MAR

Marine Sciences

MAR 101 - E: Long Island Sound: Science and Use
An introduction to one of the region’s most important coastal marine environments - Long Island Sound. The course traces the origin and development of the Sound; presents an overview of the natural physical, biological, chemical, and geological processes that characterize it; explores its importance to society and assesses how society's uses of the Sound have affected it; evaluates attempts to manage it; and looks at the future of the Sound.
3 credits

MAR 104 - E: Oceanography
An examination of the World Ocean and the chemical, geological, biological, and physical processes that control its major features and the life that inhabits it. Students will also explore human interactions with the marine environment.
3 credits

MAR 301: Environmental Microbiology
Microbiological mediation of natural processes in marine, freshwater, soil, and groundwater habitats, as well as public health issues and microbial potential for remediation of pollutants. Lectures include a survey of taxonomic and metabolic diversity, elementary cell biology, nutrition, environmental controls on physiology and adaptations, biogeochemical cycles, and modern methods of sampling and analysis. Labs introduce students to fundamental microbiological methods currently used in environmental, public health, and clinical settings. Not for credit in addition to MAR 302.
Prerequisites: BIO 202; CHE 131 or 141
4 credits

MAR 302: Marine Microbiology and Microbial Ecology
Introduction to the evolution, diversity, and importance of micro-organisms in the sea. Lectures highlight the phylogenies, physiologies and ecological functions of each major microbial group (viruses, bacteria, fungi, protozoans, algae). Particular emphasis is placed on the role of these micro-organisms in many of the elemental (geochemical) cycles of the oceans. Course explores the microbial ecology of most major marine habitats. Not for credit in addition to MAR 301.
Prerequisites: BIO 201 and BIO 202; CHE 132 or CHE 142
3 credits

MAR 303: Long Island Marine Habitats
The study of six representative marine environments around Long Island. Students visit the sites on weekly field trips, measuring environmental parameters and identifying common plants and animals. Using qualitative and quantitative methods in the field and in laboratory sessions, the class determines major factors that control the biological community in each habitat.
Prerequisites: U3 or U4 standing; BIO 201
Advisory Prerequisites: AMS 110 or other statistics course; MAR 101 or 104 or 333
4 credits

MAR 304 - E: Waves, Tides, and Beaches
A survey of water waves and tides, including both a description of the phenomena and the basic theory of waves and sediment transport. This background forms the basis for a description of shore processes including beaches, and coastal erosion. The variety of the world's coastal environments will be differentiated in terms of physical processes. The behavior of beaches also will be examined. This course is suitable for non-science majors as well as providing students majoring in geology, engineering or other sciences with the foundation for more advanced study.
Prerequisites: U3/U4 status or MAR 101 or MAR 104
Advisory prerequisites: MAR 101, MAR 104, or MAR 333
3 credits

MAR 305: Experimental Marine Biology
Students design and conduct experiments in the laboratory and at local field sites, collect and analyze data, and use scientific literature to interpret and present results in papers and oral presentations.
Prerequisites: U3 or U4 standing; BIO 201.
Advisory Prerequisites: CHE 131 or 141; AMS 110 or other statistics course; MAR 101 or 104 or 333
3 credits

MAR 308: Principles of Instrumental Analysis
The development of familiarity in the laboratory with the techniques and instrumentation used in environmental analytical chemistry, emphasizing determination of trace inorganic species. Primary emphasis on applications utilizing the absorption of emission of electromagnetic radiation. Topics include metal determinations in sediment and in river water using molecular ultraviolet-visible and atomic absorption spectrometry.
Prerequisites: CHE 132/134 or 142/144
3 credits

MAR 315 - H: Marine Conservation
The fundamental concepts of Conservation Biology, a new synthetic field that incorporates principles of ecology, biogeography, population genetics, systematics, evolutionary biology, environmental sciences, sociology, anthropology, and philosophy toward the conservation of biological diversity. Examples drawn from the marine environment emphasize how the application of conservation principles varies from terrestrial, aquatic, and marine realms.
Prerequisite: BIO 351 or 353
3 credits

