Submit original with signatures + 1 copy + electronic copy to UAF Governance. See [http://www.uaf.edu/uafgov/faculty/cd](http://www.uaf.edu/uafgov/faculty/cd) for a complete description of the rules governing curriculum & course changes.

**TRIAL COURSE OR NEW COURSE PROPOSAL**

**SUBMITTED BY:**
- **Department:** GPMSL
- **Prepared by:** Larissa Dehn
dehn@sfos.uaf.edu;
cleumann@alaska.edu
- **College/School:** SFOS
- **Phone:** 907-474-7724
- **Faculty Contact:** Larissa Dehn

1. **ACTION DESIRED**
   (CHECK ONE): Trial Course ☐ New Course ☑

2. **COURSE IDENTIFICATION:**
   - Dept: MSL
   - Course #: 317
   - No. of Credits: 3

   [Justify upper/lower division status & number of credits:]

   This class is designed as an introduction to the biology and diversity of marine mammals and aimed at students with some introductory knowledge of biology and biological systems, but does not require any prior knowledge or exposure to marine mammals and their adaptations. The course is comprised of 3 hours of lecture per week. This class is part of the newly proposed Marine Science minor submitted concurrently to this course proposal.

3. **PROPOSED COURSE TITLE:** Introduction to Marine Mammal Biology

4. **To be CROSS LISTED?**
   - YES/NO
   - If yes, Dept: 

   (Requires approval of both departments and deans involved. Add lines at end of form for such signatures.)

5. **To be STACKED?**
   - YES/NO
   - If yes, Dept: 

6. **FREQUENCY OF OFFERING:**
   - Even-numbered Spring
   - Fall, Spring, Summer (Every, or Even-numbered Years, or Odd-numbered Years) — or As Demand Warrants

7. **SEMESTER & YEAR OF FIRST OFFERING (if approved):**
   - Spring 2012
   - Per Registrar: Fall 2012.

8. **COURSE FORMAT:**
   - NOTE: Course hours may not be compressed into fewer than three days per credit. Any course compressed into fewer than six weeks must be approved by the college or school's curriculum council. Furthermore, any core course compressed to less than six weeks must be approved by the core review committee.
   - COURSE FORMAT: (check all that apply)
     - 1
     - 2
     - 3
     - 4
     - 5
     - 6 weeks to full semester
   - OTHER FORMAT (specify)
   - Mode of delivery (specify lecture, field trips, labs, etc)
   - Lecture

9. **CONTACT HOURS PER WEEK:**
   - LECTURE hours/weeks: 3
   - LAB hours/week:
   - PRACTICUM hours/week:

   Note: # of credits are based on contact hours. 800 minutes of lecture=1 credit. 2400 minutes of lab in a science course=1 credit. 1600 minutes in non-science lab=1 credit. 2400-4800 minutes of practicum=1 credit. 2400-8000 minutes of internship=1 credit. This must match with the syllabus. See [http://www.uaf.edu/uafgov/faculty/cd/credits.html](http://www.uaf.edu/uafgov/faculty/cd/credits.html) for more information on number of credits.

   OTHER HOURS (specify type)
10. **COMPLETE CATALOG DESCRIPTION** including dept., number, title and credits (50 words or less, if possible):

MSL 317 Introduction to Marine Mammal Biology, 3 Credits. The course will introduce students to the biology and diversity of cetaceans, pinnipeds, sirenians, and other marine mammals. Topics will include evolution, ecology, reproduction, and behavior of marine mammals, their special adaptations, such as diving, osmo- and thermoregulation, and will explore some current conservation and management issues. The course will be structured in a lecture format. (Prerequisite: BIOL 116 or MSL 212, or instructor permission) (3+0)

11. **COURSE CLASSIFICATIONS:** (undergraduate courses only. Use approved criteria found on Page 10 & 17 of the manual. If justification is needed, attach on separate sheet.)

