

ANM104 Marine Vertebrates: Sharks, Seabirds, Fish, Turtles and Whales

Course Coordinator: Kathy Townsend (ktownse1@usc.edu.au) **School:** School of Science, Technology and Engineering

2021 | Semester 2

USC Sunshine Coast
USC Moreton Bay

ON CAMPUS

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

Please go to the USC website for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

1. What is this course about?

1.1. Description

The marine vertebrates include all bony fish, sharks, reptiles (turtles, sea snakes and crocodiles), birds (seabirds, shorebirds, raptors, penguins) and mammals (seals, dolphins, whales and dugong) that live in, or on, the ocean. These charismatic animals are of immense public interest and provide focal points for conservation, fisheries and scientific research. This exciting course will introduce you to the identification, evolution, biology and ecology of marine vertebrates, with emphasis on the species of eastern Australia. Your studies will include two days of hands-on field research.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
ON CAMPUS			
Laboratory 1 – Face to face in computer lab	2hrs	Week 8	Once Only
Fieldwork – Face to face	8hrs	Week 7	Once Only
Online – Pre recorded interviews with marine vertebrate experts (Podcast - Chat with Champions)	0.5hrs	Week 3	9 times
Lecture – Face to face lecture	2hrs	Week 1	13 times

1.3. Course Topics

1. Learn to identify the major groups of marine vertebrates (fish, reptiles, birds and mammals);
2. Discover the origins and evolutionary history of the major groups of marine vertebrates;
3. Appreciate the unique adaptations (i.e., body morphology, behaviour, physiology) of marine vertebrates to their environments;
4. Understand global and local threats to marine vertebrates and key issues for their conservation and management;
5. Apply modern techniques for studying marine vertebrates in the wild in a hands-on fashion; and
6. Learn field skills that will help you to answer fundamental questions about marine vertebrate ecology.
7. Be exposed to global experts in the field through on-line, pre-recorded interviews

2. What level is this course?

100 Level (Introductory)

Engaging with discipline knowledge and skills at foundational level, broad application of knowledge and skills in familiar contexts and with support. Limited or no prerequisites. Normally, associated with the first full-time study year of an undergraduate program.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES	GRADUATE QUALITIES
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...
1 Communicate effectively and professionally	Empowered
2 Demonstrate and apply knowledge about the evolution, diversity and ecology of marine vertebrates and key issues for their conservation and management.	Knowledgeable
3 Critically analyse and evaluate the local and global threats to marine fish, reptiles, birds and mammals, and field data to investigate basic ecology of marine vertebrates.	Sustainability-focussed

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [USC Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”.

5.1. Pre-requisites

Enrolled in Program SC012, ED112, UC 103, ED312, ED315, SB303, SC316 or SC320

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Not applicable

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1. Grading Scale

Standard Grading (GRD)

High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL).

6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

Task 1 quizzes will offer ongoing formative feedback on progress. Computer workshops in week 10 are designed for focused formative feedback and development of Task 2, Field Course Report.

6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Quiz/zes	Individual	0%	20 multiple choice questions	Throughout teaching period (refer to Format)	Online Test (Quiz)
All	2	Report	Individual	50%	Max 2000 +/- 10% words	Week 11	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3	Examination - Centrally Scheduled	Individual	50%	2 hr (1000 words)	Exam Period	Online Test (Quiz)

All - Assessment Task 1: Kahoot quiz

GOAL:	Demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the ecology, biology and diversity of marine vertebrates.	
PRODUCT:	Quiz/zes	
FORMAT:	You will individually participate in a game show-like online quiz consisting of 20 multiple choice questions that reviews the key points from the previous week's lecture. This will be held within the normal weekly lecture time slot.	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Demonstrate and communicate knowledge of the diversity and ecology of marine vertebrates; 1 2
	2	Apply knowledge from lectures and readings to solve unseen problems. 1 2
	3	Assessment criteria are mapped to the course learning outcomes. 1 2

