

Honors Marine Biology 2026.27



Instructor: Sarah Post

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Supply Fee: \$90 (Due May 5, 2026)

Extended Session: None

Prerequisites: Physical Science and Biology

Minimum class size: 6

Monthly Tuition - \$60 / month

(9 equal payments August - April)

Total Yearly Tuition - \$540

Course Description

This college-prep, honors-level course will serve as an option for a fourth upper-level science course for students and is a course of rigor for the HOPE Scholarship qualification. This course provides an introduction to oceanography with a strong emphasis on marine biology and ecosystems. Students study the composition and structure of the ocean, the flow of energy within ocean systems, and the interactions between humans and the marine environment. Core concepts from physical, chemical, geological, and biological oceanography are explored through topics such as marine mineral and energy resources, ocean dynamics, marine pollution, and ocean management. The course also focuses on marine wildlife and habitats, surveying organisms from all biological kingdoms, from microscopic plankton to large marine animals such as sharks. Students examine how these organisms interact with their physical environments to form diverse marine ecosystems, including intertidal zones, estuaries, coral reefs, continental shelf communities, and deep-ocean systems. Laboratory and field experiences are an integral part of the course, allowing students to develop practical skills through activities such as chart reading, basic seawater chemistry measurements, analysis of coastal geology, investigation of wave and beach processes, and hands-on examination of marine organisms and habitats.

Primary Course Text (Student purchases)

Text: *Exploring Creation with Marine Biology* by Seligson **2nd Edition** (ISBN 978-1-940110-95-0)

Students are able to purchase this book directly from Apologia's website or through retailers, such as Amazon. There is also the option for an eBook or Kindle version, both of which are acceptable. **The test booklet and answer key is not required for this course.**

Supplies

- 3-Ring Binder
- 8 Tab Dividers (to divide up the binder in a way that is most efficient for the student)
- Index Cards (for vocabulary and study aids)
- College Ruled Notebook paper
- Pens, pencils (regular and colored), ruler and highlighters

Course Expectations

In-Class Requirements- Students will be expected to participate during class discussions, be prepared to answer questions regarding the material, be fully attentive, and complete labs diligently. Students are expected to have all due assignments completed before class begins so they can be turned in prior to the beginning of the class period.

At-home Requirements- Most class assignments will be completed at home. Students are expected to read every module as assigned, be diligent to study vocabulary, and be properly prepared for all exams. Exams will be taken at home proctored by a parent. Students will be required to complete a lab write-up after most labs and turn it in the following week. Homework will also be assigned for this class, particularly chapter reading, the module study guides, and questions throughout the chapter. These questions are designed to aid in comprehension and understanding of concepts. We will discuss in class and through online participation. The study guide answers will be provided to the student following the class period, so s/he can use it as a study aid before the exam. It is important to complete all homework assignments prior to the upcoming class period for participation.

Assessments

Assessments of the students will be given based on the quality of their completed assignments and reading comprehension. All module tests will be proctored at home by a parent, with the exception of the 4 quarter tests to allow teacher-proctored tests. Throughout the semester there will be quizzes based on reading and class discussion.

The grades will be given as follows:

Tests & Quizzes 30%

Labs 25%

Quarterly Exams (4) 25%

Homework 20%

A student can also exempt the final exam if they have a class grade of 94% or higher at the end of the year.

Summer Assignments

No summer assignments will be given for this class.

Teacher Responsibility

Class time will be used to explain concepts through lectures, activities, and demonstrations and to perform regular experiments, which will concentrate on the use of the microscope and dissections. Weekly assignments will be sent through FACTS and Google Classroom. Module tests will be available through Google Classroom and an email will be sent to parents, with instructions for administration. As well, I will be available by email for help throughout the week.

Student Responsibility

- Students are to complete weekly assignments of reading from the textbook, completing the module study guide questions with vocabulary definitions, writing lab reports, being thoroughly prepared for quizzes and exams, and completing worksheets at home to be prepared for class.
- Turn in assignments on time prior to the beginning of class.
- Students are expected to become more comfortable in asking questions of the teacher. If something does not make sense, ask the teacher to clarify, and do not be afraid to speak up.
- During class, students are to attentively listen, actively participate in the class lecture, take good notes, ask questions, and perform experiments.
- Primary communication with the teacher- Since students are in high school they are expected to communicate with the teacher about absences (unless they are ill) and class questions.

Parent Responsibility

- Oversee that the student is completing the weekly assignments given through FACTS and Google Classroom.
- Administer and supervise all module tests according to SGA testing policy
- Monitor student grades on FACTS.
- Secondary communication with the teacher about absences and student concerns.