

Welcome to Bio 27, Biology of Marine Mammals!

Lecture: Tuesday and Thursday 3:00-5:00 room 696 Petaluma Campus

Instructor: Kirsten Swinstrom, Ph.D.

Office: Petaluma Campus 675 Call Hall; 778-3962

email: kswinstrom@santarosa.edu

homepage: <https://profiles.santarosa.edu/kirsten-swinstrom>

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 5:00-5:30; Wednesday 2-6:00 PM.

Course content:

In this class we will learn about all aspects of the biology, ecology, and evolution of marine mammals such as seals, sea lions, dolphins and whales. Topics include: feeding, diving, communication, social behavior and more. We will learn about all the different groups, but will give special attention to species found near us.

Important Dates:

September 10, 2017 Last day to add the class without instructor signature

September 10, 2017 Last day to drop a class without a W symbol

October 1, 2017 Last day to opt for pass/no pass instead of grade

November 19, 2017 Last day to drop a class with a W symbol

Texts: There are no required texts for the class, you will be required to read a number of handouts and research articles that I will provide. However, if you prefer to have a text at home for reference, here are some useful choices:

National Audubon Society: *Guide to Marine Mammals of the World*

ECM Parsons: *An Introduction to Marine Mammal Biology and Conservation*

Reynolds and Rommel: *Biology of Marine Mammals*

There are also some topic specific books (such as physiology or conservation) available in our library.

Field Trips: There are some places nearby, and some a little further away, where we can go to see marine mammals in person. Based on student interest and availability we will go visit some of these locations together.

Grading: Your grade will be based on your total number of points as compared to the total number of points available for the entire semester. The following is an approximate break down of the points:

	<u>Each</u>	<u>Total</u>
3 Lecture Exams	100	300
Clicker questions/In class assignments	1	100
Research Poster	100	100
Peer Review Assignment	20	20
Bones lab	20	20
Comprehensive Final Exam	150	150
Total		~690 points

I grade on a straight scale: A = 90-100%; B = 80-89%; C = 70-79%; D = 60-69%; F = <60%

iClickers: I will provide you with an iclicker and you will earn points by answering clicker questions during lecture. You will earn half of these points for participation and the other half for having the correct answer. I also use this for attendance. **You cannot make up clicker points if you are absent.**

Exams: Exams will typically be a combination of multiple choice questions, short answers and essay questions. You will need a standard Scantron form for every exam. You may make-up an exam only under very extraordinary circumstances. You must contact the instructor with your request before the exam begins. Instructor approval is required.

Research Poster: You will choose a research topic from my list or come up with one yourself (must be approved by instructor before you begin work on it). You will make a research poster to teach your fellow students about your topic. On poster day you will check out posters from your classmates and also answer questions about your own poster. A guide on how to make the poster will be available.

Attendance: If a student misses more than two class sessions, please be aware that on the third absence, s/he may be dropped from the class; however, this is not a guarantee that a student will be dropped. Students who choose not to continue the course are responsible for turning in a drop card to the admissions office or online. Failure to officially drop the course may result in an "F". If you miss work after the deadline to drop and have an acceptable reason (like hospitalization), an "Incomplete" may be more appropriate. When in doubt, ask.

Cheating: I expect students to comply with universal guidelines of academic integrity. This refers to cheating on exams as well as plagiarism (copying the work of others and turning it in as your own). All parties involved in cheating or plagiarism will be given a zero for that assignment and may be suspended from class for two class periods. You may not wear headphones or use or look at any electronic device (including cell phones) during exams; doing so will be deemed cheating and you will receive zero points for the exam and be reported to the Dean. Details of the student code of conduct can be found here: http://www.santarosa.edu/for_students/rules-regulations/scs/section1.shtml

Classroom Etiquette: All students shall comply with the standards of conduct for the college. If a student disrupts the learning environment in any way, s/he will be asked to leave the class for two class meetings and will be subject to further disciplinary action. Please silence your cell phones before coming to class. If you wish to use a laptop to take notes do not use the web or other programs in class. This is disruptive to students around you. If you use your laptop in this way you will lose the option of using your laptop in class.

Emergency Evacuation Plan:

In the event of an emergency during class that requires evacuation of the building, please leave the class immediately, but calmly. We will meet in the parking lot. I will take roll to make sure everyone got out safely so please check in with me immediately. If you are a student with a disability who may need assistance in an evacuation, please see me during my office hours as soon as possible so we can discuss an evacuation plan.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

If you need disability related accommodations for this class, such as a note taker, test taking services, special furniture, use of service animal, etc., please provide the Authorization for Academic Accommodations (AAA letter) from the Disability Resources Department (DRD) to me as soon as possible. You may also speak with me privately during office hours about your accommodations. If you have not received authorization from DRD, it is recommended that you contact them directly (778-2491), as soon as possible to better ensure such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

Tentative Class Schedule

Please note: some topics may be longer or shorter than one lecture, but this is the general order of topics that we will discuss.

Week	Dates	Lecture Topic
1	9/07	Intro to marine mammals and research techniques
2	9/12 & 9/14	Tuesday: No Class Today Thursday: Seals, Sea Lions, and Fur Seals: Meet the Pinipeds!
3	9/19 & 9/21	Pinniped reproduction and social structure
4	9/26 & 9/28	Exam 1 (9/26) Whales and dolphins: Meet the Cetaceans!
5	10/3 & 10/5	Cetacean reproduction and social structure
6	10/10 & 10/12	Cetacean Evolution They're so fluffy! Meet the Sea Otters
7	10/17 & 10/19	Exam 2 (10/17) Sirenians: Manatees, Dugongs, and Sea Cows, vegetarians of the sea
8	10/24 & 10/26	Feeding Ecology
9	10/31 & 11/2	Locomotion and energetics, thermoregulation and diving
10	11/7 & 11/9	Poster Presentations
11	11/14 & 11/16	Exam 3 (11/14) The senses
12	11/21 & 11/23	Conservation issues and solutions for Marine Mammals No class on 11/23, Happy Thanksgiving!
13	11/28 & 11/30	Conservation issues and solutions for Marine Mammals
14	12/05 & 12/07	To Be Announced
15	12/12	Final Exam