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**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**Field Studies in Biogeography**

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**Office Hours:**

**Office Location:** Ahousaht field station

**Contact:**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will cover much about the biogeographical approach to marine studies. Theories and concept of ecological study will be complemented with the study of how data is accurately and consistently collected, all with the aim of answering a research question. We will draw on long-term data sets of the Whale Research Lab as well as more cutting-edge research, specifically in the areas of predator driven system economics, particularly in terms of foraging whale presence; predator-prey interaction and invertebrate community dynamics, and underwater acoustics and the use of sonic processes by marine organisms.

Course material will cover the biology and ecology of whales and their prey and a more general appreciation of marine system productivity in Clayoquot Sound and the wider west coast. Scientific investigation involves detailed data collection and observations, and so students will be able to follow the process through hypothesis building, data collection and analysis, to result presentation and discussion. The objective of this course is to create a foundation of information and skills so the student may integrate material from various sources including scientific literature and field data, to build a critically enhanced body of knowledge on a marine-based research topic.

**KEY THEMES:** Biogeography, habitat niche, marine ecology, field research methods, data collection and analysis, scientific inquiry

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**REQUIRED TEXT(S)**

There is no single text that covers this material, as the course is a general introduction to the topic, and the research topics covering a wide range of material.

**RECOMMENDED TEXT(S)**

Academic research papers will be recommended as core material to work from, with suggestions made throughout the class as to where other useful reading material may be found, often more specific to an individuals' research topic.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course will integrate teaching and learning through both formal learning situations (i.e. lectures and seminars) and field surveys. Concepts and theories of marine ecology and field research methods will be introduced to the group, with reinforcement through data collection, analysis and presentation. Effective analysis and presentation of spatial data will be discussed, with the use of mapping applications demonstrated.

## EVALUATION

Students will complete a research paper on one aspect of the ongoing research of the Whale Research Lab, drawing on previous data as well as that acquired throughout the course. A research paper, outlining a proposed line of inquiry or an analysis of a data stream will be started in the field, and completed in time following the course. Throughout the time in the field students will be encouraged to actively take part in all aspects of fieldwork, which will contribute to their participation mark.

Each student grade will be a sum of the following proportions:

Research Paper	75%
Participation	25%

## GRADING SYSTEM

As per the Academic Calendar:

Grade	Grade point value	Grade scale	Description
<b>A+</b> <b>A</b> <b>A-</b>	9 8 7	90-100% 85-89% 80-84%	<b>Exceptional, outstanding and excellent</b> performance. Normally achieved by a minority of students. These grades indicate a student who is self-initiating, exceeds expectation and has an insightful grasp of the subject matter.
<b>B+</b> <b>B</b> <b>B-</b>	6 5 4	77-79% 73-76% 70-72%	<b>Very good, good and solid</b> performance. Normally achieved by the largest number of students. These grades indicate a good grasp of the subject matter or excellent grasp in one area balanced with satisfactory grasp in the other area.
<b>C+</b> <b>C</b>	3 2	65-69% 60-64%	<b>Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory.</b> These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
<b>D</b>	1	50-59%	<b>Marginal</b> Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.
<b>F</b>	0	0-49%	<b>Unsatisfactory</b> performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements; no supplemental.
<b>N</b>	0	0-49%	Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of term or session; no supplemental.

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## GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT INFO

- Geography Department website: <http://geog.uvic.ca>
  - Undergraduate Advisor: Dr. Phil Wakefield – [geogadvisor@uvic.ca](mailto:geogadvisor@uvic.ca)
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## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

It is every student's responsibility to be aware of the university's policies on academic integrity, including policies on **cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized use of an editor, multiple submission, and aiding others to cheat.**

**Policy on Academic Integrity:** <http://web.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html>

If you have any questions or doubts, talk to me, your course instructor. For more information, see <http://www.uvic.ca/learningandteaching/students/resources/expectations/>.

## ACCESSIBILITY

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a documented disability or health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL as soon as possible <https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/>). The RCSD staff is available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals, and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs, the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

## POSITIVITY AND SAFETY

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

## COURSE EXPERIENCE SURVEY (CES)

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed via MyPage and can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.

## DISCLAIMER

The above policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.