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BIOL 254-01, Coral Reef Ecology, Spring 2008

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Biology 254 - 2008 Schedule for Rhodes Group

		Activity	
Saturday	May 31		Meet at TACA desk at 12:00 NOON (Houston Bush – IAH airport) Leave Houston 3:15PM - Arrive Roatan 4:50 PM nite Orientation- Dock walk
Sunday	June 1	AM PM nite	Underwater museum & 2 snorkels – inside/outside reef at Bailey Key 2 snorkels – inside and outside reef at Anthony Key Group reports, Presentations, Introduction to 20 Questions
Monday	2	AM PM nite	Early equipment rental, checkout dive, Dive Lunch at Osgood Key – presentations- snorkel Dive on way back to AKR – 20 questions in Journal Group reports, Turn in 20 questions discussion – Catch land crabs
Tuesday	3	AM PM nite	Water quality monitoring orientation - Dive Dive – water quality monitoring - Chamber tour Night snorkel –dinner - Reduce data
Wednesday	4	AM PM nite	Oakridge trip, Hydroponics, Mangrove “tour”, presentations Lunch in Field (Camp Bay Beach) - presentations Fiesta
Thursday	5	AM PM nite	Fish lecture by Jennifer – fish survey dive Dive – reduce fish survey data Dive – dinner -
Friday	6	AM PM nite	Jennifer research lecture – reef transect dive Crab osmoregulation and field salinity sampling lab Reduce reef survey and crab lab data
Saturday	7	AM PM nite	Man-o-war Key, snorkel in mangroves, collect <i>Cassiopeia</i> , Dive Journals due , Dolphin swim Design <i>Cassiopeia</i> experiment - Dock walk
Sunday	8	AM PM nite	Sandy Bay Interview and <i>Cassiopeia</i> experiment <i>Cassiopeia</i> experiment and Sandy Bay Interview Midterm exam
Monday	9	AM PM nite	Dive Lunch at Osgood Key, Dive on way back to AKR Snorkel patch reef observation (back at AKR) dinner - Snorkel patch reef observation
Tuesday	10	AM PM nite	Sponge Orientation - Dive - sponge morphology in preserve Dive - sponge morphology outside preserve - Chamber tour 4:30 Turtle Lecture Dive –dinner - Reduce data
Wednesday	11	AM PM nite	Wreck dive Rocky Intertidal to Flowers Bay and Bus to Coxen Hole/West End Fiesta
Thursday	12	AM PM nite	Trip to Barbarette & dives Lunch in Field Return from Barbarette study for exam
Friday	13	AM PM nite	Exam - Journals due 9:00 am – Tour school and Ms. Peggy’s clinic Museum worksheet, Evaluations, Jennifer’s Slide Show clean up! Commencement Ceromonies
Saturday	14	AM	Travel back to Houston – arrive 2:05 PM TACA flight 430L

Important Times – unless otherwise specified

Breakfast – 7:00 AM

Boat Leaves – 9:00 AM

Lunch – 12:00 Noon

Boat Leaves – 2:00 PM

Night Dives Boat Leaves – 6:00 PM

Dinner – 7:00 PM

Lab – 8:30 PM

Grading

Grades are based on a total of 250 points possible.

			Journal	Journal		
	midterm	final	1	2	Presentation	Lab/Field Work
	50.0	100.0	20	20	10	50

Exams

The midterm and final exams are closed-book exams. Their format is multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer, essay, and species identification. The final exam is cumulative for the course.

Journal

Journal entries are evaluated on your engagement with the material. Simply travel logs, e.g., we ate this, we went here, we did this, will not receive full credit. Instead, you are expected to think synthetically about your experiences and the material covered in the course. Entries are also expected to show some personal involvement. For example, what have been the greatest challenges? What were your first impressions of Coxenhole? How have you changed from your experiences? What will you remember most? What suggestions can you offer for course improvement? Entries are to be made daily, should consist of at least two pages, and journals are evaluated at midterm and at the course's end. You are expected to address comments made by the professors in your journal.

Presentation

Your species presentation should take about 10 minutes. PowerPoint presentations may not be possible, so be prepared to give yours "on the fly", e.g., at a lunch stop. Your presentation should acquaint the listeners with important natural history of your organism and its role in the reef system. Key characteristics in how to recognize your species are also important.

Field/Lab

While in the field, you are expected to point out your species to your colleagues. After all, you are the expert on your organism. Since we will be doing lab and field work as a group, your conscientious participation is important to the class. You will be observed and part of your grade will be based on this criterion.

Since we will be engaged in potentially hazardous situations, you need to pay attention to instructions. If you are unclear as to what these instructions are, you need to ask, and you need to follow these instructions carefully. For example, on a night dive if we say the dive is 40 minutes long, you need to be sure your dive is not 50 minutes. You are also expected to be punctual. If we say the boat leaves at 5:30 PM, this means you must be on the dock and ready to go at 5:30 PM. Tardiness will not be tolerated.

Social Responsibility

It is your responsibility to understand and comply with the codes of conduct, behaving in a manner that is respectful of the rights and safety of others.

All those who participate in the program are over 18 and thus are legal adults. Neither the administrators nor the faculty of the program can act as substitute parents, for reasons primarily legal but also practical. You are responsible for your own conduct and any consequences, and you will be held responsible in the event of problems.

An important example relates to the consumption of alcohol. We encourage you to consider abstaining from alcohol consumption while in Honduras. The legal age for the purchase and consumption of alcohol in Honduras is 18, and American law cannot be enforced overseas by the administration of the program. It is most important that you and your family realize, therefore, that should you choose to consume alcohol it is your own responsibility to act in a safe, healthy, and mature manner. You will be sent home immediately, at the instructor's discretion, if your behavior jeopardizes your or other students' safety or the Coral Reef Program, and the matter will be handled by the Rhodes Dean of Students Office.