MARB - Marine Biology

MARB 603 Cetacean Behavior and Behavioral Ecology
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Consists of lectures, discussion sessions on the social,
calf rearing, foraging and migrating strategies of whales, dolphins and
porpoises. Emphasis is on the recent literature of animals in nature,
although results from aquaria are also presented with comparisons to
social strategies in the wild.
Prerequisite: Undergraduate or graduate level vertebrate biology course.

MARB 604 Behavioral Ecology of Marine Mammals and Seabirds of New
Zealand Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
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: Graduate standing and permission of instructor.

MARB 605 Air Breathing Marine Vertebrate Research Techniques
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Introductory and advanced descriptions and hands-on learning of photo-
identification, theodolite, radio, satellite, and video-enhanced tracking,
underwater remote sensing, acoustics, and other cutting edge research
techniques.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification or approval of instructor.

MARB 606 Advanced Concepts in Marine Population Biology
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Novel Approaches and concepts employed studying factors affecting
recruitment, determining trophic relationships (e.g., stable isotopes),
and the consequences, at various levels, of changes in abundance of
marine populations, including ecological (community), population (Allee
effects) and genetic (effective population size). Inference of population
connectivity determined through the use of electronic tags and molecular
techniques is also examined.
Prerequisite: B.S. Marine Biology or Marine Science or approval of
instructor.

MARB 607 Research and Conservation in Greece-Dolphins, Fisheries and
Cultural Heritage
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 2 Lab Hours.
Lectures, readings and labs on the ecology and behavior of the
vertebrate fauna of Greece; laboratory hands-on experience of the marine
environment from boats, readings, videos, interpretation and select major
peer-review scientific papers and books.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

MARB 610 Professional Development
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Course will cover topics including proposal and manuscript development,
the peer review process, proposal writing and speaking exercises,
preparing oral and poster presentations, developing questions for quizzes
and midterms, and library database management. Class discussions
will include constructive critiques of participants' experimental designs,
analytical approaches and scientific writing.
Prerequisite: Graduate standing or permission of instructor.

MARB 615 Coastal Marine Biology and Geology of Alaska
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
The study of coastal marine biology and geology of south-central Alaska
and participation in a behavioral ecological study of sea otters for 12
days at a remote field station in north-eastern Prince William Sound.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification and approval of instructor.

MARB 616 Introduction to Methods in Scientific Diving
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
This course prepares students to use SCUBA as a research tool for the
marine sciences in compliance with University, American Academy of
Underwater Sciences and Federal OSHA standards. Practical work in
pool and open waters will complement academic experience and provide
training towards scientific diver status.
Prerequisite: Advanced scuba certification.

MARB 617 Research Diving Methods
Credits 2. 6 Lab Hours.
Field experience in a wide range of research diving environments
stressing dive planning and safety, buoyancy control, equipment
configuration and scientific methodology in biological, physical, chemical,
archaeological and geological sciences. Students will design, supervise
and conduct independently developed scientific diving projects.
Prerequisite: MARB 616 or equivalent.

MARB 618 Marine Science of the Pacific Rim
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Course intended for students interested in conducting research on
the marine biology or fisheries of the Pacific Rim countries; tailored
to specific interests of individual students; course involves directed
readings, participation in the student's research project, discussions with
the instructor, and final report for possible publication.
Prerequisite: Graduate status or approval of instructor.

MARB 620 Marine Biological Resources
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
An introduction to biological resources which can be recovered from the
marine environment to provide food, biomass and materials, recreation,
and employment to the coastal United States and other regions. With
emphasis on fisheries and hatcheries, in: oceanic resources, coastal and
estuarine resources, and mariculture. Natural and societal limitations
to resource recovery are investigated, and environmental impacts are
analyzed.
Prerequisites: (at least 3 of these) CHEM 102, BIOL 112, GEOL 104 and/or
OCNG 251; graduate status or special approval.

MARB 633 Applied Bioinformatics
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab 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 the understanding and
application of these concepts.
Prerequisites: Graduate classification or approval of instructor.

MARB 635 Marine Invertebrate Zoology
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
General biology of marine invertebrate animals; morphology, evolution
and systematics; laboratory stresses study of local fauna.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.
MARB 640 Ecosystem Functions in Marine Environments
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Advanced study of ecological processes in marine environments, with an emphasis on the investigation of the interactions between organisms and physical processes that regulate marine ecosystem functions.
Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

MARB 651 Shore and Estuarine Fishes of the Gulf Of Mexico
Credits 4. 2 Lecture Hours. 6 Lab Hours.
Taxonomy, ecology and zoogeography of fishes inhabiting estuarine and marine ecosystems of the northwestern Gulf of Mexico. Particular emphasis on community structure and factors affecting spatial and temporal abundance of fishes found along the Texas coast.
Prerequisites: MARB 311 or equivalent; approval of instructor.

MARB 654 Coastal Plant Ecology
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Study of estuarine, coastal and dune plant communities and associated environmental factors affecting plants including the identification, distribution, ecological importance and management techniques of vascular plants in these communities.
Prerequisites: Graduate standing; approval of instructor.

MARB 655 Wetlands Ecology, Monitoring and Delineation
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Wetlands Ecology, Monitoring, and Delineation. Study of the characteristics and importance of wetlands, and methods of delineating, monitoring and evaluating wetlands. Students will learn wetland plants, soils, hydrology, ecology, inhabiting animals, delineation techniques, laws, permits required for impacts, mitigation and management techniques.
Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

MARB 656 Tropical Marine Ecology
Credits 3. 1 Lecture Hour. 6 Lab Hours.
Topical Marine Ecology. Field oriented experience in coral reef, mangrove, sea grass, cave and other tropical marine ecosystems. Special emphasis will be placed on biodiversity, ecology and conservation issues specific to the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. This course will involve one week of course work in Galveston and a two-week field trip to Akumal on the Caribbean coast of Yucatan. Students will design, supervise and conduct an independently developed research project.
Prerequisite: Scuba Certification.

MARB 662 Biology of the Mollusca
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Survey of mollusks including their morphology, ecology, physiology and reproduction. Emphasis on marine species of ecological and commercial importance.
Prerequisite: MARB 435 or MARB 665 or equivalent.

MARB 665 Biology of Invertebrates
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Biology of Vertebrates. Morphology, biology and phylogeny of invertebrates. Topics may be either detailed discussions/dissections of specific organisms or comparative information on a process.
Prerequisites: MARM 435 or ZOOL 335 or equivalent; approval of instructor.