This is a once-a-year intensive, field-oriented, two-week ecology course, emphasizing coral reefs. Six days of lectures on the Boulder campus will be followed by eight days of fieldwork, requiring low-impact SCUBA techniques on the reefs in the Caribbean off the coast of the Yucatan on the Island of Cozumel. The course will focus on the ecology, behavior and interrelatedness of the tremendous variety of organisms living in association with a coral reef. This is one of the world’s most complex and colorful ecosystems, and those fortunate enough to be comfortable under water have an opportunity to observe and study the organisms living there and the relationships they have with one another in a way others can only imagine. Cozumel has long been known for its beautiful coral reefs and is one of the most popular dive locations in North America.

Incorporated into the course will be many of the instructor's experiences as well as many of the thousands of underwater images he has taken on coral reefs all over the world. This course will also be useful in enhancing the general ecology and field biology backgrounds of liberal arts students who have met the academic pre-requisite of having taken an ecology course.

There will be required readings, lectures, discussions, DVDs and a written exam counting 30% of the course grade in Boulder prior to departure to the Caribbean. A scientifically researched library project paper on some aspect of coral reef ecology counting 60% of the course grade will be initiated in Boulder and must be turned in no later than 3:00 pm, Thursday, February 1st. A field journal/log reflecting on lectures, readings, previous knowledge and reef excursions will be compiled after each dive day and count 10% of the course grade. If this is not part of a standard dive log book it needs to be recorded in a bound journal. It is due to be turned in by the first day of class following the return to Colorado. The above deadlines are firm.

Lectures will be given from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm beginning on the first day and continuing for six days in Ramaley Building N1B23. Note: On day six, class ends at 1:00 pm. At 12:00 pm on the last day of lecture in Boulder there will be a written final exam covering the lectures, DVDs and text. There will be no class on New Year’s Day. Participants depart DIA for Cozumel on Saturday morning, January 6th, returning to Denver one week later. Accommodations for eight days and seven nights will be based on double occupancy at the El Cid/La Ceiba Resort (http://www.elcid.com/ceiba_beach/).

Students must be SCUBA certified and be comfortable under water. A refresher SCUBA pool session will be required of anyone who has not been diving during the 2017 calendar year. SCUBA certification courses are available at the CU Recreation Center and local area dive shops: http://weaversdive.com/ & http://oceanfirstdivers.com/pages/Classes.aspx. The water temperature in Cozumel will likely range between 78 and 84º F.

PRE-REQUISITES: Any college-level course in ecology is a required prerequisite if academic credit is desired plus prior Open Water SCUBA certification is required. If a non-CU student wishes to participate he/she may register for the course through Continuing Education and may do so for credit or for no credit. Taking the course for no credit would be the usual option for one who has not previously taken an ecology course.

COSTS: $2300. Course Package Includes: round trip air fare from Denver; airport-to-resort and back transfers; double occupancy lodging, meals and beverages at the resort; resort taxes; all resort beach diving (both day and night); four days of two-tank boat dives; one boat night dive; complimentary internet access; a one-year Diver-Accident-Medical Insurance Policy (this policy covers recompression chamber costs, so the $2/day fee for this in Cozumel is unnecessary); boat captain tip; dive master tip; a PADI Distinctive Specialty Certification in "Coral Reef Ecology" and CU course credit for fall-semester CU students. An Underwater National Park fee (about $2/day) may or may not be included. Note that if these two hours of credit increase one’s fall-semester load beyond the maximum of eighteen hours, he/she will incur additional tuition costs. Also note that these two hours of credit will not count toward your graduation if it is December 2017.

Pre-trip payment schedule (attached) is designed to collect funds for round-trip air fares, resort lodging and meals and diving expenses at an early date so as not to be caught with last-minute holiday price increases. The course cost, as reflected in this document, is thus an estimate based on the past history of dealing with the travel brokers. Should unexpected price increases occur, the cost of the trip may have to be increased, and this increase would be passed on to the participant. The cost of the course has only had to be increased twice since the mid 1980s, and it is not anticipated to happen this year.

DEPOSIT: $750 due at the time of registration. $150 of this deposit is non-refundable, and non-recoverable funds may be forfeited if the participant cancels after the Final Payment is due (see page three) and there is no waitlisted substitute participant to take his/her place. Penalty fees charged by airlines, resorts and travel agents for schedule changes and/or cancellations will be the responsibility of the student.

COSTS NOT INCLUDED: Expenses during the week in Boulder; textbook; course credit for non-CU students; personal SCUBA equipment (tanks, belts and weights are provided by the dive operator); incidentals; the Cozumel departure tax of about $39 (this is sometimes included with the airline ticket, but not always); airline baggage fees; specialty beverages not included above; Nitrox for about $70/week; Trip Cancellation/Interruption Insurance.

NOTE: Lectures will begin promptly at 8:30 am on the first day of class, and students are required to be there!! The first day of class is December 30th. Be sure your holiday flight plans are arranged to coincide with the time the class begins, and be sure your passport is valid for six months after you leave Mexico to return to the US.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Mel Cundiff, http://spot.colorado.edu/~cundiff/
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Ramaley C170
University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309-0334
Phone (303) 492-8549, email: cundiff@colorado.edu
(If Mel isn’t available try Jennifer at 303-492-8988)
CORAL REEF ECOLOGY COURSE
FALL SEMESTER 2017
PRE-TRIP PAYMENT SCHEDULE

All prices are subject to change due to unforeseen rate increases. Note that this payment schedule is designed to collect funds to secure resort bookings and purchase airline tickets at an early date to avoid holiday price increases.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DUE DATE</th>
<th>PAYMENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DEPOSIT</td>
<td>At registration $ 750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Payment</td>
<td>Friday, July 7th $ 400</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Payment</td>
<td>Friday, August 18th $ 400</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Payment</td>
<td>Friday, September 22nd $ 400</td>
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<tr>
<td>FINAL PAYMENT</td>
<td>Friday, October 27th $ 350</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$2300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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PRE-TRIP MEETING

DATE: Monday, Nov. 13th, 2017
TIME: 6:00 pm
PLACE:
Weaver's Dive Center
Table Mesa Center
637V South Broadway
Boulder, CO 80303
303-499-8500
http://www.dreamweaverdivetravel.com/home.html

PAYMENT via CHECK ONLY:

MAKE PAYABLE TO: University of Colorado
MAIL TO (or deliver to):
Mel Cundiff, RAMY C170
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
334 UCB
University of Colorado
Boulder, CO 80309-0334
INFORMATION:
Mel Cundiff 303-492-8549
Jennifer Kinion 303-492-8988

CANCELLATION POLICY

$150 of the deposit is non-refundable. The total deposit of $750 is not refundable if the participant cancels after the Final Payment is due (see above) and there is no person waitlisted to take his/her place. Penalty or transfer fees charged by airlines, resorts and travel agents for schedule changes and/or cancellations will be the responsibility of the participant as will be airline baggage fees.

DEN/COZ/DEN Flights
06|AN UA1961 Denver - Cozumel 811A 211P /
13|AN UA1962 Cozumel - Denver 305P 530P /
(1st bag = $25; 2nd = $40; max L/W/H = 62in. & 50lb max)

18/Oct/17