

# **Biol 425: Experimental Field Ecology**

## **Spring 2012**

Instructor: Dr. James J. Nagler  
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**Course Prerequisites:** Biol 115, 116, 212, 213, 310, and 314 (or equivalents)

### **Course Overview:**

This course will consist of an off-campus field trip to the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology on Coconut Island (off Oahu, Hawaiian Islands) during the Spring Recess 2012 (March 10-18). It will provide an opportunity to design, conduct, and analyze a field experiment to investigate some aspect of ecology in this unique environment. The intent of this course is that it is student-driven with guidance/assistance provided by the instructor and teaching assistants. Individuals or small teams (< 3 students), in advance of the trip, will develop ideas for two different research projects (a principal project and a contingency project). These will be developed as written proposals (< 1 page) and submitted for evaluation according to the timeline indicated below. A written report and oral presentation will be due as indicated on the timeline below.

### **Course Timeline:**

January 13: 1-page, written research proposals due (principal and contingency)  
January 17-20: research teams meet with instructor/TAs to discuss proposals  
January 27: research proposals finalized  
February 21: evening group meeting (LSS 447C; 5pm) for logistics, meals, gear  
March 10-18: trip to HIMB, Oahu.  
April 18: research project written report due  
April 25: evening group (LSS 447C; 6:30pm) meeting for oral presentations

**Grading Scheme:**

The numerical grade for this course will be determined as follows:

Written project report	50 points
Oral presentation	30 points
<u>Class performance</u>	<u>20 points</u>
Total	100 points

Letter grades will be assigned as follows, based on the numerical grade:

A = 90-100 points
B = 80-89 points
C = 70-79 points
D = 60-69 points
F = 59 points or less

**Disability Support Service:**

Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Please notify the course instructor during the first week of class of any accommodation(s) needed for the course. Late notification may mean that requested accommodations might not be available. All accommodations must be approved through *Disability Support Services* located in the Idaho Commons Building, Rm. 333.

**Academic Dishonesty:**

Any evidence of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism) will result in dismissal from the course.

**University of Idaho Learning Civility Clause:**

In any environment in which people gather to learn, it is essential that all members feel as free and safe as possible in their participation. To this end, it is expected that everyone in this course will be treated with mutual respect and civility, with an understanding that all of us (students, instructors, and teaching assistants) will be respectful and civil to one another in discussion, in action, in teaching, and in learning.

Should you feel the course interactions do not reflect an environment of civility and respect, you are encouraged to meet with your instructor, by appointment, to discuss your concern. Additional resources for expression of concern or requesting support include the Dean of Students office and staff (5-6757), the UI Counseling & Testing Center's confidential services (5-6716), or the UI Office of Human Rights, Access, & Inclusion (5-4285).