# Course Title:
Tropical Marine Environments

## Instructor(s):
Dr. Graeme M. Taylor & TA (gtaylor8@uwo.ca) Admin. Brenda Beretta (bberetta@uwo.ca)

## Dates:
April 30th to May 12th

## Location:
Belize Marine Studies Field Camp at Lighthouse Reef Atoll, Belize

### Cost:
Approximately $2450. **A non-refundable $350 deposit is due to your home university upon registration. Instructions for providing the balance ($2100), due by March 3rd, will be provided after registration. Covering transportation within Belize, park fees (e.g. Blue Hole), room/board at field/base camp and 3 Belizean guides. Fee does not cover: flight to & from Belize, personal travel, travel medical insurance, food on mainland (two days), snorkel gear and personal equipment, such as field clothing and waterproof watch.**

**Cancellation and refund policy:** Enrolment is confirmed when full payment is received by Tuesday March 3rd. Payment has to be made by this date as we need to secure our position at the base camp on Halfmoon Cay (Belize). After March 3rd anyone in arrears will be automatically removed from the course roster. Cancellations must be received, in writing, by the 9th of March. After March 9th we retain your full payment, as the monies are used at this time to reserve the base camp at Halfmoon Cay and hire the camp crew. No exceptions are provided for these procedures. Should UWO need to cancel the course for any reason, you will receive a full refund.

### Prerequisites:
Students must be entering the 3rd or 4th year of a Biology Honours program (or Environmental Sciences) and 2 ecology & 1 statistical course completed. You must have the ability to continuously swim 600 m. This is for your safety, as we will swim this distance in open seas. Medical travel insurance, trip cancellation insurance, a current tetanus inoculation and a valid passport are mandatory. Students with other than Canadian passports must determine visa requirements for Belize.

### Enrolment:
Maximum of 20 students (4 reserved for UWO)

## Description:
This course is an introduction to tropical marine environments. We will immerse ourselves in the diversity of habitats at Belize’s most spectacular atoll — Lighthouse Reef. We will be based on a remote 40 acre tropical island, 90 km offshore of the Belize mainland, within the Half Moon Caye Marine Reserve. The atoll is surrounded by a fringing reef rising virtually to the surface. Inside this reef is a lagoon speckled with hundreds of coral patches. The reef is highlighted for its density and diversity of both corals and fish. We will literally be surrounded by marine life. Much of our time will be spent exploring by kayak and snorkelling. We will learn to be field biologists, to document and to interpret what we observe, and to develop scientific questions from our observations. From your observations you and a partner will develop a research project. Our endeavours will be facilitated by Island Expeditions who have over 20 years experience operating field camps in Belize. (www.islandexpeditions.com)

## Evaluation:
- Short quiz 15% (April 30th) on arrival in Belize
- Field Journal 15% (due in Belize) and science blog based on your field journal 15% (due June 16th)
- Participation 15%
- Research project & paper 40% (Due June 16th).

***Students who drop a field course should not expect a refund of any field course costs. Students are encouraged to purchase cancellation insurance if airline tickets are required.*