

Honoring the Ocean: Sustainability and the Sea

Spring 2025 Syllabus

January 23rd- March 27th, 2026
Fridays, 2:30-4:30 PM
Via Zoom:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/97547881279?pwd=Zferk26ECoCjsWJdwths78TzP1Qubl.1>

Meeting URL: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/97547881279?pwd=Zferk26ECoCjsWJdwths78TzP1Qubl.1>

Meeting ID: 975 4788 1279
Passcode: 41861

Google Classroom link:

<https://classroom.google.com/c/NTcwNTcxMzY2OTQ1?cjc=i6b6xew>

Program Description

An interdisciplinary experience exploring humankind's interaction with the ocean. A six-week virtual pre-course taught by Honors faculty across the State University System prepares students for a short adventure at sea on a Florida Institute of Oceanography vessel. No background in marine science is required— this program is accessible to a diverse student population.

About the Florida Institute of Oceanography

The Florida Institute of Oceanography consists of 32 members, including state universities. Established by the Florida Board of Governors and hosted by the University of South Florida, FIO provides support to and shares marine science resources between the state's universities and private, nonprofit marine research entities. FIO operates the *R/V Western Flyer*, *R/V Weatherbird II*, *R/V Hogarth* and the Keys Marine Laboratory in Layton, Florida.

UF Faculty Contact Information

Deborah Amberson dambers@ufl.edu. University of Florida, Associate Professor of Italian, Italian Program Director, Ph.D. Italian. Office location: 237 Dauer Hall, 352-273-3763, Office hours: by appointment

Gabriele Belletti g.belletti@ufl.edu. University of Florida, Assistant Professor of Italian and French, Ph.D. Romance Languages and Literatures - Philosophy. Office location: Dauer Hall, office 361 | Phone: 352 871 7820 | Office hours: by appointment.

Faculty Contacts for Co-Instructors at Participating Institutions

Gretchen Scharnagl scharnag@fiu.edu. Florida International University, Teaching Professor - Dual appointment College of Communication, Architecture and the Arts and Honors College.M.F.A. Fine Arts.

Martin 'Marty' Dupuis martin.dupuis@ucf.edu. University of Central Florida, Associate Dean, Burnett Honors College. Ph.D., J.D. Political Science.

Catherine Wilkins cjwilkins@usf.edu. University of South Florida, Associate Professor of Instruction, Judy Genshaft Honors College. Ph.D. History, M.A. Art History, M.A. Library Science.

Jennie Ziegler Jennie.Ziegler@unf.edu. University of North Florida, Assistant Chair of the Department of English, First Year Experience Coordinator. M.F.A. Nonfiction Writing.

Tyler Fisher tmfisher@fgcu.edu. Florida Gulf Coast University, Dean, Honors College, Ph.D. Medieval and Modern Languages.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will explore the relationship between humans and the ocean through the lens of humanistic academic disciplines.
- Students will participate in interdisciplinary inquiry through engagement with research from a range of fields.
- Students will cultivate a personal connection to the marine environment through experiential learning.
- Students will practice reflective learning techniques through the creation of a final project.

Student Requirements

- 1) Participation in all online sessions: Students will complete assigned readings before online meeting time, attend online meetings, and participate in discussions and activities.
- 2) Travel on one of the FIO voyages: Students will provide their own transportation to departure points, travel aboard the FIO vessel, and participate in curated activities while aboard.
- 3) Completion of post-travel reflection assignment: Students will keep notes throughout the program experience that will inform their creation of a post-travel reflection. The reflection may utilize any medium discussed during the program (e.g., poem, artwork, journalistic writing, research proposal), and will be shared in our final group meeting as well as on the program website and/or institutional reporting.

Program Materials

- All required readings/viewings will be provided in digital form through the Google Classroom.
- Students must purchase a journal/notebook and writing implement (pencil preferred - no ink smudges when wet!).
- Guidance on additional materials needed for travel and the final project will be provided at a later date.

