

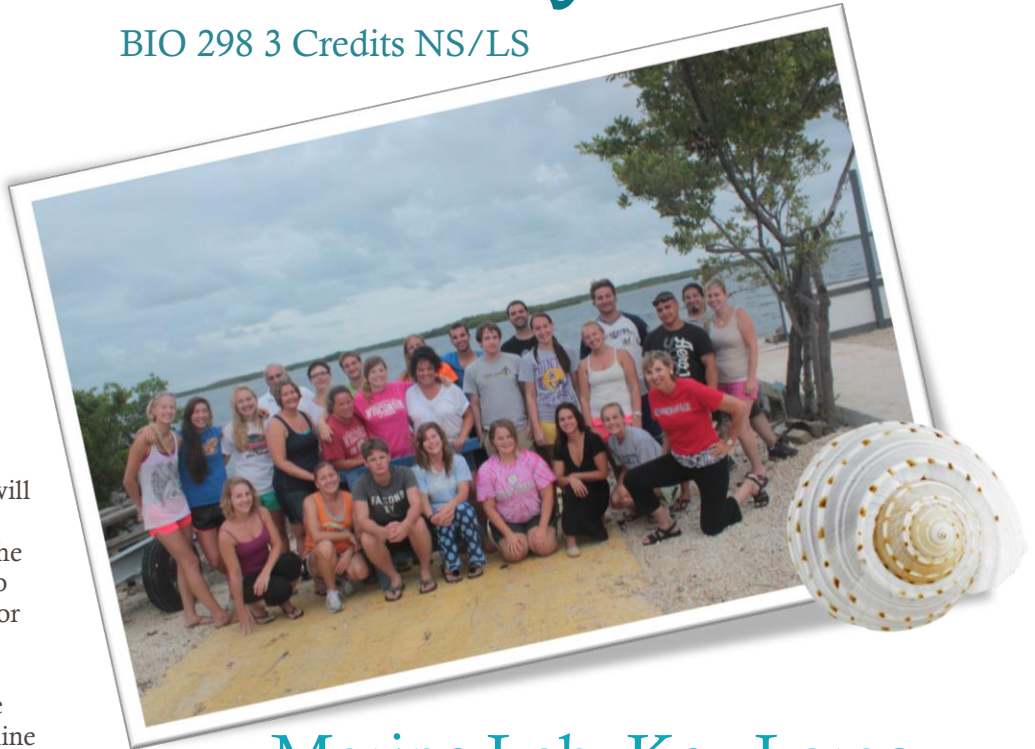
Biology of the Florida Keys

BIO 298 3 Credits NS/LS

The Course

BIO 298, Biology of the Florida Keys, is snorkel-based course that will introduce students to the life that inhabits the marine ecosystems of the Florida Keys. Students will travel to Marine Lab in Key Largo Florida for 7 very full days of snorkeling, field trips, lab activities, fieldwork and discussions. Prior to heading to the Keys, students will complete an online orientation and introduction to the Florida Keys assignment and attend a face-to-face orientation to meet the other participants and learn about Sea Turtle Biology. After returning from the trip, students will complete and submit their final lab notebook and assignments for grading.

-“The best ‘vacation’ I have ever been on!”



Marine Lab, Key Largo

Marine Lab is an educational facility located in Key Largo Florida. Marine Lab hosts groups of students ranging from elementary school students to college and adult student groups year round. Marine Lab is located on the Atlantic Ocean side of Key Largo on Largo Sound. For more information on Marine Lab’s facilities please visit: <http://www.marinelab.org/>.



3 Main Areas of Focus

Mangroves

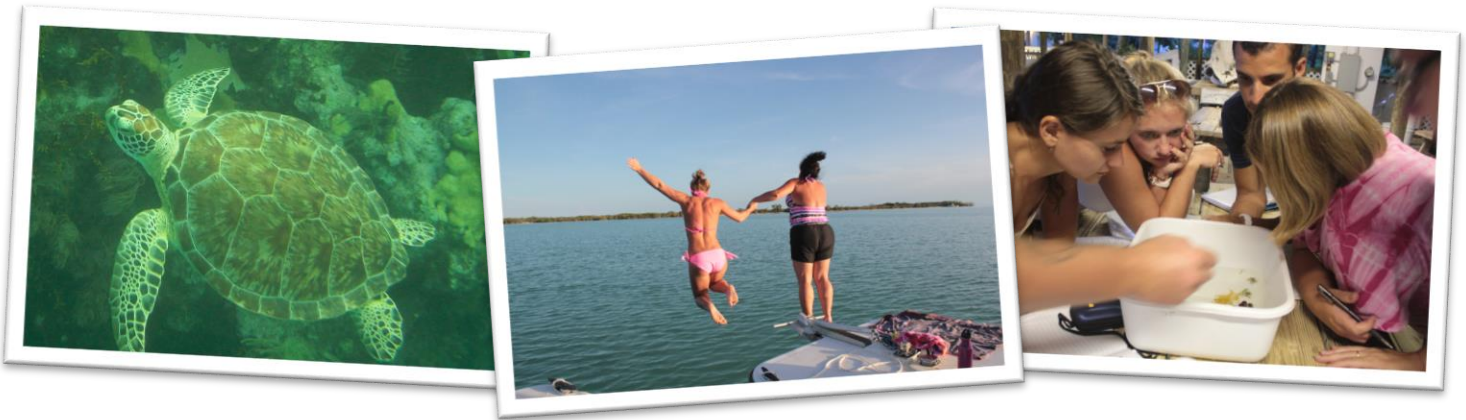
Learn about and snorkel in these trees that grow along the coastline of the keys.

