

Tahiti: Marine Biology
Field Study in Oceanography and Marine Methods
MARS4500 (3 credits), Biology lab credit

This is a sample syllabus intended as a general guide only and deviations may be necessary (a final syllabus will be included in the course-book or available by contacting the office)

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Course Description

This course teaches field and laboratory methods for the study of marine sciences in Mo'orea, French Polynesia. The course explores oceanographic methods and focuses on the coral reef ecosystem as a model with an emphasis on conservation and sustainable use. The course meets the requirements for an UGA Biology Department lab course.

Course Objectives

In order to gain competency in oceanographic methods, and address "big questions" facing sustainability in marine ecosystems, you will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of natural history and ecology of the marine environment surrounding Mo'orea, and show competency in the field and laboratory methods presented in readings, lectures, laboratory and field activities.
2. Apply this knowledge to understand the ecological complexity and environmental factors affecting coral reefs worldwide.
3. Be able to collect, analyze and interpret a range of oceanographic and marine data, particularly
 - a. Understand and perform chemical measurements of seawater
 - b. Collect and interpret physical oceanography data from CTD's
 - c. Collect and perform molecular analysis on marine microbial samples
 - d. Use Marine survey data from transect surveys
4. Conduct yourself in a manner consistent with Discover Abroad's Professional, Academic, and Ethical Code of Conduct (refer to the *Program Manual* for a description and course-related implications).

Course Credit

Credit is offered for 3 semester hours at the undergraduate level (4500) and counts towards UGA's Biology Department laboratory requirements.

Prerequisites

BIOL 1108 and CHEM 1212 are required for this course

Attendance

Punctual attendance at all scheduled program–related activities is required, including group meetings, discussions, laboratories, field excursions, as well as lectures and any other scheduled activities. During the field studies, no student may leave the group without the consent of the faculty supervisor. Unless an absence is approved by one of the instructors, students will lose 10% of their final grade for each day or part-day they fail to participate. Unexcused absences or chronic late arrival to program activities may be grounds for dismissal from the program (refer to the *Program Manual* for further details).

Late and Missed Assignments

Because of the nature of this course and the tight schedule, assignments are not accepted late without prior approval from the instructor.

Academic Honesty

All academic work must meet the standards contained in the University's Culture of Honesty policy (www.uga.edu/honesty). All students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. The penalties for academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) award of a failing grade for the course, suspension, notification placed on the student's transcript of their having been found guilty of cheating, and expulsion from the university, and ignorance is not an acceptable defense. Academic dishonesty will be reported to the University Academic Policy Panel.

Special Accommodations

Any student(s) who require special accommodation(s) or other requirements in this course must contact the instructor before or at the UGA on-campus orientation and register with UGA Disability Resource Center (www.drc.uga.edu). Some activities include moderate exercise, such as hiking and snorkeling.

Course-book

You are required to bring a laptop or notebook with Microsoft Word software (ipads, kindles, or other similar electronic reading devices are not acceptable for course assignments). The course reading packet will be provided electronically via jump drive, which is available for purchase at Bel-Jean's Copy/Print Service, 163 East Broad St, Athens, GA 30601. To purchase, please order online from <http://www.bel-jean.com/study-abroad-uga.php>, via phone at 706.548.3648 or via email at campusrep@bel-jean.com. An optional hardcopy is also available, though not required. The program accepts no responsibility for lost or stolen items and we recommend that you consider purchasing insurance for any expensive personal items before bringing them on the course.

Optional Reading

For pre-departure (optional) reading, we recommend:

A Reef in Time: The Great Barrier Reef from Beginning to End by J.E.N. Veron

Course Requirements

Lab reports (50%)

A formal lab report of findings will be due the day following the lab.

Fieldwork (30%)

Credit will be earned for active and engaged participation in fieldwork (15%) and written assignments evaluating your understanding of the techniques learned (15%).

Final Exam (20%)

An exam covering all lab and lecture material from the class will be given.

Grade Assessment

Final grades will be assigned as follows:

A	93 –100 percent
A-	89.5 – 92.9 percent
B+	87 – 89.4 percent
B	83 – 86.9 percent
B-	79.5 – 82.9 percent
C+	77 – 79.4 percent
C	73 – 76.9 percent
C-	69.5 – 72.9 percent
D	59.5 - 69.4 percent
F	below 59.4 percent

Course Itinerary

Refer to the sample itineraries available online. Final itineraries will be distributed on arrival in-country or contact the office for the most recent version.