

Marine Mammal Health (C004331)

Due to Covid 19, the education and assessment methods may vary from the information displayed in the schedules and course details. Any changes will be communicated on Ufora.

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0

Study time 125 h

Contact hrs

50.0h

Course offerings in academic year 2021-2022

A (semester 1)

English

Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2021-2022

Chiers, Koen

DIO5

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2021-2022

[International Master of Science in Marine Biological Resources](#)

crdts

5

offering

A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

cetacea (whale, dolphin, porpoise), pinnepeds (sea lion, seals), anatomy, physiology, pathology, disease

Position of the course

The purpose of this course is to introduce the students to marine mammal health. Students will learn the anatomy, biology and physiology of some common marine mammals. They will be familiarized with the more frequently occurring diseases and pathologies. Ante mortem and postmortem examination and sampling will be addressed.

Contents

- 1 Anatomy, biology and physiology of cetacea (whale, dolphin, porpoise) and pinnepeds (sea lion, seals)
- 2 Care taking of stranded animals and medical interventions
- 3 Marine mammal pathology
- 4 Impact of underwater noise

Initial competences

General biology, General physiology, General histology

Final competences

- 1 The student is familiar with the anatomy and physiology of common marine mammals.
- 2 The student is acquainted with handling stranded animals.
- 3 The student can perform a necropsy on marine mammals.
- 4 The student is able to take appropriate postmortem samples.
- 5 The student is aware of the most common diseases and their associated lesions.
- 6 The student is aware of the impact of noise on marine mammals.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Theory lectures: lectures based on powerpoint presentations
- Practical courses: hands-on necropsy of sea mammals, microscopic examination
- Self-reliant study activities: a set of exercises which need to be prepared in advance, followed by feedback from the teacher and fellow-students.

Learning materials and price

Printouts of the powerpoint presentations will be made available during all classes.

References

Marine Mammal Physiology: Requisites for Ocean Living, Michael A. Castellini, Jo-Ann Mellish
Europe's Sea Mammals Including the Azores, Madeira, the Canary Islands and Cape Verde: A field guide to the whales, dolphins, porpoises and seals, Robert Still, Hugh Harrop, Luís Dias, Tim Stenton
CRC Handbook of Marine Mammal Medicine, by Frances M.D. Gulland, Leslie A. Dierauf, Karyl L. Whitman
Pathobiology Of Marine Mammal Diseases, Howard, CRC Press, 2018

Course content-related study coaching

Study guidance upon request by email or on appointment.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written examination with multiple choice questions, Written examination with open questions

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written examination with multiple choice questions, Written examination with open questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Report, Participation, Oral examination

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

A) peridodic evaluation (theoretical):

Understanding the theory will be tested in a limited number (usually 4 or 5) large open essay questions and/or multiple choice questions. The contents is limited to those items that have been presented during the lectures.

B) permanent evaluation (practical):

Participation: The preparation, presence and active participation during all practical exercises is compulsory.

Self-study: The report and oral presentation will be evaluated.

Calculation of the examination mark

Out of 20:

18 points attributed to closed book written exam

2 points attributed to the report of the group work

Students that do not attend the practical classes without a valid reason, should retake

the course the next academic year.

Students who eschew period aligned and/or non-period aligned evaluations for this course unit may be failed by the examiner.