

Tropical Marine Ecology, MAR 388

Winter session, Jan 4-20, 2012, Discovery Bay Marine Lab, Jamaica

http://www.msrc.sunysb.edu/~warren/web_mar388/mar388.html

Instructors: Professors Bradley J. Peterson and Joseph D. Warren, Stony Brook University

Course Description: This travel course familiarizes students with the organisms (invertebrates, fishes and algae) and habitats (coral reefs, sea grass meadows and mangrove forests) within tropical marine coral reef ecosystems. The course consists of formal lectures, demonstrations and instructor-led field trips and involves snorkeling, SCUBA diving, reefwalking and underwater photography. Students will develop individual research projects requiring field observations and collecting data and will write a research proposal and final research papers.

Prerequisites: None

4 credits

Course Evaluation: Course grades will be based on written and practical exams as well as a student research project (proposal, progress reports, final paper and presentation).

Day-by-day schedule: The first portion of the course will consist of several course lectures each day as well as field work that will familiarize students with the environment. Students will spend most of their time in the latter half of the course conducting their research projects.

DIVING:

All participants must bring a mask, snorkel, and fins. If you do not bring a wetsuit (shorty or full, but not dive-skin), you will be required to rent a dive floatie when you snorkel (~ \$4/day). Every student in the course will snorkel as part of the course. **You need to know how to swim.**

Optionally: certified students can SCUBA dive as part of the course. (dive costs are extra)
Any student diving needs to have DAN-insurance.

Students need to be certified divers which can be done several ways:

1. Certified before you take course (must have dive card in hand).
2. Take PADI courses prior, complete open-water dives at DBML lab (additional costs)
3. Take entire PADI course DBML (additional costs).

All divers must bring their own BC and regulator. Limited amount of gear may be able to be rented from dive lab.

PASSPORTS: **Everyone needs passports.**

Contact IAP for more information (x2-7030). You should apply NOW as there can be significant delays in the process. If you are unsure you will go on this trip, get a passport, it's good for 10 years.

Costs:

Financial aid is not available, but personal bank loans are, see the Financial aid office for details.

Approximate costs will be as follows:

<u>Estimated cost per student, in-state:</u>	<u>Estimated cost per student, out-state:</u>
\$ 880.00 Tuition (4 credits)	\$ 2452.00 Tuition (4 credits)
\$ 7.50 College Fee	\$ 7.50 College Fee
\$ 2,750.00 Program fee*	\$ 2,750.00 Program fee*
\$ 200.00 IAP Admin Fee	\$ 200.00 IAP Admin Fee
\$ 300.00 - \$600 Airfare	\$ 300 - \$600 Airfare
Total: \$ 4,137 - \$4,437	Total \$ 5,700 - \$6,000

* includes international medical insurance through IAP

* Program Fee increases by \$300 if we have not received email confirmation of airfare by noon, tues, Nov 22rd.

To Sign Up for the Course:

1. Provide the following information to instructors by email.

Name, Email, Phone:

Major/Year

Certainty In Going (0-100%)

NY or out-of-state resident.

Diving Status [certified diver, want to become certified diver, snorkeler]

2. Obtain application from IAP (<http://www.sunysb.edu/studyabroad/application.html>), fill out and return to IAP no later than Nov 1st (by noon).

3. Receive acceptance letter from IAP.

4. Fill out remaining IAP forms and return to IAP.

5-7. Submit \$200 deposit to Bursar.

Register for MAR 388

Book plane ticket [once we have sent you the flight information – do not book your ticket without speaking to us first], send confirmation email to

bradley.peterson@stonybrook.edu

(must be done by noon, Friday, Nov 18th, otherwise program fee increases by \$300)

8. Pay balance of program fees to SBU by (approximately) finals week or be 'deregistered'

Other:

A cafeteria will be always open and will serve three (excellent) meals a day. Vegetarian meals are available. Trips will be made to nearby locations such as Dunn's River Falls, Grotto Caves, a botanical garden or the city of Ocho Rios.