



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Fundamentals of Marine Biology

2324-1-F7502Q037

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#### Aims

This course examines different biological and ecological aspects and processes of ocean ecosystems. Topics include the distribution, abundance, life habits and interactions of marine organisms characterizing the main zones and the different systems of the marine environment. The impact of multiple stressors and the problems affecting the marine habitats are also discussed.

#### Contents

Processes of marine organisms, Marine systems and habitats, Functioning of Marine Ecosystems

#### Detailed program

##### Introduction to the course

What is marine biology and why it matters; history of marine biology; the scientific method

##### The marine environment

World oceans; structure of the ocean floor; chemical and physical properties of seawater; ocean circulation; life in a fluid medium; primary and secondary production

##### Classification and characteristics of the marine environments

General classification of marine environments; benthic life habits; benthic environments: tidelands (rocky shores,

soft-substratum shores, marshes, mangroves, estuaries); sea grass beds, seaweed and kelp forests, rocky reefs, coral reefs; continental shelf seabed; deep sea; polar regions; pelagic environments and pelagic life habits

### **Introduction to impacts**

Fisheries and aquaculture; pollution and climate change; conservation

### **Present and future of marine biology**

Main recent lines of research in marine biology

**Seminars** – to be defined

### **Prerequisites**

None

### **Teaching form**

Lessons (4 credits) + Tutorials (2 credits)

### **Textbook and teaching resource**

#### **PowerPoint slides**

**Marine Biology: Function, Biodiversity, Ecology** (3<sup>rd</sup> edition). Jeffrey S. Levinton, Oxford University Press

**Marine Ecology: Processes, Systems, and Impacts** (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). Michel J. Kaiser et al., Oxford University Press

**Marine Biology** (10<sup>th</sup> edition). Peter Castro & Michael E. Huber, McGraw Hill Higher Education

### **Semester**

First semester

### **Assessment method**

Oral examination on the topics treated during lessons

Mark range: 18-30/30

## **Office hours**

By appointment by sending an email to the lecturer ([davide.maggioni@unimib.it](mailto:davide.maggioni@unimib.it))

## **Sustainable Development Goals**

LIFE BELOW WATER

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