

REEF FISHES (MARN 4895/NRE 4695)

SPRING SEMESTER

UConn Course with Field Study in Belize
Course conducted at Avery Point Campus

Coral reefs and their associated communities of fishes are often compared to tropical rainforests in terms of diversity and complexity. This field course is an opportunity to conduct a short-term research project on fishes in coral reef and associated seagrass meadow and mangrove forest habitats in the Caribbean Sea. We will work for one week at a remote field station in the western Caribbean at South Water Caye, Belize (during Spring Break). After familiarization with local habitats and research methods, students will conduct projects for subsequent analysis and interpretation of data. Snorkeling will be required and swimming ability is essential. For details about the Spring 2011 program in Belize click here: http://clas.uconn.edu/news/news_2011_04_25.htm

The Academics

This one credit study abroad field course, "Reef Fish Field Research" is linked to a three-credit course titled "Reef Fishes." The course provides an introduction to reef fish ecology and is focused on the role that interactions of reef structure, local oceanography, fish behavior and life history play in regards to patterns of distribution, abundance and diversity.

The UConn campus component of Reef Fishes will meet Fridays 9:30 AM - 12 PM at the Avery Point Campus. This pair of courses are "Special Topics" classes offered jointly by Marine Sciences (MARN 4895; classes 19717 and 19743) and Natural Resources and the Environment (NRE 4695; classes 19718 and 19744). These courses are open to all students who have satisfactorily completed either BIO 1102; BIO 1108; MARN 1001; MARN 1002, or NRE 1000. Marine Sciences students can include this course as an elective in their Plan of Study.

Both courses, including the week-long field study in Belize, will be taught by Professor Peter Auster. For more information, contact Peter.Auster@uconn.edu.

Students must have or obtain a valid passport for international travel as well as provide mask, fins, snorkel and some form of in-water skin protection, such as a thin wetsuit.

