

Marine Biology

[11th-12th] (10 Credits)

- *Meets high school graduation requirement for (Life science)*
- *Qualifies as science elective credits*



General Information

Description

Marine Biology focuses on life that is totally dependent on the ocean. This course is a study of the many types of plants and animals that live in the ocean and their interactions. We will also be studying some physical aspects of the ocean, which all life has to deal with. This course will be very detailed in some aspects, but have a very ecological approach that will emphasize the big picture and relationships between all organisms and how they are suited to live their habitats. This will be much more useful than memorizing long lists of animal names and taxonomy.

Throughout the year we will be studying the oceans by **ecosystems**. For example, the 1st ecosystem will be the Antarctic ecosystem, which will include currents, plankton, and penguins. We will typically take field trips to places like the Birch aquarium and Sea World. I also like to take a snorkeling trip as well. All field trips are optional.

This course also has **dissections**, fresh and preserved animals are used in the instructional program. The activities associated with these are considered very important to the curriculum. Students with strong moral objections may be excused from participation in such activities and will be given alternate assignments. Some animals dissected are sharks, fish, sea stars, etc.

Expectations and Goals

Everything we will be learning in this class affects us directly or indirectly, whether you think so or not. My goal is to have you see these connections, see why things work the way they do, and that there are no coincidences. I also want to instill successful habits, such as: being on time and turning in work complete and on time. I expect all students to be present every day and if they are not to make up the work.

Responsibility is Key! You have a choice. You will be held accountable for your choices/ actions. Everyone makes mistakes, but how you deal with it and learn from them is the learning process.

Professionalism: doing your best work even when you don't feel like it.

Estimated Homework

Marine biology typically does not have much homework. A reasonable amount of time is given in class to work on labs and other assigned work to be turned in. If a student needs more time than it becomes homework and is due at the beginning of the next class period.

This Class Is Best For...

Those students who have an interest in learning about the ocean, all the life in it and their interactions. This is a challenging class because there are many new topics specific to this class, BUT the class is not rigorous in regards to study time outside of class. It does cover most topics in a college marine biology class, but just not as fast. Many students will take this class along with other AP classes (including AP Biology). This class is good for those who want another science class, but do not want to take an AP science course or want it as an elective. This class is also ideal for those students who have not had a lot of success in science and need a life science to graduate.

Course Materials

Required Materials

Textbook used: Marine Biology; 6th edition. Castro and Huber

Most of the information is presented from outside resources, such as the Marine Biology Coloring Book and articles that are relatively current.

If you would like to see some of the work and informational resources please see the TPHS marine biology website below:

<https://sites.google.com/a/sduhsd.net/mr-eddingfield/marine-biology>