   H = Humanities    S = Social Sciences

   Will this course be used to fulfill a requirement for the baccalaureate core? **YES** [ ] **NO** [x]

   IF YES, check which core requirements it could be used to fulfill:

   O = Oral Intensive,   W = Writing Intensive,
   Format 6 [ ]   Format 7 [ ]

   Natural Science,    Format 8 [ ]

12. **COURSE REPEATABILITY:**

   Is this course repeatable for credit? **YES** [ ] **NO** [x]

   Justification: Indicate why the course can be repeated (for example, the course follows a different theme each time).

   How many times may the course be repeated for credit? [ ] TIMES

   If the course can be repeated with variable credit, what is the maximum number of credit hours that may be earned for this course? [ ] CREDITS

13. **GRADING SYSTEM:** Specify only one.

   LETTER: [x] PASS/FAIL: [ ]

**RESTRICTIONS ON ENROLLMENT (if any)**

14. **PREREQUISITES** BIOL 116 or MSL 212

   These will be required before the student is allowed to enroll in the course.

   **RECOMMENDED**

   Classes, etc. that student is strongly encouraged to complete prior to this course.

15. **SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS, CONDITIONS** None

16. **PROPOSED COURSE FEES** None

   Has a memo been submitted through your dean to the Provost &VCAS for fee approval? **Yes/No** [ ]

17. **PREVIOUS HISTORY**

   Has the course been offered as special topics or trial course previously? **Yes/No** [x]

   If yes, give semester, year, course #, etc.:

18. **ESTIMATED IMPACT**

   **WHAT IMPACT, IF ANY, WILL THIS HAVE ON BUDGET, FACILITIES/SPACE, FACULTY, ETC.**

   None. Larissa Dehn, the instructor of this course, will teach this class as part of her annual academic teaching obligation. No specialized facilities are required for this course.

19. **LIBRARY COLLECTIONS**

   Have you contacted the library collection development officer (kljensen@alaska.edu, 474-6695) with regard to the adequacy of library/media collections, equipment, and services available for the proposed course? If so, give date of contact and resolution. If not, explain why not.

   **No** [ ] **Yes** [x]

   Dr. Anne Christie (BioSciences Library) has been contacted. She has received a copy of the syllabus and a
tentative reading list with required and recommended books for this class. It was determined that all reading materials needed are available through the library. Special assistance with student queries will be provided as needed.

20. IMPACTS ON PROGRAMS/DEPTS
What programs/departments will be affected by this proposed action?
Include information on the Programs/Departments contacted (e.g., email, memo)

The MSL program will be impacted by an increase in the diversity of course offerings available to students. In addition, course offerings at the undergraduate level can increase student enrollment for the graduate program as early exposure in the field of Marine Science and ongoing research in the department might spark student interest for an advanced degree program. Topics covered will also be of interest to undergraduate Fisheries and Natural Resource Management students, in particular marine mammal bycatch in US fisheries, marine mammal feeding ecology, and human interactions. The course could also be of interest to BIOL and WLF students as it will increase the breadth of their knowledge base to include marine species diversity, adaptations, and management and conservation strategies as well as potential differences to terrestrial ecosystem management.

21. POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE IMPACTS
Please specify positive and negative impacts on other courses, programs and departments resulting from the proposed action.

The GPMSL program has identified a need for an introductory course in marine mammal biology to serve the undergraduate demand. The course is expected to closely complement the existing course requirements in the proposed Marine Science Minor and address a specific gap within the program. The Marine Science minor is submitted concurrently to this course proposal. No negative impacts are expected from this course.

JUSTIFICATION FOR ACTION REQUESTED
The purpose of the department and campus-wide curriculum committees is to scrutinize course change and new course applications to make sure that the quality of UAF education is not lowered as a result of the proposed change. Please address this in your response. This section needs to be self-explanatory. Use as much space as needed to fully justify the proposed course.

Understanding marine mammal diversity and their special adaptations as well as current issues and climate change impacts, particularly in Alaskan waters, are essential for a well-rounded undergraduate education in marine biology. In addition, the State of Alaska has multiple marine mammal programs and is seeking to fill positions for these programs, yet aside from a graduate (600) level marine mammal biology course no introduction to this topic exists. Early exposure to biology and special conservation concerns regarding marine mammals is needed and is provided by this course.

