

WESTERN UNIVERSITY

Ontario Universities Program in Field Biology

Course Title:	Tropical Marine Environments	
Instructor(s):	Dr. Graeme M. Taylor (gtaylor8@uwo.ca); Admin. Brenda Beretta(bberetta@uwo.ca)	
Dates:	April 29 – May 11, 2017	
Location:	Belize Marine Studies Field Camp at Lighthouse Reef Atoll, Belize	
Cost:	<p>Approximately \$2450 (\$350 non-refundable deposit to home university; \$2100 balance). Includes: transportation within Belize, park fees (e.g. Blue Hole), room/board at field/base camp and 3 Belizean guides. Excluded: flight to & from Belize, personal travel, travel medical insurance, food on mainland (two days), snorkel gear and personal equipment, such as field clothing & waterproof watch. Balance: required by March 3, 2017, instructions will be provided after registration. Cancellation and refund policy: Enrolment is confirmed when full payment is received by March 3. 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 3, anyone in arrears will be automatically removed from the course roster. Cancellations must be received, in writing, by March 10. After March 10, 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 Western need to cancel the course for any reason, you will receive a full refund.</p>	
Prerequisites:	<p>Students must be entering year 3 or 4 of a Biology Honours program (or Environmental Sciences), and have completed 2 ecology and 1 statistical courses. NOTE: Students 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 non-Canadian passports must determine visa requirements for Belize.</p>	
Enrolment:	20 students (4 reserved for Western)	
Description:	<p>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 snorkeling. 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 endeavors will be facilitated by Island Expeditions who have over 20 years of experience operating field camps in Belize (www.islandexpeditions.com).</p>	
Evaluation:	<p>Quiz (April 30, 2017) on arrival in Belize</p> <p>Field Journal (due in Belize)</p> <p>Science blog based on your field journal (due June 16, 2017)</p> <p>Participation</p> <p>Research project & paper (due June 16, 2017)</p>	<p>15%</p> <p>15%</p> <p>15%</p> <p>15%</p> <p>40%</p>

***\$350 Deposit is due at time of registration.

Tuition at your home institution is *in addition* to any field module costs.

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.

Students are responsible for all fees incurred by the home or host university due to any bounced cheque.