MAR 318: Engineering Geology and Coastal Processes
Fundamental concepts of soil, sediment, and rock mechanics and the physics of surficial processes. Application is made to problems of geotechnical and coastal engineering. Topics include consolidation, loose boundary hydraulics, slope stability, underground excavations and beach and tidal inlet stability, and channel sedimentation. This course is offered as both GEO 318 and MAR 318.
Prerequisites: GEO 122 or GEO 102 and 112; MAT 127 or 132 or 142 or 171 or AMS 161
3 credits

MAR 320: Limnology
The physical, chemical, and biological aspects of lakes and ponds. The morphology of lake basins, physics of water movement, water chemistry, and ecology of organisms are explored through lecture and laboratory instruction. The laboratory portion of the course includes field sampling to investigate temporal variation in water chemistry and plankton biology, and laboratory experiments to demonstrate important concepts.
Prerequisites: BIO 201; CHE 131 or 141
4 credits

MAR 333 - H: Coastal Oceanography
Aspects of physical, biological, chemical, and geological processes that characterize coastal marine environments. Topics include such natural phenomena as upwelling, particle transport, benthic/pelagic coupling, and barrier island processes, as well as the impacts of society on the Coastal Ocean.
MAR 334 - E: Remote Sensing of the Environment
A study of the theory of remote sensing and its application in the fields of atmospheric science and oceanography. A discussion of the interaction of electromagnetic radiation with rough surfaces and the atmosphere is followed by a treatment of sensors and platforms. The remainder of the course is devoted to data processing techniques involved in remote sensing.
Prerequisite: One of the following: ENS/PHY 119, PHY 127, PHY 132/134, or PHY 142
3 credits

MAR 336: Marine Pollution
A review of the sources, transport, and fate of toxic and non-toxic contaminants in the ocean. The interactions of biological, chemical, and physical processes that control the cycling and toxicity of contaminants are considered. Contaminants include metals, oil, halogenated hydrocarbons, radioactive wastes, excess nutrients, plastics, and solid wastes.
Prerequisites: BIO 201; CHE 131 or CHE 141
Advisory Prerequisite: MAR 104 or MAR 333
3 credits

MAR 340 - H: Environmental Problems and Solutions
A detailed examination of the scientific, social, and legal aspects of important environmental problems, including global climate change, the depletion of atmospheric ozone, acid rain, rain forests and the loss of biodiversity, and energy conservation, as well as case histories of problems such as the use of DDT, environmental carcinogens, and lead poisoning.
Prerequisites: U3 or U4 standing; one course in chemistry or biology
3 credits

MAR 346: Marine Sedimentology
A study of sedimentology in the marine environment, including an introduction to fluid mechanics, sediment transport theory, quantitative models of sedimentation, and dynamic stratigraphy.
Prerequisites: GEO 102 or 122; PHY 126 or 132/134 or 142
3 credits

MAR 349: Introduction to Biological Oceanography
An examination of the processes which produce and maintain the abundances, composition, and temporal variations of organisms in the ocean. The roles of biological processes in global cycles and the food chain, beginning with microbes and progressing through fisheries, are also covered. Weekly three-hour laboratory or field sessions present methods used in observational and experimental studies.
Prerequisites: CHE 131 and 132; BIO 201
4 credits

MAR 350: Introduction to Ocean Physics
An introduction to hydrodynamics, contemporary ideas on ocean circulation, and the application of acoustics and optics to ocean technologies. Not for credit in addition to MAR 352.
Prerequisites: ENS/PHY 119 or PHY 121/123 or 125 or 131/133 or 141; MAT 127 or 132 or 142 or 171 or AMS 161
2 credits

MAR 351: Introduction to Ocean Chemistry
Chemical principles applied to the study of the oceans. How chemical tracers are used to determine the geological, physical, and biological characteristics of present and past oceans. Other topics include physical marine chemistry, nutrient and carbon cycling, organic geochemistry, isotope geochemistry, sediment chemistry and diagenesis, air-sea exchange and controls on carbon dioxide, and estuarine geochemistry.
Prerequisite: CHE 132 and one MAR course
3 credits

