

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 have common algebraic math skills.

Grading Policy & Attendance

Quarter grades are issued with the following criteria: Tests 35%, Labs 35%, Projects 30%. The final exam will count 20% of the final course grade or as dictated by 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. **All late work is graded at 50% of the original earned grade.**

Attendance will be documented as per WCPSS policy.

Online Resources

Class announcements, lecture notes, a notebook checklist and much more are available to all students and parents at www.sciencrush.net. Check the website daily to get the latest updates and due dates. Daily reminders are available through twitter by following [@sciencrush](https://twitter.com/sciencrush). Grades are posted for students and parents through PowerSchools. Email (brush@wcpss.net) is the most efficient form of communication for any questions or concerns. All GH and WCPSS behavior policies apply to virtual learning.

SMART Lunch

Each teacher is available to meet with students during SMART Lunch to assist with make-up work and/or provide extra help. Each student is expected to participate in at least four SMART Lunch sessions per quarter. Students who attend two SMART Lunch sessions prior to interims and two SMART Lunch sessions after interims will receive a 100 lab grade.

Field Experiences & Dissection (for blended learning upon return to the building)

Marine Ecology has a field component, and students are required to participate in field experiences. Students will need to dress for the weather and protect themselves from insects. A cabinet for “stream boots” is provided in the classroom. For virtual learning, students may be asked to go outside to investigate nature. Students may get a little hot, a little cold, or a little wet, all in the name of science!

Dissection is one of many instructional methods that may be used in laboratory science courses. Students may request alternatives to dissection from the teacher. Alternatives may be completed for full credit.

Course Outline

1st Quarter

Oceanography and Prehistoric Oceans

Plankton & Benthos

2nd Quarter

Oceanic Nekton Part One: Fishes and Part Two: Tetrapods

The Deep Sea, Tropical Communities and Intertidal Ecology

Human Impact on the Sea (untested)