Marine Biology 650:
Seminar in Marine Biology - Marine Policy and Conservation - Spring 2021

Instructors:
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Class Meets: Grice 101, Wednesdays: 5:00 - 6:30 pm
Office Hours: By appointment.

Text: No text. Important references will be provided to the class.

Description:
An introduction to current issues in marine policy and conservation. This class will consist of a series of presentations by experts in the field, followed by a class discussion on the topic at hand. The structure of the classes will vary and may include panel discussions, class discussions, and debates. Although covered topics and principles are widely applicable, emphasis will be on issues relevant to the US, and in particular the SE region.

Goals:
Become familiar with various current marine policy and conservation issues in the SE region. Learn about, discuss, analyze, and report on various aspects of marine policy and conservation, such as issues involving research, management, policy making, stakeholder interests, and political processes.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Upon completion of this course the students will have obtained basic knowledge of key marine policy and conservation principles and various current marine policy and conservation related issues in the southeastern US (e.g. fisheries management, role of NGO’s, invasive species, marine protected areas, coastal development, and endangered species). The knowledge should enable the students to understand and evaluate marine policy and conservation issues, and have an understanding of significant concerns, stakeholder’s interests, and processes.

Requirements:
Prepare for and attend class. Actively participate in discussions and debates. Prepare and submit written analyses on the topics discussed in class each week (due each Friday at 5pm). Attend at least one relevant public hearing or meeting (instructors prior approval required) and write a critical analysis of this meeting prior to April 19 at 5pm. Students will present an oral presentation on a topic specifically related to the one or more of the issues discussed in class and submit a 1-page summary of the presentation’s topic at time of their presentation. Further details of reports, presentation topics, and a schedule of appropriate public meetings will be discussed in class.

Resources:
Reading materials will be distributed by e-mail or as hand-outs in class as needed.

Evaluation:
Class participation 50%
Written reports and assignments 35%
Oral presentation 15%

Electronic devices
Allowable electronic devices such as computers to take notes will be discussed in class. Note that lectures cannot be recorded or re-broadcasted in any form.
Disabilities accommodations
If there is a student in the class who has a documented disability and has been approved to receive accommodations through the Center for Disability Services / SNAP, arrangements will be made to accommodate that student. The student should contact the instructors prior to the start of the first class to discuss these accommodations.

Honor Code
Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when identified, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved. Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive a XF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. Students are encouraged to read the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the Student Handbook at: http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php

Course Schedule:
Speakers and topics for the classes will be announced as soon as they become available. Students are encouraged to suggest both topics and presenters.

Tentative class schedule (speakers and topics subject to change):

1. January 13 Course Introduction
2. January 20 Marine Policy and Conservation - General principles
3. January 27 Peter Kingsley-Smith – Invasive species
4. February 3 Chris Pickens – Working as a Knauss Fellow on Mar. Pol. in DC
5. February 10 TBA
6. February 17 TBA
7. February 24 US Fisheries governance
8. March 3 TBA
9. March 10 TBA
10. March 17 TBA
11. March 24 TBA
12. April 7 Student presentations
13. April 14 Student presentations

Tentative topics/Speakers:
Marine Protected Areas, Marine Fisheries Governance Citizen Science, US Coast Guard, National Park Service, NGO’s, Marine Fisheries Management.

NOTE: No late assignments accepted - No exceptions!

Student presentation details will be discussed in class.
Potential speakers
Peter Kingsley-Smith (Invasive Species)
Tyler Hassig (Working on Marine Conservation in the Philippines)
Anna Toline (Nat. Park Service)
Lora Clark (PEW)
Amber VonHarten (Sustainable Fisheries Partnership)
George Sedberry (MPAs)
Julia Byrd (SAFMC Citizen Science)
John Carmichael (SAMF and SEDAR)
Mary Conley (TNC)
Lt. James Bruce (Coast Guard)