Marine Biology and Oceanographic Research (6 credits)

Instructor: Dr. Samantha de Putron

Synopsis of Course Content
The Marine Biology and Oceanographic Research course takes place in the final 4 weeks of the semester. Each student will research and pursue a research topic of their choice. During the first 10 weeks of the semester in Bermuda, you will learn about Marine Invertebrate Zoology and Coral Reef Ecology and start to develop areas of specific interest. Each student will submit a research proposal abstract/dart proposal, prior to the end of that 10-week period, outlining research ideas. The instructors/mentors will then provide guidance and work with the student to develop a project based on these ideas. During the 4 weeks of the course, the student will submit a full research proposal, conduct the research project, submit their results in a format suitable for publication in an appropriate journal and present an oral presentation.

Students are expected to work full-time on their research (i.e. at least 40 hours per week). Interaction with instructors/mentors will be frequent and instructors/mentors may organize weekly meetings of all students whom they are supervising to review progress and assist in future planning. The instructors/mentors are available, also, for one-on-one meetings during the week, upon appointment. If you are having difficulties at any stage of your project, do not delay in asking for advice. However, do not come to the instructors without first applying yourself to the task – this is your research project.

Words of wisdom: The 4-week research course provides students with the opportunity to choose their own topic, design or select methodologies, carry out their own research and discuss their results. Research is a process and therefore things can, and often do, go wrong. Murphy's Laws are alive and well in a research environment. Sometimes it is stormy or equipment breaks or animals act in the most amazing and unexpected ways. Organization, hard work and adaptability will help you with the inevitable bumps in the road. Those bumps may help you discover new things unrelated to your initial field of inquiry.

Prerequisites
Completion of 10-week MIZ and CRE courses at BIOS.

Assignments and Grading
There are no exams in this course. Students must submit 1 research proposal and 1 final research paper. Students must also give an oral presentation, using PowerPoint, in the format

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of a scientific conference presentation. Talks will be 12 minutes long with 3 minutes for questions.

The overall grade is based on:
Research Proposal: 10%
Final Research Paper: 65%
Oral Presentation: 25%