

Honors Marine Ecology Syllabus

B. Carl Rush, Green Hope High School

Course Description

Marine Ecology focuses on the interrelationships among marine organisms and the physical, chemical, geological, and biological factors in their environment. The importance of the marine environment will be stressed along with coastal processes in NC.

Prerequisites

Prior to enrollment, Marine Ecology students should have successfully completed Biology and either Earth Science or AP Environmental Science. Students will also be expected to know common algebraic math skills.

Grading Policy

Quarter grades are issued with the following criteria: Tests 60%, Labs 20%, Classwork/Notebook 10%, Projects 8%, Smart Lunch 2%. The final exam will count 20% of the final course grade. In accordance with Wake County Public Schools, the following grading scale is used: A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F = less than 60. Grades are calculated according to weighted average and I will not override those calculations (ie. grades will not be “bumped”). **All late work is graded at 50% of the original earned grade.** Late work is accepted until an announced date prior to the end of each interim period.

AODM & Tutorials

An Additional Opportunity to Demonstrate Mastery (AODM) is available for each unit and may be completed **once per quarter**. Students may receive a maximum of five points towards their lowest exam grade, with no final score exceeding a 100%. The AODM must be submitted to www.turnitin.com, a plagiarism checking website, before an announced date prior to the end of quarter. As per GHHS policy, students must complete **two tutorials per quarter**. Students are responsible for signing the tutorial book to obtain credit. I am available for tutorials every day before school, after school and during lunch in room 316.

Attendance

Students with excused absences are responsible for completing any missed work within two days for each day absent. For example, a student absent two days must turn in all make-up work within four school days of their return. Students with three unexcused tardies will receive a detention and an administrative referral. Detentions are served after school from 3 to 3:30 p.m. on a Tuesday or Wednesday. It is the responsibility of the student to arrange for transportation home at the conclusion of the served detention. If tardiness becomes chronic, administrative action will occur. **Four tardies will also count as one absence when calculating senior exemptions for the final exam.** Seniors may be exempt from the final exam if they have an A average with three absences (or less), a B average with two absences (or less) or a C average with one absence (or less). All absences must be excused.

Online Resources

Class announcements, lecture notes, a notebook checklist and much more are available to all students and parents at www.sciencrush.net. Daily reminders are available through twitter by following [@sciencrush](https://twitter.com/sciencrush). Grades are posted for students and parents through Home Base. Email (brush@wcpss.net) is the most efficient form of communication for any questions or concerns.

Green Hope Honor Code

Green Hope High School is a school community that is committed to integrity and excellence in academics and in personal accountability. Because of this commitment, it is imperative that all members of the Green Hope High School community embody personal honor, personal integrity, and personal responsibility. Therefore, it is expected that each person at Green Hope High School will uphold the honor code. Details of the Green Hope High School Honor Code and specific consequences of infractions can be found on the Green Hope website and in the student handbook.

Materials Needed

Three-ring binder: students are required to maintain a notebook, in chronological order, throughout the course. This notebook may contain only science or be a section in a larger binder with other classes. Students also need lined paper, graph paper, black or blue pen, pencil, colored pencils, and a calculator.

One Dissection is performed during the semester (fish)

Dissection is one of many instructional methods that may be used in laboratory science courses. Students/parents/guardians may request alternatives to dissection from the teacher. Alternatives may include such materials as videos of dissections, virtual dissection simulations, models, charts, and diagrams to complete for full credit in lieu of participating in the classroom dissection activity.

Course Outline

1 st Quarter	Introduction to the Marine Environment Physical & Chemical Oceanography Benthos & Meiofauna	Prehistoric Oceans Plankton Oceanic Nekton Part One: The Fishes
2 nd Quarter	Oceanic Nekton Part Two: The Tetrapods Tropical Communities & Symbiotic Relationships Human Impact on the Sea	The Deep Sea Intertidal Ecology, Estuaries & Salt Marshes