

CORAL REEF ECOLOGY

EBIO 4090-800 -- TWO SEMESTER HOURS of CREDIT
Saturday, December 31, 2011 – Saturday, January 14, 2012

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
SEVEN DAYS IN BOULDER - EIGHT DAYS IN ROATAN, HONDURAS

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 at Fantasy Island Resort (See website below) in Roatan, Honduras. 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. The reefs in the Caribbean are considered by many to be among the most beautiful anywhere.

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 for Roatan. 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 2nd. A field journal or log reflecting on lectures, readings, previous biology courses and the reef excursions will be compiled after each dive and count 10% of the course grade. It is due to be turned in by the first day of class following the return from Roatan. 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, videos, DVDs and text. There will be no class on New Year's Day. Participants depart DIA for Roatan on Saturday morning, January 7th, returning to Denver one week later in the evening. Accommodations for eight days and seven nights will be based on double occupancy at the Fantasy Island Resort (<http://www.fantasyislanddiveresort.com/>).

Students must be certified SCUBA divers who are comfortable under water. A refresher SCUBA pool session will be required of anyone who has not been diving during the 2011 calendar year. SCUBA certification courses are available at the CU Recreation Center and local area dive shops. The water temperature in Roatan will likely range between 78 and 82° F.

The **textbook** is *A Field Guide to Coral Reefs of the Caribbean and Florida* by Eugene H. Kaplan, 1999, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, and is available at the University of Colorado Bookstore on the Boulder campus and at [Amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

PRE-REQUISITES: Any college-level course in ecology is a required prerequisite if academic credit is desired plus Open Water SCUBA certification. 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: \$2955. **Course Package Includes:** round trip air fare from Denver; airport-to-resort transfer; double occupancy lodging, meals and beverages at the resort; resort taxes; resort maid tips; resort bell captain tips; all resort beach diving (both day and night); six days of three one-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 at the resort is unnecessary); boat captain tip; dive master tip; a PADI Distinctive Specialty Certification in "Coral Reef Ecology;" CU course credit for fall-semester CU students. 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.

Pre-trip payment schedule (attached) is designed to collect funds to pay 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 slightly twice since the mid 1980s, and it is not anticipated to happen this year.

DEPOSIT: \$500 due at the time of registration. \$100 of this deposit is non-refundable, and the whole deposit is 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 resort); incidentals; the Honduras departure tax of about \$39 (this is sometimes included with the airline ticket, but not always); specialty beverages not included above; Nitrox for \$125/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!! **Be sure your holiday flight plans are arranged to coincide with the times the class meets, and be sure your passport is valid for six months after you leave Honduras.**

**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 Linda at 303-492-8988)

**CORAL REEF ECOLOGY COURSE
FALL SEMESTER 2011
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.

	DUE DATE	PAYMENTS
DEPOSIT	At registration	\$ 500
1st Payment	Friday, July 8	\$ 500
2nd Payment	Thursday, August 25	\$ 500
3rd Payment	Thursday, September 29	\$ 645
FINAL PAYMENT	Tuesday, November 1 st	\$ 655
TOTAL		\$2800

PRE-TRIP MEETING

DATE: Monday, Nov. 7, 2011

TIME: 7:00 pm

PLACE:

Weaver's Dive Center
Table Mesa Center
637V South Broadway
Boulder, CO 80303
303-499-8500

<http://www.weaversdive.com/>

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
Linda Bowden 303-492-8988

CANCELLATION POLICY

\$100 of the deposit is non-refundable. The total deposit of \$500 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.

TENTATIVE AIRLINE SCHEDULE

CO 398G 07JAN12 DEN/IAH 8:25A-11:49A 737-800; CO1892G 07JAN12 IAH/RTB 1:00P-3:45P 737-800
CO 1845K 14JAN12 RTB/IAH 4:40P-7:23 P 737-800; CO 299K 14JAN12 IAH/DEN 8:50P-10:17P 737-800

4/13/11