

Marine Biology and Ecology – BIOL 428 2021 15pts

Staff:

Distinguished Prof David R Schiel (DRS): Coordinator (david.schiel@canterbury.ac.nz)
Dr John Pirker (JP)
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Description:

This course builds on the knowledge and skills acquired in undergraduate courses, particularly ecology, physiology and behaviour. The focus is on marine ecosystems, how they are maintained and what affects them. The course includes critical examination of the literature across a variety of topics and issues, and a practical exercise involving procedures and information required for marine resource consents. The topical issues traversed in this course combine theory and management, and offer a sound basis for greater understanding of sustainable management of the marine domain.

Learning Outcomes and Skills register:

- An ability to access and critically evaluate scientific literature relating to particular topics
- Detailed understanding of the factors affecting marine habitats under stress
- Development of communication skills in presenting analysis of topical issues
- Development of skills in the verbal and written presentation of scientific literature
- Development of skills in scientific analysis and report writing
- Integration of advanced theories to assess and manage current marine issues.

Entry to the Course:

The course is suitable for students with a background in ecology, animal physiology and behaviour. An understanding of experimental design and statistical analysis will also be useful. Some knowledge of marine biology is essential. Entry to the course can be granted by the coordinator or the HOD and depends on a good academic record. In the past students with a science or research management qualifications have been allowed entry. Students without suitable biological background would be expected (if accepted) to undertake background reading to become familiar with course topics.

Seminar Programme - Every other week 9-11am, Thursday, Room: Jack Erskine 446 (except 25 Feb in ER260); Note: the order of talks may change.

Seminar	Seminar date	Topic	Staff
Initial meeting	25 Feb (Thursday), 3-4pm	Introduction to the course and first assignment (1 hour)	DRS
1	4 Mar	Issues and topics in marine ecosystem processes	DRS
2	18 March	A holistic view of the environment: Effects of terrestrial inputs on coastal processes	DRS
3	1 April	First recipients of terrestrial inputs: coastal estuaries	DRS/Hickford
5	29 April	Cataclysmic events and changes to marine ecosystems	Orchard/DRS
4	13 May	Heat waves, acidification and climate effects on nearshore ecosystems	MT
6	27 May	Resource consent hearings: dealing with the issues (featuring a mock tribunal and presentations)	JP

Marine Biology Assessment:

Internal Assessment – 45%. This will consist of three components:

- a) A written research essay, worth 15% of total marks, which will be **due by 9am on Monday 26 April;**
- b) Resource consent tribunal work, including presentation, discussion and written report (based on Seminar 6). This is worth 15% of total marks and will be due by **10am on Monday 14 June;**
- c) Performance in seminars and written material for seminars 1-5. This will be worth 15% or total marks, and will be aided by student assessments of their work

End of course examination =55%. This will consist of short essays on a variety of topics and will be done as a ‘take home’ exercise, within a set time frame.

RULES, REGULATIONS, AND WHAT TO DO WHEN THINGS GO WRONG

[updated 3 April 2020]

If in doubt: ASK! The course coordinator is happy to answer questions at any time. All staff involved in the course are available for advice on specific issues.

What do I do if I have to miss something or if my performance was impaired?

If you feel that **illness, injury, bereavement or other extenuating circumstances beyond your control** prevented you from completing an item of assessment worth 10% or more of the total course assessment or if these circumstances affected your performance in such assessments, you should apply for Special Consideration. Applications for Special Consideration should be submitted via the Special Consideration website <http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/special-consideration/> within five working days of the assessment or its due date. You will also need to notify the course coordinator. If you apply for Special Consideration because of medical reasons, you should visit a doctor within a reasonable timeframe (application form available on the website above or from the Student Health Centre).

The Special Consideration provisions are intended to assist students who have covered the work of a course but have been prevented by illness or other critical circumstances from demonstrating their mastery of the material or skills at the time of assessment – they do not excuse you from doing the assessment within a reasonable time agreed with the course coordinator. You should expect to be required to submit additional work if you miss a major assignment (e.g. a field trip for which a major write-up is required).

You should also apply for Special Consideration if you are not be able to complete an assessment or attend a field trip because of **involvement in international or national representative sport or cultural groups**. Please review the Special Considerations policy, because very few kinds of activities will be eligible for such consideration (e.g. holiday trips, birthday parties etc. are not given special status in the University policy).

Students prevented by extenuating circumstances from completing the course after the final date for withdrawing, may apply for Special Consideration for late discontinuation of the course. Applications must be submitted via <http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/special-consideration/> no later than five working days after the examination period has finished.

