



Last Date Revised: 13 February 2015

I. COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE:

Tropical Marine Fish Ecology

Course Number: OCMB 6120 (OD1) CRN – 52617; MEVS 5000 (OD1) CRN – 52618;
CZMT 0690 (OD1) CRN – 52619

Days: Field portion 10-16 May plus 2 nights lecture TBD

Building & Room: TBD.

II. INSTRUCTOR:

Richard Spieler, Ph.D.

Phone: 954-262-3613/3674

Email: spielerr@nsu.nova.edu

Office: 200 Shure Building.

Office Hours: By appointment.

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a lecture/field/laboratory course that emphasizes the ecology and identification of Caribbean inshore and coral reef fishes. Lectures concentrate on general ecology (e.g., planktonic existence, reproductive strategies, feeding methods, distributional determinants) and species-specific ecology (e.g., diel and seasonal rhythms, food, reproduction) as well as the identification and taxonomy of approximately 200 species. Field and laboratory periods emphasize collecting and museum techniques as well as the use of dichotomous identification keys.

Learning outcomes:

IV. LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the conclusion of this course the student will be able to:

1. * Demonstrate an understanding of the taxonomy, natural history, and ecology of marine organisms:
 - a. Specifically as relates to coral reef fishes
 - b. Be able to identify local coral reef fishes using common and scientific names
 - c. Students will understand the major historical and current hypotheses on determinants of coral reef fish distribution.

- d. Students will understand the general ecology of coral reef fishes and the specific ecology of representative species.

2.* Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of a specific aspect of marine biology:

- a. Knowledgeable discuss the habitat and life histories of selected coral reef fishes.
- b. Students will be able to identify most local fishes in both field and laboratory settings.
- c. Students will become familiar with current themes and directions in reef-fish research
- d. Students will gain an appreciation of hypothesis-testing experimentation in a coral reef or inshore setting

*Program Learning Outcomes for Marine Biology, Coastal Zone Management and Marine Environmental Science

V. REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS:

1. Reef Fish Identification: Florida, Caribbean, Bahamas by Paul Humann and Ned DeLoach
2. A digital underwater camera or case waterproof to 30' (available for \$20-40)

VI. COURSE SCHEDULE AND TOPIC OUTLINE:

Week 1 – Introduction / Trophic Dynamics / Reproduction / Community structure

Week 2 – Field Trip

Week 12 – Final Exam

Note: This is a tentative schedule that may be changed. Students will be provided a minimum one week advance notice of any change when possible.

VII. GRADING CRITERIA:

The course grade is dependent on a multiple choice midterm (30% of course grade) and a final lab exam (50% of final course grade). In addition a graded portfolio of pictures of 25 species of fishes annotated with habitat and life history notes is required (20% of Course grade).

VII. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES:

ATTENDANCE

If you miss a lecture YOU are responsible for the material.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

In order to ensure the highest standards of academic honesty and ethical behavior, the NSU policies on cheating and plagiarism will be strictly enforced. See the NSU Student Handbook for more information at <http://www.nova.edu/cwis/studentaffairs/forms/ustudenthandbook.pdf>. I am empowered by the policy to penalize a student suspected of academic dishonesty, plagiarism, or otherwise misrepresenting work and I will do so and report that student to the Dean of the OC. Nova Southeastern University has contracted with **turnitin.com** to provide plagiarism detection services, and I will submit any suspicious documents to this service.

The use of cell phones, or any other electronic devices not specifically allowed by me, during an exam is not permitted. The use of such devices for any reason will be assumed to be for the purposes of cheating and will result in your dismissal from class and administrative action up to permanent expulsion from all NSUOC programs. If you need the phone for emergency notifications, or the like, leave the phone with me or the proctor at the start of class. You will be immediately notified if there is an incoming call.

EXPECTATIONS

You can expect that I will arrive on time for lectures and be well prepared. You can expect that I will be clear about my expectations and the criteria I use in assigning grades and that I will be fair and equitable. I will treat everyone in the class with consideration and respect.

I expect you to come to class, arrive on time, and be prepared for lecture and lab. I expect you to turn off your cell phones, pagers, and hand-held electronic devices as a gesture of reciprocal respect. If you bring a computer to class, I expect you to use it to take notes and record classroom information. I expect you to stay awake, take notes, participate in discussions and ask questions. I expect you to turn in your assignments on time and in good condition.

X: UNIVERSITY-WIDE POLICY STATEMENTS

A. Academic Misconduct: Academic misconduct appears in a variety of forms (including plagiarism). It is a violation of NSU academic policy and may be punished in a variety of ways, from failing the assignment and/or the entire course to academic probation, suspension or expulsion. If you have questions about what constitutes academic misconduct before handing in an assignment, see your instructor or the NSU Student Handbook at <http://www.nova.edu/cwis/studentaffairs/forms/ustudenthandbook.pdf>.

B. ADA Policy: Nova Southeastern University provides accommodations for students with documented disabilities. If you have a disability for which you believe you require

accommodation, please contact Academic Services (<http://www.nova.edu/disabilityservices/>, 954-262-7189).

C. Last Day to Withdraw: Due to the compressed nature of this course you will be able to obtain a full refund of your tuition up to May 7, 2012. There will be no refund after that date. None of the lab fee is refundable; however you will own the airline ticket that was purchased for you. It is your responsibility to formally withdraw by completing the appropriate forms to obtain a refund (<http://www.nova.edu/ocean/coursepolicy.html>). A request for tuition refund must be made in writing at the time of withdrawal. Refunds will be made solely at the option of the university and will be based on the legitimacy of the reason for withdrawal. Should you fail to appropriately withdraw from this course, and then earn a grade below your expectations, I will do what I can to see that the grade is reported on your transcript. I will NOT backdate paperwork so that you can avoid earning a grade lower than you like.

D. Email Policy: All email communications between students and faculty must be conducted via NSU email accounts (<http://www.nova.edu/common-lib/policies/emailcomm.policy.html>). This requirement will assist NSU in communicating more effectively and protecting your privacy. Emails sent to faculty from non-NSU accounts will be returned to the sender with instructions to resend the communication from your NSU account. To set up an NSU email account or to get help with an existing account, go to https://www.nova.edu/sbin/account_request. Also, the computer help desk is available to assist you with questions regarding your NSU email account. It can be reached at 954-262-HELP (4357).

E. Student Course Evaluations: Student comment and feedback evaluating each college class is an important tool to evaluate program effectiveness. Participation in this process is a responsibility of each student.