Grading

Grades will be based on (1) attendance and participation in class meetings and aboard the FIO voyage, and (2) submission and presentation of the final course project (instructions below).

Honors Requirement- A minimum grade of B is required to earn Academic points towards Honors Completion Requirements. Once you have earned your final grade in this course, please upload the course information and final grade from your Unofficial Transcript into your Honors Canvas Cohort: Honors Requirements module to earn Honors Milestone / Completion credit.

Final Project

Reflecting on one or more of the faculty lectures AND the trip aboard the FIO research vessel, your task is to compose a final project that explores the theme of sustainability and the ocean.

Your project may use any medium of your choosing. Suggested media may include but are not limited to: visual artwork, creative writing piece/portfolio, research proposal, short film, journalistic writing, documentary, presentation, podcast, musical composition. Please include an acknowledgment of the [Florida Institute of Oceanography](#) (FIO) as well as its logo (which will be provided to you) in your presentation.

Students will share their projects in 5-minute presentations during our final class meeting on March 27th. Some options for the presentation are to read a section from a piece of writing, show an original video, or discuss your research/ project process and writing choices. **This is a firm time limit-** you are encouraged to discuss your project and presentation format with the faculty at your institution for guidance. In addition, practice to ensure that you stay within the allotted time. Finally, you may choose to pre-record your presentation and share it on the presentation day.

Students will submit their work on Google Classroom. Presentations will be recorded ,and projects will be posted publicly.

Program Schedule

Session # and Date	Lead Faculty	Topic	Reading/Material
Intro Jan. 23	ALL		
1 Jan. 30	Wilkins	A short history of people and the Gulf	Barnett, Cynthia. "Great Cities of Shell" in <i>The Sound of the Sea: Seashells and the Fate of the Ocean</i> (New York: W. W. Norton, 2021).
2 Feb. 6	Scharnagl	Trash and Treasure: Thinking Visually	Video Homework (Please watch prior to class): <u>Proteus 2004</u> <u>Damien Hirst: Treasures from the Wreck of the Unbelievable Presented by HENI Talks</u> <u>Mark Dion</u>
3 Feb. 13	Amberson and Belletti	Thinking Fish: Aquatic Life and the Blue Humanities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jonathan Balcombe, <i>What a Fish Knows: The Inner Lives of Our Underwater Cousins</i> (excerpts) • "Fish," D.H. Lawrence (poem, excerpt) • "The Fish," Elizabeth Bishop (poem) • Serenella Iovino, <u>"Women Who Swim with the Whales: COVID-19, Ecological Disaster, and Dialogues Across Species and Generations."</u> • "Krill," Gabriele Belletti (poems, selection) • <u>Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill – A Short Documentary</u>

Session # and Date	Lead Faculty	Topic	Reading/Material
4 Feb. 20	Ziegler	Creative Nonfiction and Writing Water: Field Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sabrina Imbler's "In the Oceans, the Volume Is Rising as Never Before" • Julia Aguon's "To Hell with Drowning" • Claudia Geib's "To Speak of the Sea in Irish" • Alison Deming's "Canoeing the Salt Marsh" (poem)
5 Feb. 27	Dupuis	Law of the Sea International fishing and sustainability	Deborah Rowan Wright, "Future Sea" (2020) Chp. 3- "Teeming Seas" Chp. 4- "The Free Sea" PDF posted in class materials
6 Mar. 6	Fisher	Golfo de la Nueva España y Florida": Reading and Translating the "Spanish Sea" in Poetry	
Mar. 13-14	TBD	Trip #1	St. Pete
Mar. 14-15	TBD	Trip #2	St. Pete
Mar. 20	NO CLASS	N/A	Work on projects
7 Mar. 27	ALL	Final presentations	

Additional Information

Honors Program

Honors Village Complex #4, 352-392-1519

Quick questions for an Honors advisor? Email advisor@honors.ufl.edu

Need an Honors advising appointment? Schedule via [Microsoft Bookings](#):
[Honors Program Event Calendar](#)

UF Academic policies and Resources are available [here](#).