

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
Ontario Universities Program in Field Biology

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| Course Title: | Tropical Marine Environments |
| Instructor(s): | Dr. Graeme M. Taylor (gtaylor8@uwo.ca) Admin. Brenda Beretta(bberetta@uwo.ca) |
| Dates: | Wednesday May 2 nd – Monday May 14 th , 2018 |
| Location: | Belize Marine Studies Field Camp at Lighthouse Reef Atoll, Belize |
| Cost: | Approximately \$2500 (\$350 deposit to home university; \$2150 balance) plus tuition payable at your home institution. A non-refundable \$350 deposit is due to your home university upon registration. Instructions for providing the balance (\$2150), due by March 5 th , 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 (price varies & you will need to do your own estimate). Cancellation and refund policy: Enrolment is confirmed when full payment is received by Monday March 5 th . 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 5 th anyone in arrears will be automatically removed from the course roster. Cancellations must be received, in writing, by the 12 th of March. After March 12 th 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. The student is responsible for all fees incurred by the home or host university due to any bounced cheque. |
| Prerequisites: | Students must be entering the 3rd or 4th year of a Biology Honors program (or Environmental Sciences) and 2 ecology & 1 statistical course completed. As a minimum, 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 non-Canadian passports must determine visa requirements for Belize. |
| Enrolment: | 20 (6 reserved for University of Western Ontario) |
| 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 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) |
| Evaluation: | First Quiz 10% given on arrival in Belize or day following Field Journal 15% (due in Belize) Science blog based on your field journal 20% (due June 16) Second Quiz 10% last day in the field/Belize city Participation, Leadership and Professionalism 10% (starts on signing up for the course) Research project & paper 35% (Due June 16) |

***\$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.