

BIO220 - Natural History of San Salvador

Instructor: Dr. David Ashley, Professor of Biology

3 Credits: BIO220, Sect 93, 2 credits (lecture) **CRN= 21470**

BIO220, Sect 94, 1 credit (lab/trip) **CRN= 21471**

Semester: Spring, 2008 with San Salvador Island trip (March 9-16)

Textbook:

It is suggested that students purchase **ONE** of the following:

Kaplan, E. 1988. A field guide to southeastern and Caribbean seashores.
Houghton Mifflin Co., N.Y., NY, 425pp.

or

Kaplan, E. 1982. A field guide to coral reefs (Caribbean and Florida).
Houghton Mifflin Co., N.Y., NY, 289pp.

In addition, students will be assigned readings, will present a summary of an aspect of Bahamian biodiversity, and will be expected to examine laboratory specimens prior to our trip.

Format: Students will meet on campus on Monday evenings (6:00-8:30) for lectures, videos, presentations, and field/laboratory activities concerning the natural history of the Bahamas.

During our extended Spring Break trip, lectures and field trips will be scheduled throughout the days and evenings. We will visit a diversity of tropical island habitats including: coral reefs, seagrass beds, mangrove lagoons, blue holes, dune communities, xeric coastal coppices, caves and hypersaline lakes. Much time will be spent swimming and snorkeling. Individuals who are dive-certified will be able to complete several memorable dives during the week.

Students must enroll in both sections of BIO220 (Section 93 and Section 94).

Prerequisites: BIO105, or BIO101 or some other Introductory Biology course or permission of instructor.

Trip Fees: An additional fee will be assessed students for our Spring Break trip to San Salvador Island. Scuba diving expenses are additional. Students will also need a valid U.S. passport.

Grading:	<u>Component</u>	<u>Relative Weight</u>
	1. Presentations	100pts
	2. Exam	100pts
	3. Field Trip ...	100pts

	Total =	300pts

1. Presentations: Biota Brief & BIO220 Travelogue
2. Exam: Written Component & Image Practical
3. Field Trip: Field Journal, Participation & Preparation, Natural History Vignette

Tentative Topics to be Covered

Campus (MWSC) Lectures & Reading Assignments:

- Course Introduction
- Trip Itinerary & Logistics
- San Salvador Geography
- Cultural Diversity: past & present
- Geology of the Bahamian Archipelago
- Symbiosis in the Sea,
- Coral Reefs
- Mangrove Lagoons
- Biota Briefs (Species cameo presentations)

Field Station Lectures/Discussions (Gerace Research Center on San Salvador Island):

- Karst Ecology
- Marine Algae
- Reef Fish
- Reef Invertebrates
- Ecology of Turtlegrass Communities
- Plant Communities of San Salvador Island
- Tide Pool Biota

Field Activities conducted at: Lighthouse Cave, coral reefs, seagrass beds, mangrove lagoons, blue holes, dune communities, xeric coastal coppices, and hypersaline lakes