All - Assessment Task 2: Field Course Report

GOAL:	Demonstrate knowledge and basic analytical skills in the scientific investigation of marine vertebrates and of key issues for their conservation and management.	
PRODUCT:	Report	
FORMAT:	You will compile a short (max. 2000 ± 10% words) report using the template provided (which follows the format of a standard scientific paper) to test ecological hypotheses by analyzing data collected during the field course.	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Collect and analyse data to answer a scientific question pertaining to the ecology and conservation of marine vertebrates 1 2 3
	2	Interpret and contextualise findings in the light of available scientific literature regarding the biology of the selected animal, the threats it faces, and the tools available for its conservation 1 2 3
	3	Communicate your understanding in a professional and scientific manner. 1 2 3

All - Assessment Task 3: End-of-semester Examination, 50%

GOAL:	Demonstrate your understanding of and ability to communicate knowledge regarding marine vertebrates.									
PRODUCT:	Examination - Centrally Scheduled									
FORMAT:	A two (2) hour written examination, comprising of multi-choice questions. The questions will be based mainly on the material covered in the theory component of the course (i.e., lectures), supplemented with material presented during the field exercises, and expert interviews.									
CRITERIA:	<table border="1"><thead><tr><th>No.</th><th></th><th>Learning Outcome assessed</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1</td><td>Demonstrate and communicate knowledge of the diversity and ecology of marine vertebrates</td><td>1 2</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>Apply knowledge from lectures and readings to solve unseen problems.</td><td>1 2</td></tr></tbody></table>	No.		Learning Outcome assessed	1	Demonstrate and communicate knowledge of the diversity and ecology of marine vertebrates	1 2	2	Apply knowledge from lectures and readings to solve unseen problems.	1 2
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7. Directed study hours

A 12-unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Directed study hours may vary by location. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note: Course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Blackboard site– Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

There are no required/recommended resources for this course.

8.2. Specific requirements

You will be required to undertake field studies during this course. When conducting fieldwork you will need to wear covered footwear, hat, long-sleeved shirt and long trousers for field safety. Accommodation and travel costs will be covered. Details of management and costs for food will be set out at the beginning of the semester. Discuss any financial hardship that might be associated with the field studies with the Course Coordinator.

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Risk assessments have been performed for all field activities and low to moderate levels of health and safety risk exists. Moderate risks may include working in an Australian bush setting, working with people, working outside normal office hours for example. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online induction training for students](#), and following the instructions of the University staff.

10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

10.1. Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Blackboard, are electronically checked through SafeAssign. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work that SafeAssign has access to.

10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%

The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks may be penalised at the following maximum rate:

- 5% (of the assessment task's identified value) per day for the first two days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.

- 10% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the third day - 20% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the fourth day and subsequent days up to and including seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.

- A result of zero is awarded for an assessment task submitted after seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task. Weekdays and weekends are included in the calculation of days late. To request an extension you must contact your course coordinator to negotiate an outcome.

10.4. Study help

For help with course-specific advice, for example what information to include in your assessment, you should first contact your tutor, then your course coordinator, if needed.

If you require additional assistance, the Learning Advisers are trained professionals who are ready to help you develop a wide range of academic skills. Visit the [Learning Advisers](#) web page for more information, or contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au.

10.5. Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing provide free and confidential counselling on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters, to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your academic success.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 1226.

10.6. AccessAbility Services

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, learning disorder mental health issue, , injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability or who is considered frail and aged, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide access to appropriate reasonable adjustments and practical advice about the support and facilities available to you throughout the University.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email AccessAbility@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 2890.

10.7. Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Administration of Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Academic Misconduct
- Students with a Disability

Visit the USC website: <http://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.8. General Enquiries

In person:

- **USC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **USC Moreton Bay** - Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **USC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- **USC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **USC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- **USC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au