MAR 352: Introduction to Physical Oceanography
An introduction to the physical properties, motion of, and forces that drive the movement of fluids (air and water) on the earth. Physical oceanographic processes that range in scale from several mm to 1000s of km will be studied. This course will introduce the student to the physics of the marine environment and the tools (physical, mathematical, scientific) to study these waters. Environments ranging from pelagic to estuarine will be examined. Not for credit in addition to MAR 350.
Prerequisites: MAT 126, MAT 132, or MAT 142; PHY 119, PHY 121, PHY 125, PHY 131 or PHY 141
3 credits

MAR 355: Coastal Cultural Experience
An experiential learning course designed to introduce students to the rich coastal marine culture of New York and the northeastern United States. Through targeted readings and participation in weekly faculty-led field trips in the greater Long Island area, students will develop an understanding of how the coastal environment and maritime traditions have shaped the region's culture.
Pre- or corequisite: MAR 356
Advisory Prerequisite: Enrollment in the Semester by the Sea Program
2 credits

MAR 356 - K: Maritime Traditions of New England
This class will survey the traditions and historical development of the sea, with an emphasis on the fishing, whaling, and seafaring history and rich contemporary coastal culture of the Northeastern United States. Students will examine how we have understood our roles in connection with the ocean by reading and discussing selections from numerous historical journals, books and primary sources as well as literature in which seafaring traditions are discussed and/or demonstrated. Excursions in the co-required Coastal Cultural Experience course allow students to explore the maritime setting of the works discussed in the course.
Pre- or corequisite: MAR 355
3 credits

MAR 366: Plankton Ecology
An introduction to the biology of the plant and animal plankton present in the sea. Techniques of collection, enumeration, and identification of phytoplankton and zooplankton are described. Life histories are studied and factors that influence seasonal changes in species and biomass are examined.
Prerequisites: BIO 201 and 202
3 credits

MAR 370: Marine Mammals
The biology of the major groups of marine mammals, including cetaceans, pinnipeds, and sirenians. Topics include evolutionary history and adaptation, thermoregulation, locomotion and foraging, diving physiology and behavior, communication and sensory systems, social behavior, reproduction, energetics, distribution patterns, exploitation, and conservation.
Prerequisites: BIO 201 and 203
3 credits

MAR 373: Marine Apex Predators: Ecology and Conservation
The removal of apex predators is one of the most pervasive impacts of humans on Earth’s ecosystems. In the past few decades we have started to recognize how the loss of these species has caused substantial changes in terrestrial ecosystem diversity and function, mediated by changes in prey population dynamics and behavior. It is only recently that we have realized that changes in the abundance of apex predators in the ocean (e.g., sharks, marine mammals, tuna and other large predatory bony fish) may be causing similar changes in coastal and pelagic marine ecosystems. In this course we will (1) review the biology of key marine apex predators, (2) explore how ‘top down’ processes (predation and intimidation of prey) can influence marine ecosystems and (3) review the status of marine apex predators and how this relates to the current state of ocean ecosystems. We will draw from the primary literature, from both the terrestrial and marine realms, and host outside speakers who study these animals in the field.

Prerequisite: BIO 201 and either BIO 202 or BIO 203
3 credits

MAR 375: Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Rehabilitation
An intensive hands-on course designed to introduce students to the topics of marine mammal and sea turtle biology as they relate to rehabilitation and research. Students will be exposed to marine mammal and sea turtle ecology, conservation issues, management, and research in the context of wildlife rehabilitation. Through active participation in the rehabilitation activities at the New York State’s only marine mammal rescue facility, instructive lectures, writing, reading assignments, quizzes, tests, and research, students will be offered the opportunity to be thoroughly immersed in the field of marine mammal and sea turtle rehabilitation.