APPROVALS:

Signature, Chair, Program/Department of:  
Date 10 Dec 2010

Signature, Chair, College/School Curriculum Council for:  
Date 13 Dec 2010

Signature, Dean, College/School of:  
Date 18 Nov 2010
Signature of Provost (if applicable)
Offerings above the level of approved programs must be approved in advance by the Provost.

ALL SIGNATURES MUST BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNANCE OFFICE

Signature, Chair, UAF Faculty Senate Curriculum Review Committee
Date

ADDITIONAL SIGNATURES: (As needed for cross-listing and/or stacking)

Signature, Chair, Program/Department of:
Date

Signature, Chair, College/School Curriculum Council for:
Date

Signature, Dean, College/School of:
Date
ATTACH COMPLETE SYLLABUS (as part of this application).
Note: The guidelines are online: http://www.uaf.edu/uafgov/faculty/cd/syllabus.html
The department and campus wide curriculum committees will review the syllabus to
ensure that each of the items listed below are included. If items are missing or
unclear, the proposed course change will be denied.

SYLLABUS CHECKLIST FOR ALL UAF COURSES
During the first week of class, instructors will distribute a course syllabus. Although modifications may be made throughout the semester, this document will contain the following information (as applicable to the discipline):

1. Course information:
   - Title, number, credits, prerequisites, location, meeting time
   (make sure that contact hours are in line with credits).
2. Instructor (and if applicable, Teaching Assistant) information:
   - Name, office location, office hours, telephone, email address.
3. Course readings/materials:
   - Course textbook title, author, edition/publisher.
   - Supplementary readings (indicate whether required or recommended) and
   - any supplies required.
4. Course description:
   - Content of the course and how it fits into the broader curriculum;
   - Expected proficiencies required to undertake the course, if applicable.
   - Inclusion of catalog description is strongly recommended, and
   - Description in syllabus must be consistent with catalog course
description.
5. Course Goals (general), and (see #6)
6. Student Learning Outcomes (more specific)
7. Instructional methods:
   - Describe the teaching techniques (eg: lecture, case study, small group
discussion, private instruction, studio instruction, values clarification,
games, journal writing, use of Blackboard, audio/video conferencing, etc.).
8. Course calendar:
   - A schedule of class topics and assignments must be included. Be specific
so that it is clear that the instructor has thought this through and will
not be making it up on the fly (e.g. it is not adequate to say “lab”.
Instead, give each lab a title that describes its content). You may call
the outline Tentative or Work in Progress to allow for modifications during
the semester.
9. Course policies:
   - Specify course rules, including your policies on attendance, tardiness,
class participation, make-up exams, and plagiarism/academic integrity.
10. Evaluation:
    - Specify how students will be evaluated, what factors will be
included, their relative value, and
    - how they will be tabulated into grades (on a curve, absolute scores,
    etc.)
11. Support Services:
    - Describe the student support services such as tutoring (local and/or
    regional) appropriate for the course.
12. Disabilities Services:
The Office of Disability Services implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and insures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and
course materials.
    - State that you will work with the Office of Disabilities Services (208
WHIT, 474-5655) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with
disabilities.”
MSL 317 Introduction to Marine Mammal Biology – 3 Credits

Instructor: Dr. Lara Dehn
School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences
232 Irving II
907-474-7616
dehn@sfos.uaf.edu

Class meeting times: MWF, TBA
Location: TBA
Office hours: MWF, TBA or by appointment

Prerequisites: BIOL 116 or MSL 212, or instructor permission

Course Description: The course will introduce students to the biology and diversity of cetaceans, pinnipeds, sirenians, and other marine mammals. Topics will include evolution, ecology, reproduction, and behavior of marine mammals, their special adaptations, such as diving, osmo- and thermoregulation, and will explore some current conservation and management issues. The course will be structured in a lecture format.

