction to Scientific Diving  
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.  
Prepare and qualify divers for entry into the TAMUG Scientific Diving Program. Students must pass medical, swimming, skin diving and scuba diving tests. Lectures include diving equipment, physics, physiology, medicine, regulations, environment, emergency and decompression procedures.  
Prerequisites: BIOL 111, PHYS 201, advanced scuba certification. Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor. All students must present a current medical examination (which will be provided by the Diving Safety Officer or instructor) completed within the past 12 months, to the instructor before class participation in the pool will be allowed. Prior to using scuba equipment, all students must provide proof of basic certification. Permission of the instructor and the Diving Safety Officer is required before any pool activity takes place. Divers Alert Network insurance, or equivalent, is required.

MARB 350 Methods in Research Diving  
Credits 4. 2 Lecture Hours. 6 Lab Hours.  
Survey of research methods and techniques using diving. Lecture and lab designed to train students in safe, efficient use of diving to collect and record data underwater for studies primarily in biology, geology, and archaeology.  
Prerequisites: MARB 345. Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor. All students must present a completed medical examination (Appendices 1-4 in the TAMUG diving manual) signed by a doctor, to the instructor before class participation in the pool will be allowed. Prior to using scuba equipment, all students must provide proof of advanced open water certification or equivalent diving experience. Permission of the instructor and the Diving Safety Officer is required before any pool activity takes place. Divers Alert Network insurance, or equivalent, is required.

MARB 360 Marine Conservation Biology  
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.  
Lectures and laboratories cover the major principles of conservation biology; a new synthetic field that applies concepts of ecology, systematics and evolution, biogeology, genetics, behavioral sciences, and social sciences to the conservation of marine fisheries resources. Lab exercises include morphometric and genetic variation, GIS, molecular systematics and phylogenetic inference.  
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

MARB 400 Biology of Marine Mammals  
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.  
A broad-spectrum course on the taxonomy, evolution, morphology behavior, and ecology of marine mammals, including sirenians, carnivores, baleen and toothed whales and dolphins.  
Prerequisites: BIOL 112, MARB 315. Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

MARB 401 Physiological Ecology of Marine Mammals  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.  
Anatomy, taxonomy, phylogeny and physiological adaptations of marine mammals.  
Prerequisites: MARB 315; junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

MARB 403 Cetacean Behavior and Behavioral Ecology  
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.  
This course consists of lecture of up to date descriptions of Cetacean behavior and ecology; and of labs that evaluate the literature of topics of present relevance.  
Prerequisite: MARB 315. Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

MARB 404 Behavioral Ecology of Marine Mammals and Seabirds of New Zealand  
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.  
Behavioral ecology of Marine Mammals and Seabirds of New Zealand. Ecology and behavior of marine birds and mammals of South Island, New Zealand; literature comparisons of marine vertebrates; emphasis is on animals in nature; laboratory experience of the animals from boats and shore; readings, videos, interpretation and peer-review of scientific papers and books.  
Prerequisites: MARB 315 or other vertebrate or chordate course. Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

MARB 405 Marine Parasitology  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Fundamentals of parasitology, with emphasis on marine applications. Survey of major parasites of marine animals and the diseases they cause, especially in ecologically and commercially-important host species.  
Prerequisites: BIOL 112, junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

MARB 406 Life in Extreme Environments  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Key metabolic and physiological innovations of extremophile organisms; topics include the molecular biology, biochemistry and physiology of organisms living in extreme environments.  
Prerequisites: MARB 315; CHEM 228; junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.
MARB 407 Research and Conservation in the Gulf of Corinth, Greece: Dolphins, Fisheries and Cultural Heritage
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Lectures, readings and labs on the ecology and behavior of the vertebrate fauna of the Gulf of Corinth, Greece; Laboratory hands-on experience of the marine environment from boats, readings, videos, interpretation, and select major peer-review scientific papers and books.
Prerequisites: Junior or senior classification; MARB 315 or approval of instructor.

MARB 408 Marine Botany
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Morphology, systematics, ecology, and biochemistry of representative algae, fungi, and submarine grasses.
Prerequisites: BIOL 112; junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

MARB 410 Animal Behavior
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Examination of ethological concepts. Discussion of the development, genetics, physiology, and evolution of animal behavior patterns involved in reproduction, territoriality, aggression, communication, population dispersion, sociality, and sociobiology of invertebrates and vertebrates.
Prerequisites: BIOL 112. Curriculum sophomore, junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

MARB 414 Toxicology
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
History and scope of toxicology as it applies to mammals; where possible, marine species will be used for examples and assigned papers.
Prerequisites: BIOL 112; CHEM 227 and CHEM 228.

