BELIZE COURSE SYLLABUS

Title: ECOLOGY OF THE BELIZE BARRIER REEF

Instructor: Dr. James D. Thomas

Dates: March 29- April 4, 2014

Lab Fee: $1800 USD (includes airfare)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This field course will provide direct experience with principles of ecology and marine biology in the unique setting of the Belize Barrier Reef. Our field location is on South Water Caye, directly on the outer barrier reef complex. This course involves extensive snorkeling and water time as well as classroom lecture, student presentations, and individual research projects. We will have a dedicated lab and lecture area and food will be provided by local cooks. Students in this course will visit a variety of representative reef sites while documenting diversity and mapping and comparing various coral reef communities. Students are encouraged to bring underwater cameras/videos and computers for use in the course.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
1. Identify local fish, invertebrates and marine algae
2. Perform field techniques, including sampling procedures, and the estimation of population density and community diversity.
3. Compare methods used to study coral reef community ecology.
4. Identify major benthic and nektonic coral reef components including fish, invertebrates, and benthic algae
5. Perform monitoring and census techniques in several reef community types.
6. Synthesize and incorporate information from articles in peer-reviewed journals into your journal, presentation and report

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS:
Text: All texts, guides, manuals, and documentation provided by the instructor
Field Notebook/Journal

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES:
Prior to departing to Belize, we will have three formal REQUIRED meetings prior to class departure for Belize. These meetings will include lecture, discussion, and distribution of course materials (reprints, CD’s). Attendance is mandatory. Course activities in Belize will consist of daily lectures and field trips. Students will also be required to conduct a short research project and write up a project report. Students with particular preferences for a project should discuss topics with the instructor beforehand.

The final average will be based on class and laboratory work as follows:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Project Report</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Presentations</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Manual (Journal/Notebook?)</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>800</strong></td>
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