Course Goals: This course will provide a basic understanding of marine mammal biology, their diversity, and adaptations required in aquatic ecosystems.

Learning Objectives:
1. Become familiar with the evolution and diversity of marine mammals
2. Examine problems and challenges that are associated with aquatic life and discover their specific adaptations to address these problems
3. Explore techniques used to study these taxa
4. Learn about marine mammal management, conservation, and protection

Required Reading:
- Other readings as assigned (see course schedule)

No single textbook covers all aspects and provides a good overview of marine mammal biology. I will therefore draw on a variety of different sources and textbooks for information. The required reading “Encyclopedia of Marine Mammals” is not meant as a structured textbook, but is an excellent resource and reference guide to anything “marine mammal” in alphabetical layout. It is understood that you will use this book throughout the class as supplementary reading.

Other Recommended Resources:

**Internet Links and Sources of Interest:**

MarMam Listserv: https://lists.uvic.ca/mailman/listinfo/marmam

European Cetacean Society Listserv: http://www.europeancetaceansociety.eu/ecs-maillist.php

Society for Marine Mammalogy: http://marinemammalscience.org/

Juneau Humpback Whale Catalog: http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/ABL/Humpback/WhyPhoto.htm


Sea Lion Gallery: http://shutterbug.ucsc.edu/sealion/albums.php


CITES Convention: http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/text.shtml


Alaska Marine Mammal Stranding Network:
http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/protectedresources/strandings.htm


Alaska Fisheries Science Center: http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/default.htm


NOAA Ice Seal Page: http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/protectedresources/seals/ice.htm

Whale and Siren Evolution: http://www.neoucom.edu/DEPTS/ANAT/Thewissen/

Digital Library of Dolphin Development: http://www.neoucom.edu/DLDD/

Marine mammal necropsy: an introductory guide for stranding responders and field biologists:
https://darchive.mblwholibrary.org/handle/1912/1823

Assessment of Risk of Zoonotic Disease Transmission to Marine Mammal Workers:

Satellite Tracking of Bowhead Whales:
http://www.wildlife.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=marinemammals.bowhead
Course Policies

Attendance: Attendance is required and will be part of your grade! You can miss one class unexcused, but becoming familiar with the covered material during the missed period is your responsibility. I strongly encourage discussions and questions during class.

Updates: Make sure I have a current email address for you. Check your e-mail messages regularly. Class information and changes in the syllabus will be distributed through e-mail. Please note that the course schedule is “tentative”.

Exams: The exams will be written, closed-book, short-answer, and some multiple choice questions. The final exam will include material presented throughout the semester, but will be weighted toward material covered after the second midterm. Make-up exams will not be given. Unless you have a serious emergency you will need to take the exams during the time scheduled. If you miss the exam unexcused you will receive zero points.

Presentations: You will be responsible for a 15-minute presentation on a marine mammal species of your choice. No species can be covered multiple times by different students, so first-come-first-serve will ensure that you can present on the species you pick. Species specifically covered in class (e.g., vaquitas) are not an option. The student presentations should introduce the species, i.e., appearance, distribution, abundance, feeding, mating, status, etc. Time slot availability for the presentations is also determined by first-come-first-serve.

Cheating, Forgery, Plagiarism, Disruptive Behavior etc.: I expect high ethical standards from each of you. The standards in this class adhere to the UAF Student Code of Conduct, see p. 83, 2008-2009 UAF Catalog

Violations of the UAF Student Code of Conduct will result in an immediate “F”. Additionally, violations of the Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action initiated by UAF.