MARB 415 Coastal Marine Biology and Geology of Alaska
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Field course conducted in south-central Alaska for two weeks; work at the remote Alice Cove Research Station located in Prince William Sound; conduct research on marine mammals behavior and ecology; exploration of the geology and glaciology.
Prerequisites: BIOL 112.

MARB 420 Comparative Animal Physiology
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Principles of animal physiology are examined using invertebrate and vertebrate model systems. Topics include osmoregulation in marine vs. freshwater vs. terrestrial organisms, excretion, fluid circulation, nervous system structure and function, muscle activity, sensory neurobiology, and endocrine mediation.
Prerequisites: BIOL 112, CHEM 227, and CHEM 228.

MARB 426 Aquatic Animal Nutrition
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Chemistry, digestion, absorption and intermediary metabolism of nutrient classes with special emphasis on their relationship to warmwater fish nutrition. Determination of nutrient requirements, feed evaluation, feed processing, ration formulation and feeding practices.
Prerequisites: CHEM 227. Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

MARB 430 Coastal Plant Ecology
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Study of the identification, distribution, production, and ecological importance of estuarine, coastal marsh, and dune vascular plants; the interaction of plants with their abiotic and biotic environments; and techniques of vegetation management and evaluation.
Prerequisites: BIOL 112. Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

MARB 433 Applied Bioinformatics
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Fundamental concepts and methods in bioinformatics using sequence analysis and practical applications; includes biological databases, sequence and structure alignments, structural bioinformatics, gene prediction and genome analysis; emphasis on understanding and application of these concepts.
Prerequisites: MARB 301; junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

MARB 435 Marine Invertebrate Zoology
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Marine Invertebrate Zoology. General biology of marine invertebrate animals; morphology, evolution, and systematics. Laboratory will stress studies of local fauna.
Prerequisites: BIOL 112. Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

MARB 445 Marine Fisheries Management
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours.
Dolphins, Fisheries and Cultural Heritage
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Study of the identification, distribution, production, and ecological importance of estuarine, coastal marsh, and dune vascular plants; the interaction of plants with their abiotic and biotic environments; and techniques of vegetation management and evaluation.
Prerequisites: BIOL 112. Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

MARB 445 Marine Fisheries Management
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Basic knowledge from marine ichthyology, biology of fishes and biological oceanography related to applied aspects of marine fisheries sciences. Emphasis placed on management techniques applicable to tidal-influenced inland water, estuaries, and oceans.
Prerequisites: MARB 315; junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.
MARB 460 Fisheries Population Dynamics
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
An introduction to the behavior of populations. Classical and recent population theories will be discussed in lecture. In lab, extant and programs written by students will be used to explore population behavior and interactions.
Prerequisites: MATH 151. Senior classification or approval of instructor.

MARB 466 Evolutionary Biology
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
A conceptual examination of evolutionary theory, not a survey of specific organismal evolutions. Evidence for the abiogenic origin of life is presented, followed by a discussion of micro-evolutionary (including drift and natural selection) and macro-evolutionary (including evolutionary trends) mechanisms. The course concludes with application of these concepts to human evolution.
Prerequisites: BIOL 112. Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor. MARB 301 is recommended but not required.

MARB 482 Seminar in Marine Biology
Credit 1. 1 Lecture Hour.
Compilation of literature pertaining to topics in marine biology. Emphasis placed on preparation of a written report and presentation of a synopsis of that report.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

MARB 484 Undergraduate Internship
Credits 0 to 9. 0 to 9 Other Hours.
Supervised study in a research or teaching laboratory remote from TAMUG. Student involvement is to consist of real-life learning or marine biological research, teaching, management, or a combination of these.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

MARB 485 Directed Studies
Credits 1 to 6. 1 to 3 Other Hours.
Per Semester. Special topics and problems in field and/or laboratory work suited to analysis by individuals or small groups concerning aspects of marine biology. Usually requires a report describing techniques and results. Only 3 credit hours may be used in the degree plan curriculum.
Prerequisites: 2.25 GPR. Curriculum sophomore, junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

MARB 489 Special Topics in Marine Biology
Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Lecture Hours.
Study of selected topics in an identified area of marine biology.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

MARB 491 Research in Marine Biology
Credits 0 to 4. 0 to 4 Other Hours.
Research conducted under the direction of faculty member in Marine Biology. Please see academic advisor in department. Registration in multiple sections of this course is possible within a given semester provided that the per semester credit hour limit is not exceeded. May be repeated for credit.
Prerequisites: Junior or senior classification and approval of instructor.