

Fall Semester 2008

Biology 325: Life in the Sea

Instructor : Dr. Michael Franklin

Mini-Research Assignment

These assignments serve a variety of purposes. The most important purpose is to introduce major lecture sections and to get you thinking about these important processes (sooner rather than later). This should stimulate the thought process, and enhance our understanding of these critical processes and concepts and supplement the lectures. These assignments should be typed (or word-processed), and double-spaced, with one inch margins. Use a standard font (e.g. Times New Roman or Courier, 12 cpi) and black ink. Limit your response to no more than 5 pages. You will have until finals week to complete the assignment. Late assignments will NOT be accepted (accommodations will be made for verifiable and valid reasons only). No exceptions. You will be evaluated on content and the logical presentation of your ideas. Partial credit will be given for well supported, but incomplete responses. Be sure to proof-read your papers to insure your response are complete and accurate, and to also minimize spelling and grammatical errors (too many errors will result in point reductions). Also, be sure to list all primary sources of information you used to formulate your responses for full credit (be sure to observe the rules for our other writing assignments, e.g. not **WIKI references**, **genus and species in the proper format**, no **second person references**, etc.). This assignment is worth a maximum of 100 points (this will be very helpful, so be sure you turn this in. DON'T ignore this assignment, because it could result in a failing grade for the semester (this is equivalent to our final, but more entertaining). This is an independent exercise, and while it is permissible to collaborate, it is NOT permissible to turn in group papers (do your own work). Should I observe identical papers, the responsible parties will not receive credit (and all of the paperwork will be delivered to the chair of the Biology Department for further disciplinary action). Develop a detailed, well thought out response to the following:

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Pick an organism (planktonic or nektonic) of particular interest to you from the board field of Marine Biology and begin collecting information from books and journals, as well as, relatively current articles on that subject from newspapers and magazines. You should also make use of the Internet (3 web sites may be used for part of your research). You may also do your report on a specific habitat (tropical coral reefs, rocky intertidal, polar seas, deep sea environments, etc.), an oceanographic event (tsunami, El Niño or La Niña, etc.), marine homeotherm, or benthic/sessile organism. Your report should be no more than 5 pages, typed and double spaced. This assignment is due during finals week by, Wednesday, December 10th before the Biology Department closes at 5:00 pm. Be sure you have your assignment done, printed and ready to be delivered on the 10th (I do NOT want email submissions for this assignment, this is important). ****If you have any questions about your topic, please make sure you contact me.**** deliver your completed report **(by Wednesday December 10th to the Biology Department Office, Eucalyptus Hall 2102).**

It is important that you cite the information you include in your paper. This should be either footnoted or included in the style of most scientific journals. All citation should be listed in

a references cited list at the end of the paper. Example citations for references section:

Merriweather, J.P. 1989. Adaptation of nearshore fishes to changing environments. In: Anthropogenic Pollutants in the Oceans as a Mechanism for Evolutionary Change. Nothingatall Press, New York. 345 p. (citing a book).

Johnson, T.E. 1990. Reproduction as a function of resource partitioning in a benthic reef fish. J. Exp. Mar. Biol. Ecol. 44:123-135. (citing a journal article).

In presenting information about your subject in the text, cite the authors and year in parentheses after the appropriate sentence -- e.g., "trace metals in our coastal waters increase at a rate of 20% per year (Merriweather, 1989)."

Staple the paper neatly in the upper left-hand corner - NO FOLDERS, NO FACSIMILE (FAX)PAPER, AND NO ONION SKIN PAPER (I hate these). Develop a framework or outline so that your points will appear in a logical format. Also, carefully proof-read your paper (before you print it or turn it in) to catch grammatical and spelling errors. You may want to have someone else proof it for you. You want to be sure that your statements make sense. It helps if you write using topic sentences for each paragraph of text. Additional sentences within the paragraph support the topic sentence. I will provide more hints through the semester. Again, I highly recommend the book, Elements of Style, the 4th Edition, by Strunk and White. This small book contains a significant amount of information

It is essential that you interpret the material yourself. Copying text word for word from your sources or using another's writing is unacceptable. This is a form of academic dishonesty (called plagiarism). As stated previously, all of the other guidelines for assignments apply. Again, have your report submitted by **Wednesday December 10th to the Biology Department Office, Eucalyptus Hall 2102.**

Good Luck!!!