A note on plagiarism: Definition: “A piece of writing that has been copied from someone else and is presented as being your own work.” This means that information from books, scientific literature, internet, even images etc. need to be properly cited! However, there needs to be also some original thought in your work – you cannot take an entire presentation or even a whole slide, reference it as “XYZ” and be done with it. When in doubt, ask.
Grading:

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<th>Possible points</th>
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<td>Midterm Exam #2</td>
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<td>Student Presentation (15 minutes)</td>
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<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
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Semester grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

A = 90-100%
B = 80-89%
C = 70-79%
D = 69-60%
F = less than 60%

Support Services:

UAF libraries are a great resource. While on the UAF network, many journals recognize the university authorization to access scientific papers so you can download and print papers of interest to you, your studies, or this class. If a paper is not available, you can request them through Interlibrary Loan [http://uf.illiad.oclc.org/illiad/logon.html](http://uf.illiad.oclc.org/illiad/logon.html)

Google Scholar [http://scholar.google.com/schhp?hl=en&tab=ws](http://scholar.google.com/schhp?hl=en&tab=ws) is one of the greatest tools to search for scientific literature, images, and videos based on keywords. If you are on campus you can immediately link to pdf files of most papers.

UAF Student Support Services [http://www.uaf.edu/sssp/](http://www.uaf.edu/sssp/) offers general support ranging from note taking to career planning.

Check out the Writing Center [http://library.uaf.edu/blogs/welcome/category/writing-center/](http://library.uaf.edu/blogs/welcome/category/writing-center/) for additional computer availability or help with resources.

Disabilities Services

If you have a disability and require any aids, services, or accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact me after class, see me in my office, or call me during the first few weeks of the semester so we can talk about your particular situation.

UAF has a Disability Services office that operates in conjunction with Tanana Valley Campus. Disability Services, a part of UAF’s Center for Health and Counseling, provides academic accommodations to enrolled students who are identified as being eligible for these services.

If you believe you are eligible, please visit [http://www.uaf.edu/chc/disability.html](http://www.uaf.edu/chc/disability.html). You can also contact Disability Services on the Fairbanks Campus at (907) 474-5655, [fysdo@uaf.edu](mailto:fysdo@uaf.edu)
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<td>Course Introduction; What are marine mammals?</td>
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<td>Why go back to the Water?</td>
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<td>Pinniped Diversity</td>
<td>Encyclopedia of Marine Mammals</td>
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<td>1/31</td>
<td>Cetacean Diversity</td>
<td>Encyclopedia of Marine Mammals</td>
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<td>Skull and Skeleton</td>
<td>Chapter 2. Biology of marine mammals. Reynolds and Rommel</td>
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<td>2/7</td>
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<td>Feeding Strategies</td>
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<td>Ocean Animal Emergency</td>
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<td>Regulation and Law Enforcement</td>
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<td>5-6</td>
<td>Student presentations / Review</td>
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Curriculum Committee SFOS

Members:  Trent Sutton (Chair)
          Katrin Iken
          Jeremy Mathis
          Andre Lopez

New Course
Course Number: MSL317
Course Title: Introduction to Marine Mammal Biology
Instructor: Dehn
First Time of Offering: Yes

08 December 2010

General Recommendations:

On the last page of the course proposal form is a checklist of components to be included in the syllabus. Be sure to go through this checklist to make sure all components are addressed. Failure to do so could result in the delay of getting this course proposal through the UAF Curriculum Review Committee.

Faculty Senate Form:

Clarify and Address the following:

- For course identification section, need to state that the proposed Marine Science minor has been submitted concurrently.
- The catalog description (section 10) must appear as it will in the actual catalog; you must include the course number, title, credits, prerequisites, and course format (e.g., 3+0); you only had the course description. Your course description must match the syllabus.
- Not a natural science course so do not check that box.
- For prerequisites, just BIOL 116 and MSL 212 (BIOL 115 and MSL 211 are implied as is prereqs for BIOL 116 and MSL 212, respectively).
- The UAF Curriculum Review Committee is recommending that recommended courses should not be listed.
- State “None” for special restrictions.
- For section 20, line 2, how will this course increase student enrollment? Through recruitment of students into the program? Please clarify. Like 3, FISH should be replaced with undergraduate Fisheries. Might want to also include NRM in this section as this course would be attractive to them as well.
- Section 21. Marine Science Minor, not Marine Biology. Also need to state that the paperwork for the minor has been submitted concurrently.

Syllabus:

- Change prerequisites as stated for the form.
- The course description on the syllabus must match the course description on the form (UAF requirement).