

Fall 2019

Instr: Dr. D. Duffus  
DTB B113a

Geography 303  
Conservation and Ecology of Whales

### Course Objective

In this course we will examine a broad range of information about cetaceans. Basic taxonomy and biology will provide the basis for an exploration into the somewhat controversial ecology of the whales dolphins and porpoises. Their history and current status cannot be understood with reference to the millennia long relationship with humanity that has run the gamut from wholesale slaughter to reverence. Thus, the objective of this single course is to create a foundation of information, and skills, so the student may integrate material from other sources and build a critically enhanced body of knowledge about cetaceans.

### Teaching/Learning Method

In a class of this size, routes of interaction are limited. Lecture periods will usually begin with a short discussion of newsworthy topics from the world of the cetacea. A smattering of guest lectures, should suitable speakers swim by, will break the monotony, and give other perspectives from the field. **The use of cell phones, tablets and laptops is not permitted during lectures.** Lecture notes are the source of material for exams, thus attendance is recommended.

There is no single text that covers this material, as the course is a general introduction to the topic, yet it is at a third year level. Suggestions may be made throughout the class as to where other useful reading material may be found.

### Assessment

Students will be given two exams to define their comprehension of the lecture material.. A midterm exam will cover the fundamental natural science aspects of the course. The final exam is a comprehensive exam that will cover the range of material from the entire course.

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

Mid Term Examination	40%
Final Examination	60%

## Undergraduate Grading

<i>Passing Grades</i>	<i>Description</i>
A+ 90% - 100% A 85% - 89% A- 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+ 77% - 79% B 73% - 76% B- 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.
C+ 65% - 69% C 60% - 64%	<b>Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory.</b> These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
D 50% - 59%	<b>Marginal</b> Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.
F 0% - 49%	<b>Fail</b>