



Aquatic Animal Conservation Issues 2009 ON-LINE

Fall of Odd Years, 3 credit

Undergraduate/Graduate Course

VME 4906 / VME 6934

Course Coordinator: Dr. Iske Larkin

The focus of this course will be to introduce students to some of the controversial issues surrounding aquatic animal species ranging from invertebrates to marine mammals, with some emphasis on marine mammals, but also including sea turtles, fisheries, and marine ecosystems. The format of the class will focus to a large extent on reading book chapters or primary scientific literature on the topic chosen for a given class, and discussion. Guest speakers studying aspects being covered will be asked to give presentations to the class. These speakers may include individuals from Biology, Wildlife, Fisheries, the Florida Museum of Natural History, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Students will be expected to review the reading material ahead of time, provide a list of questions for class, be ready to discuss relevant issues, and develop follow-up questions generated by the discussion. Information will be reviewed at the beginning of class and followed by discussions. Rather than have exams, all students will be asked to write a pro/con review paper on a controversial topic of their choosing, give a presentation through elluminate on their review, critically review and present one of the scientific papers covered in class. Graduate students will have an additional requirement to write a grant proposal to study a related topic and review proposals. Grades will be heavily dependent upon attendance and participation.

Contact Information: Office V1-127, VMAB; Office phone – 392-2212 x5168

Work cell – 494-1742

Time: Thursdays from 12:50 – 3:50 on-line through E-Learning and Elluminate.

Grading: Grades will be based on participation, homework questions, a 2 page pro/con review and presentation (15 min), critical review of a scientific paper, and for graduate students a 5 page grant proposal and proposal review.

