Coral Reef Ecology
Biology 253

Dr. D. H. Kesler

DAY	DATE	TOPIC	REQUIRED READING
Wednesday	**January** 12	**Introduction**	Alevizon[1[1]], Chap 1&2 Davidson[2[2]], Chap 1&2
Monday	17	Martin Luther King Day – no class	
Monday	24	Coral Biology	Davidson, Chap 3-7
Monday	31	Coral ID lab	
Monday	**February** 7	Reef Structure	
Monday	14	Hurricanes – Rainforests and Coral Reefs	Lugo et al. (2000)[3[7]]
Monday	21	Coral Diseases	
Monday	28	**Midterm Exam – Journals Due**	
Monday	**March** 14	Fishes and Fish Behavior	Alevizon, Chaps 3-6 Davidson, Chaps 8&9
Monday	21	Carbon Chemistry	
Monday	28	Invertebrates	Davidson, Part II
Monday	**April** 4	Algae	
Monday	11	Mangroves	Alevizon, Chap 7
Monday	25	Dolphin Biology	
Friday	**May** 6 – 8:30	**Final examination**	

Objectives

The objectives of Biology 253, Coral Reef Ecology, are to:

- introduce students to the faunal and floral components of coral reef ecosystems
- sensitize students to the plight of these ecosystems
- develop observational skills
- develop writing skills through journaling
- prepare for the two-week course in Honduras

Expectations

1[1] Alevizon, W.S. 1994. Pices Guide to Caribbean Reef Ecology. Gulf Publishing Company

2[2] Davidson, O.G. 1998. The Enchanted Braid. John Wiley & Sons.

3[7] Lugo, A.E., S.R. Caroline, and S.W. Nixon. 2000. Hurricanes, Coral Reefs and Rainforests: Resistance, Ruin and Recovery in the Caribbean. *Ambio* 29: 106-114. **pdf available on WebCT**

I expect all students in this course to have a genuine interest in biological systems. Without this endogenous interest students will have a difficult time successfully fulfilling the requirements of this course. Given that this course awards upper-level biology credit, I expect that students will be involved in the processes of putting names to organisms, reading and evaluating primary literature, developing their observation and writing skills, and making the most out of this opportunity that they can.

Grading

WebCT quizzes	80 points
Lab Exercises	30 points
Midterm Exam	50 points
Journals	40 points
Final Exam	50 points
Total	250 points

Grades will be awarded on the following scale:

100-91%	A
91-90%	A-
90-89%	B+
89-81%	B
81-80%	B-
80-79%	C+
79-71%	C
etc.	

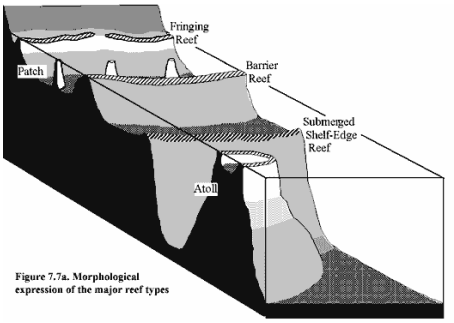

Figure 7.7a. Morphological expression of the major reef types