



**Certificate of Higher Education Courses 2014-15
Course Information Document**

In this document you will find key information regarding the course's aims and learning outcomes, when the course takes place, the assessment involved, minimum course requirements for assessment and possible prerequisites and suggested preliminary reading.

You will also find information about which Certificates this course's credits count towards.

Course Name: Marine Biology

Course Tutor(s): Tony Robertson BSc PhD

Credits and Level: 20 credits at level 1

These credits can be counted towards any of the following 120 Credit, Certificates in Higher Education:

- Environmental Studies

See our website for further details: www.gla.ac.uk/courses/openstudies/certhe/

Introduction

This course will introduce you to the basic principles that rule life in the sea and to the biodiversity of marine environments. It is a ten-week distance study course followed by a one-week residential field course (May 2015: dates TBC) at the Field Studies Council Millport centre, Isle of Cumbrae. The course will be taught by providing lectures and learning resources on the WWW with weekly on-line group tutorials. The field course will put theory into practice and emphasis will be on identifying marine species and studying local habitats.

Aims

The aim of this course is to introduce students to the basic principles that rule life in the ocean and provide an understanding of the variety of marine organisms and ecosystems found throughout the World.

Intended learning outcomes

At the end of this course students should be able to:

Physical oceanography

- * describe the size and general structure of the ocean
- * state the major regions of the ocean basin
- * discuss the main forces that give rise to surface ocean currents and tides
- * define the different regions of the water column

Biodiversity

- * outline the classification system used to describe biological life
- * describe the major trophic groups found in marine ecosystems
- * give examples of marine food chains
- * discuss primary productivity in different parts of the ocean
- * identify and describe the major taxonomic groups found in marine ecosystems including marine algae, crustaceans, molluscs, echinoderms and fish

Ecosystems

- * state the four types of sediment forming the seashore

* describe the typical zonation pattern of the intertidal zone and the physical and chemical conditions different intertidal organisms are exposed to

* describe the geographical distribution and major characteristics of coral reef, mangrove, polar and deep sea ecosystems

Generic / transferable skills

Students would be expected to develop confidence and skill in:

* accessing WWW and library resources

* scientific report writing

* independent study

* communication and team working

Prerequisites: none

What will I be expected to do to complete the course successfully?

You will be expected to contribute to weekly online discussions and attend residential fieldcourse **12/01/2015** to finishing on **27/03/2015**.

The course is designed for students who want to undertake assessment to gain credit to use either as part of the Certificate of Higher Education, or another higher education qualification (see the brochure for more information on this). Students who choose not to undertake all or some of the assessment are welcome to attend, but should be aware that assessment forms a key part of the course.

In order to achieve credits, students must complete at least 75% of the course summative assessment listed below:

	Assessment Type	Percentage of final grade	Assessment Due:	
1	Webpage Quality	20%	0	0
2	Online Tutorial Paper	20%	0	0
3	Fieldwork Report	20%	0	0
	End of Course Exam: Yes (60)	40.00%	TBC May 2015	

Some suggested preliminary reading: **Nybakken, J.W. 2005. Marine biology. An ecological approach. 6th Edition. Addison Wesley Longman, Harlow. If there is one book you wish to buy I would highly recommend this one. The 5th edition (2001) is very similar and is widely available second hand.**
Figgs, J.D., & Fish, S. 2011. A student's guide to the seashore. 3rd Edition. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. This is an excellent book to accompany you on the fieldcourse as it combines field guide and background biology into one text. This is the recent colour edition but 2nd edition is 1996 so also fairly up to date and available second hand.

How much will the course cost? What concessions are available?

The full fee for the course includes tuition and membership of the University Library. For this session's fees, please see the 2014-2015 CertHE catalogue.

If you are on a low income, you may qualify for the Scottish Government's Individual Learning Accounts scheme, which can be used as part-payment for all Certificate of Higher Education (and language) courses

The Centre for Open Studies

General enquires 0141 330 1835

Brochure requests 0141 330 1829

Email OpenStudies-CertHE@glasgow.ac.uk; openstudies-enquiry@glasgow.ac.uk

Web www.glasgow.ac.uk/services/centreforopenstudies/

(typically £200). For more details, and to open an account, please telephone 0808 100 1090, or see their website www.myworldofwork.co.uk/content/ila-scotland-funding-for-you. Note that you must have set up your ILA before you can enrol on a course, and before the course start date.

If you plan to study CertHE courses totaling 30 credits or more in year 2014-15, you may be eligible to apply for the part-time fee grant (PTFG) which can contribute towards course fees. Students in receipt of certain state benefits or those who are earning £25,000 or less per year including any private and state pensions may be eligible. For further information visit www.glasgow.ac.uk/services/centreforopenstudies/ and to download an application pack with completion guidelines please visit the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) website: www.saas.gov.uk/part_time/ug/index.htm Or telephone: 0300 300 3137

Please note you may have a balance to pay once the PTFG has been applied

Prior credit

It is possible to transfer credit from courses at higher education level studied elsewhere, such as those from the Open University, into the CertHE programme. For further advice on this, please contact the Guidance Officer, Irene Vezza.

Irene can be contacted at 0141 330 1823 or via email at irene.vezza@glasgow.ac.uk.

Note for undergraduate students

Please be aware that Centre for Open Studies CertHE classes may be rather different in style to the classes you are used to in the full-time University programme. Our classes are typically small and mostly consist of part-time and mature students. Traditionally they are discussion-based classes rather than lectures, in which students are encouraged to contribute their own observations and questions under the guidance of the tutor. Undergraduate students are nonetheless very welcome to join.

Note for visually impaired students

This course information sheet can be provided in larger type (please telephone 0141 330 1835 to request it). The information it contains can also be found on our website:

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/centreforopenstudies/>

Additional support for students

The Centre for Open Studies welcomes applications from students with particular study needs. In conjunction with the University's Disability Service, we will provide suitable help and support for students wherever practicable. Please let us know about your situation so that we can do all we can to help. You can take the opportunity to advise us of your requirements when you submit your enrolment form to us, but later notification is also invited. A first point of contact is our disability coordinator Irene Vezza (0141 330 1823 or irene.vezza@glasgow.ac.uk).