Prerequisite: BIO 201 or permission of instructor
3 credits

MAR 376: Biology and Conservation of Sea Turtles
This course provides an overview of the biology of sea turtles, covering basic and applied aspects of seabird biology. We examine specific biological adaptations (e.g., morphological and physiological adaptations for diving and flying) in the first third of the course, and review population-level processes and behavioral patterns (e.g., population ecology and migration) in the second part of the course. The last third of the course applies this knowledge of seabird biology and ecology to current conservation issues and management efforts, both within the United States and internationally. MAR 377 may not be taken for credit in addition to MAR 371.

Prerequisite: BIO 201
Advisory prerequisite: BIO 203
3 credits

MAR 377: Biology and Conservation of Seabirds
This course provides an overview of the biology of seabirds, covering basic and applied aspects of seabird biology. We examine specific biological adaptations (e.g., morphological and physiological adaptations for diving and flying) in the first third of the course, and review population-level processes and behavioral patterns (e.g., population ecology and migration) in the second part of the course. The last third of the course applies this knowledge of seabird biology and ecology to current conservation issues and management efforts, both within the United States and internationally. MAR 377 may not be taken for credit in addition to MAR 371.

Prerequisite: BIO 201
Advisory prerequisite: BIO 203
3 credits

MAR 378: Tropical Marine Ecology
This travel course surveys organisms (invertebrates, fishes and algae) and habitats (coral reefs, sea grass meadows and mangrove forests) within tropical marine coral reef ecosystems. The course consists of formal lectures, demonstrations and instructor-led field trips and involves snorkeling, SCUBA diving, reefwalking and underwater photography. Students will develop individual research projects requiring field observations and collecting data and will write a research proposal and final research papers.

Prerequisites: BIO 201 and permission of instructor
4 credits

MAR 392 - H: Waste Management Issues
Conventional and innovative approaches to waste reduction, recycling, and reuse. The environmental impacts of waste on the terrestrial and marine environment are introduced as are the complex social, political, and scientific issues of making sound policy decisions.

Prerequisites: GEO 101; CHE 131 or ENS/PHY 119
3 credits

MAR 393: Waste Treatment Technologies
This course examines technologies such as wastewater management, solid waste practices, and drinking water treatments that minimize the effects of human wastes. Pollution prevention, especially for marine environments, is also discussed.

Prerequisites: EST 202; or MAT 123 and one D.E.C. category E course
3 credits

MAR 394 - H: Environmental Toxicology and Public Health
Principles of toxicology are presented and problems associated with major classes of toxic chemicals to human and environmental health are examined. Case studies dealing with current waste management issues are also discussed. This course is offered as both BCP 394 and MAR 394.
Prerequisites: BIO 201; CHE 131 or 141
Advisory Prerequisite: CHE 321
3 credits

MAR 395: Topics in Marine Environmental Sciences
May be repeated as the topic changes.
Prerequisite: One upper-division MAR course
3 credits

MAR 447: Readings in Marine Science
Tutorial readings in the marine sciences. These courses may be repeated but no more than 3 credits may be used toward Marine Science or Marine Vertebrate Biology major requirements.
Prerequisite: Permission of instructor and SoMAS undergraduate director
1-3 credits, S/U grading

MAR 475: Undergraduate Teaching Practicum
A practicum in the techniques of teaching marine sciences courses. Each student assists a faculty member in a regularly scheduled class. The student may be required to attend all classes and meets with the faculty member at regularly scheduled times. Students may assist in laboratories, hold recitation or review sessions, propose questions for examinations, and review already graded assignments.
Prerequisites: U3 or U4 standing; permission of instructor and SoMAS Undergraduate Programs Director
3 credits, S/U grading

MAR 487: Research in Marine Sciences
A student may conduct research for credit. May be repeated.
Prerequisite: Permission of instructor and SoMAS Undergraduate Programs Director
0-6 credits

MAR 488: Internship
Participation in research at off-campus laboratories or in the activities of public and private agencies and organizations. May be repeated up to a limit of 12 credits.
Prerequisites: Permission of instructor and SoMAS Programs Director
0-6 credits, S/U grading