Sea Grasses

You will have the chance to explore this important nursery area for many species.

Coral Reef

Swim with parrotfish, sea fans, jellyfish and much more at several reef locations.



Why Should I Take This Course?

What makes this course different from a traditional college course?

This course will give you an amazing opportunity to learn about the unique environment of southern Florida. You will get to learn about the interactions between the mangroves, sea grasses and coral reef first hand each day. You will learn how to identify reef fish and discuss their varied adaptations and then immediately depart for the coral reef to practice your new identification skills. Students will also get to conduct ongoing investigations and data sampling to learn about water quality in the area.

What does the course price include?

The course cost includes airfare from Milwaukee to Florida, lodging, most meals, snorkel gear rental, all field trips and activities and all UW-Fond du lac tuition/fees.

What does a typical day consist of?

Each day begins with an early breakfast followed by a morning snorkel trip. After returning, students have lunch and then depart on an afternoon snorkel. After returning, there is time to rinse off and change before dinner. The evenings typically consist of a lab and discussion/lecture and sometimes a night boat excursion. Students are busy from 8AM-10PM each day with activities.



Who is your Instructor?

Dr. Richard Hein
Biology Professor

Rick Hein earned his B.A. from Lawrence University and Ph.D. from the University of Rhode Island, Graduate School of Oceanography. He is a coral reef ecologist who specializes in the behavior and ecology of coral reef fish. He has been teaching and working with students on various research projects at the college level for 17 years, 14 of them at UW-Manitowoc. Rick has greatly enjoyed working with many students on the coral reefs of Belize and the Florida Keys. When not teaching, Rick loves spending time with his wife, Amy, and high school kids Nick and Eleni, brewing, and keeping poison dart frogs.

What will we do?

Snorkeling Field Trips

Students are fitted with a mask, fin and snorkel and are then introduced to snorkeling on the first day at Marine Lab. Students then try out their gear in the lagoon to practice the 3-H position, free diving and clearing your mask and snorkel. Most days consist of morning and afternoon snorkels in the various habitats of the Keys.



Sea Turtle Hospital

During the “free day” we will travel to the Turtle Hospital in Marathon and tour the hospital to learn about what they do to help stranded sea turtles. We will get to meet all of the current “patients” and the long term “residents”. It is also hatchling time in Florida so we may also get to see some baby turtles too!

Labs and Field Work

Marine Lab has two fully equipped lab rooms where students complete lab investigations including culturing *Cassiopeia* jellyfish, identification and diversity of marine invertebrates and invertebrate behavior. Students also complete fieldwork at each dive location collecting samples and completing water quality testing.



Discussions and Lecture

Prior to each field experience, students have small and large group discussions about the environment they will be visiting. Lectures include topics from the formation of the Florida Keys and the history of the area to reef fish identification and coral reef biology. The importance of human impact on the local ecosystem is a focal point of each discussion.

Don't Miss the Boat!

The number of participants is limited and the course will fill quickly! If you have questions about the course content or requirements please contact Dr. Richard Hein, Richard.hein@uwc.edu.



To register for the course, please contact the Continuing Education Department

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Manitowoc, WI 54220
(920) 683-4702
suzanne.lawrence@uwc.edu

Course Dates Summer 2018

August 8th-14th 2018

- Current High School Juniors /Seniors Course for College Credit
- Current College Students (also open to students from other colleges) and Community Non-credit Participants

2018 Course Pricing

- \$2150-includes all travel, lodging, meals (except two while exploring Key West), tuition and fees
- \$400 non-refundable deposit due at time of application
- Full time students may be eligible for financial aid

