

University of Florida  
Course Syllabus

*Instructor contact information:*

Name: Dr. Nick Funicelli

Email:

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Office hours: (when available on email and/or for telephone call) I recommend you email me for a telephone meeting.

*Course description:*

The course consists of several power point presentations with voice over as well as discussion topics and class interactive hypothetical scenarios. Lectures will address the logic of marine protected areas (MPA) and their advantages and disadvantage. The science of MPA will be presented as well an overview of traditional approaches fisheries management. The importance of ecological principles when creating an MPA will be emphasized. An overview of sampling theory and need for empirical data to document the success or failure of MPA will be presented.

*Course learning objectives:*

The objective of the class is to give the student a general overview of why Marine Protected Areas are an alternative management method that shows promise and advantages over classic fisheries and ecological management. It is also to make students more competent at designing and monitoring MPAs, and to increase understanding of the science of MPAs.

Upon course completion, students will have gained an understanding of:

- the advantages and disadvantages of MPA as a fisheries management tool
- the hypothesis testing relative to creation and monitoring of an MPA
- various stakeholders and user groups of fisheries common use resources.

*Course Prerequisites:*

The student should have a general background in ecology.

*Required materials:*

There is no course text; all readings and learning materials (power points) are contained or accessed from within the course e-Learning site. Readings will be assigned and easily accessed by the students or will be made available via the instructor.

*Description of assignments:*

All assignments except the “Introduce Yourself” should be submitted to the assignment drop box within the course. The “Introduce Yourself” assignment should be posted on the Bulletin Board. I do this so that we can all get to know each other as opposed to knowing just me. Exact due dates for each term are listed in the course site.

**1. Discussions for the course – 1300 points towards final grade**

There are 13 discussions. Please remember that unless you post to the Bulletin Board, the instructor cannot know that you are completing and understanding the course material. Each week a general question will be posted to the bulletin board by the instructor to start a discussion going, but comments and or answers need not be limited to that. Please feel free to post your own discussion topics based on the unit focus and readings each week. These discussions can, and should, be just like a good in-class discussion. They are a way for you to test out your ideas related to the material, and enhance your knowledge from the perspectives and experiences of your colleagues in the course. Take the time to write out your posting ahead of time, and save it to your hard drive before posting. This will give you time to reflect before you have to post, and also make sure that your carefully-chosen words don't get lost if for some reason your posting doesn't go through successfully.

**2. Short paper – Species Profile – 2 to 5 pages, double spaced (500-1250) words. 400 points towards final grade.**

Students will select any species (flora or fauna) and document the life history of that species. The species chosen must be part of the ecology of your proposed MPA. Give some indication as to why you have chosen to focus on this particular species within the context of your MPA. Please include references for your material.

**3. Review of Peer Reviewed Article – 1-2 pages 200 points**

**4. Review of Second Peer Reviewed Article – 1-2 pages 200 points**

**5. Outline for Final Research Paper – Worth 600 points towards final grade.**

Students will submit to the assignment drop box a 1-2 page (double spaced) outline of their final paper

**6. Major Research Paper** – pending instructor approval of research outline  
**Due by the end of course.** 10 pages+ (2500 words). Worth 1200 points towards final grade.

- Students will be required to submit a major research paper (2500+ words, double spaced) designing a Marine Protected Area (MPA). This will not be a reproduction of an existing MPA, but one that you design. As a rule of thumb, one page of text double-spaced using Times New Roman font 12 point is about 250 words per page, so the Research Paper should be 10+ pages double-spaced, not including references and appendices. The paper can follow the format of any professional journal of your choosing, pending instructor approval.

If in doubt with any aspect of the major research paper, ask the instructor!

**The research paper will include the following elements:**

- Clarification of the purpose of the MPA. What do you expect this MPA to accomplish? What is “success” relative to this MPA? For example, is it more groupers, bigger snappers, more fish diversity, greater coral cover, more divers, all of the above, none of the above? A rationale for why you chose your goal.
- A diagram of your MPA (in the appendices) that illustrates what habitats within the boundary of the MPA and what habitats are outside the boundary. The diagram should give the instructor a concept of scale.
- Activities that are allowed and not allowed within the MPA. A rationale for why you chose to allow or not allow those activities. For every activity you do not allow, explain the rationale and what user group(s) you may have offended, and how you plan to make the user group(s) supporters of your MPA.
- A monitoring program that will document the success and failure of the stated purposes or goals.
- A time-line, with rationale, for when one can expect to see the differences inside and outside the MPA.