Marine Conservation Biology
FW 464/564 crosslisted with Zoology

Credit hours: 3

Term offered: Fall alternate years, 08, 10 at HMSC

Number of days meeting and hours/lab hours: 2 days/week, 80 minutes, broadcast one day per week to campus

Instructor: Selina Heppell and Mark Hixon (Zoology)

Course objectives: This is a debate-format course that covers a variety of topics pertaining to the conservation of marine biodiversity and living resources. Students who take this class are exposed to multiple perspectives on important scientific issues in marine conservation and gain valuable experience in critical thinking, communication skills, and the use of science in effective debate.

The course objectives are to enable students to:

1. acquire data and information on current scientific issues regarding the conservation of biodiversity in the sea, including overfishing, invasive species, eutrophication, marine pollution, and global warming (**knowledge**).
2. classify the strength of scientific inference regarding threats to marine biodiversity and solutions (**comprehension**).
3. apply skills in verbal and written communication in the context of scientific debate (**application**).
4. analyze both sides of scientific debates regarding threats to marine biodiversity and solutions (**analysis**).
5. arrange and summarize data and information gathered in library research in a logical manner (**synthesis**).
6. appraise the pros and cons in scientific debates regarding threats to marine biodiversity and solutions (**evaluation**).

Course content: This class consists of weekly lectures by the instructors and student-led debates. Debate team leaders present a short overview of the "pro" and "con" side of the debate, then lead the rest of the class in a discussion to prepare arguments. Students who are not part of the week's team do not know which side of the debate they will argue until the day of the debate. After the discussion period, a point-counterpoint debate occurs, followed by a summary and discussion of solutions in the subsequent class period.

Prerequisites: Ecology

Text: none

Term papers: debate arguments and presentations

Testing: none

Students for whom the course is intended: students in natural sciences and natural resource fields