

CARLETON UNIVERSITY

Ontario Universities Program in Field Biology

Course Title:	Coral Reef Community Ecology – Scuba Diving	
Instructor(s):	Dr. Nigel Waltho (nigel.waltho@carleton.ca; 613-520-2600 x8764)	
Dates:	December 26/27, 2017 – Jan 09/10, 2018 (2 weeks) NOTE: do not book flights until dates are confirmed by course instructor – Nigel Waltho	
Location:	Cape Eluthera Institute & Marine Biology Station , Cape Eluthera, Bahamas	
Cost:	<p>\$2595 (\$350 deposit to home university; \$2245 balance) Includes: room & board, scuba gear rental (BCD, regulator, weights, tanks), all air fills, daily boat transport, and ground transportation between the Rock Sound airport and the Cape Eluthera Station. Excluded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airfare → required to Rock Sound, Bahamas. • Equipment → each student must provide their own snorkel gear, wetsuit, and dive watch (any waterproof watch or dive computer waterproof to a minimum of 50m). • Scuba Diver's Insurance → every participant must have DAN scuba insurance. <p>Balance: payable to Carleton University by Aug. 01, 2017. Ruth Hill-Lapensee (Dept. Biology, Carleton University) will contact you with instructions for balance payment once your seat is confirmed.</p>	
Prerequisites:	<p>Students should ideally be entering their 3rd or 4th year of a Biology, Env. Sci., or similar program; and (a) have at least one advanced ecology course beyond the Introductory level, and (b) have at least one biometry or statistics course. NOTE: students must be minimally <i>basic open water scuba certified</i> before the beginning of the course.</p>	
Enrolment:	18 students maximum (3 reserved for Carleton)	
Description:	<p>Research emphasis is on the distribution and community organization of readily observable species assemblages (e.g., coral reef fish, or corals, sponge & algae, and coral diseases) as these relate to <i>ecological</i> process (e.g., competition, tri-trophic interactions, predator-prey refuge zones, crypsis, habitat structure). Students (buddy teams of 2-3) submit a 3-4 pg research proposal due Oct 30, 2017. Proposals may need updating upon review/comments made. The first few days in the Bahamas students review safe diving practices, and learn species identification. As the course progresses students shift gears to data collection from an array of 30 patch reefs. All data collected contributes to a class Master spreadsheet from which you'll pull relevant data specific to your analysis. Evening sessions include dive lectures, species identification sessions, project design, statistical workshops, and data entry.</p>	
Evaluation:	<p>Field effort (including maturity, industriousness, initiative, species quiz) Field competency (e.g., safe diving practices, dive site management) Following your return home, students perform their own statistical analyses, and write their own individual final report (due Feb 28, 2018).</p>	<p>20% 20% 60%</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.