Plagiarism

It is essential that you are aware that plagiarism is considered a very serious offence by the academic community, the University and the School of Biological Sciences. Plagiarism is defined as taking content from another work or author and presenting it, without attribution, as if it is your own work. Content here includes text (sentences or major parts of sentences), display items (graphs and tables), and overall structure (the detailed sequence of ideas). Plagiarism includes:

- re-use of previous assignments (even if each individual sentence has been rephrased to say the same thing in different words, if the overall structure is re-used).
- copying of another student's work (with or without their consent).
- the unreferenced use of published material or material from the internet, e.g. cutting and pasting of paragraphs or pages into an essay.

For most pieces of in-term assessment you will be given information concerning the use of direct and indirect quotes from previously published work. If you have any doubt about the appropriate use of published material, please speak with an academic staff member. If you are unsure what plagiarism is, seek advice.

It is a School policy that courses may request that you submit work electronically for subsequent analysis of originality using *Turnitin*. Students agree that by taking courses in BIOL, assessments may be submitted to Turnitin.com for textual similarity review. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Terms and Conditions of Use as posted on the Turnitin.com site.

Where do I hand in assignments and then collect them once marked?

All assignments should be placed in the designated collection boxes in the foyer of the 2nd floor of the School of Biological Sciences (Julius von Haast building, at the top of the stairs), unless directed otherwise by the course coordinator. All assignments must be accompanied by a cover sheet signed by you stating that the submitted work is not plagiarised. Cover sheets are available on top of the collection boxes, or you can download one from the Biology website (<http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/media/documents/science-documents/assignment-coversheet.pdf>). In addition, you may also be asked to submit your work electronically (via Learn) for analysis in *Turnitin*.

Marked assignments can be collected from the School of Biological Sciences reception, unless directed otherwise by the course coordinator. Teaching staff will endeavour to return work as soon as possible, and should contact you if there are likely to be any delays that will prevent return within the maximum 4-week timeframe.

What if I can't get it finished in time?

Reports and assignments should be handed in on time. Extensions may be granted if you have a valid reason. **If you require an extension, you should request one from the course coordinator** (or the lecturer responsible for marking the work), with as much notice as possible. Please do this BEFORE the deadline for the assignment. **If you have been given an extension you should hand the work DIRECTLY to the course coordinator** (do not put it in the drop box as it may not be cleared after the due date).

If an extension has not been granted:

- work handed in within 1 hour of the deadline: penalty of up to 5 percentage points of the mark for the assignment (e.g., a mark of 75% might be reduced to 70%).
- work handed in 1 – 24 hours after the deadline: penalty of 10 percentage points of the mark for the assignment (e.g., a mark of 75% is reduced to 65%).
- work handed in 1 – 7 days after the deadline: penalty of 15 percentage points of the mark for the assignment (e.g., a mark of 75% is reduced to 60%).
- work handed in more than 7 days after the deadline will not be marked or earn credit.

What if I have written more than the word or page limit?

If there is a word limit on an assignment, it is usually there to stop you doing too much work and to encourage you to write succinctly. You can be up to 10% over without too much worry, but if the length increases beyond that your mark may suffer due to failure to follow the requirements. If you find yourself way over the word limit talk to the lecturer concerned about how to get your assignment to an acceptable length.

What if I fail part of the course?

In Biological Sciences, we require a satisfactory level of achievement in both the theoretical aspects of the discipline and in practical activities. This means you must attend all class activities and submit all items of assessment unless you have a very good reason not to (e.g. medical reasons). **A student must attain an average score of at least 40% for in-course assessments (e.g. assignments, reports) and an average score of at least 40% in the exam and/or tests, AND score at least 50% overall for the course, to be awarded a passing grade. See the course outlines for clarification of the assessment items included in each category and ask the coordinator if you are still unsure.**

What's the best way to give feedback?

We welcome constructive feedback at all times – help us to make this a valuable course for you. We endeavour to remain approachable at all times. If you would rather give feedback anonymously, please use the online course survey or talk to lab demonstrators, or your class rep (who will all report back to the staff-student liaison committee that includes a representative from each of the undergraduate classes). Class representatives will be selected from each class at the start of course.

What's the best way to complain?

If you feel you have not been fairly treated during this course, please raise the issue with the lecturer or course coordinator in the first instance. Other avenues include your class rep., who can raise issues anonymously, or the UCSA education coordinator.

Grading

A+	90% or above
A	85 – 90
A-	80 – 84
B+	75 – 79
B	70 – 74
B-	65 – 69
C+	60 – 64
C	55 – 59
C-	50 – 54

A restricted pass (R) **may** be awarded to those who are close to a pass (i.e. an overall score of 48-49.9%) AND who have achieved at least a 40% overall score in both in-course assessment and tests/exams. If an R grade is awarded you gain credit for the course but **cannot continue into papers that require this course as a pre-requisite**. NB. The R grade is only available at 100 and 200 level - it cannot be awarded for third year papers.

Failing grades: D 40-49 E 0-39