

Cold Water Diving Syllabus
MSL 495 1 credit
Summer 2008

Aug 18-22 2008

Fees: \$ 598

Instructor: Brenda Konar
bkonar@guru.uaf.edu telephone: 474-5028
Open office hours - just come by
Scientific Diving Web Site: <http://www.sfos.uaf.edu/dive/>

Test the Waters Instructor: Mitch Osborne
Test the Waters phone: 490-4444

Classes will be held at the Kasitsna Bay Laboratory. Students will stay at the dormitories at the lab. Room and board are covered as part of the fees.

SCUBA equipment: SCUBA tanks, weight belts and air fills will be provided at the lab as part of the fees. We have off-the-rack drysuits and hoods that we will provide to the students at no additional cost. If a student can not fit into one of our regular (small, medium, and large) suits, then they will need to rent a suit on their own. Any damage (not including normal wear and tear) done to the suits and hoods will be charged to the student. We can provide buoyancy compensators to students who request them prior to the class. Students are expected to bring their own mask, fins, snorkel, gloves, regulator, and dive underwear. Students who do not have these items, should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make other arrangements.

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to Cold Water Diving. Specifically, it will train certified SCUBA divers in drysuit use and maintenance. The course will stress drysuit safety and buoyancy skills and will include practical experience in a cold-water rescue. Students will be beach and small boat SCUBA diving. Upon completion of this course, students will receive a PADI Drysuit Specialty certification. The course also will familiarize students with local Alaska subtidal flora and fauna and give students an opportunity to work underwater.

At the lab, various lectures will be given on use and maintenance of drysuits and other cold water techniques. Dives will be conducted daily and will include drysuit safety drills, buoyancy drills, small boat dives, and a cold-water rescue.

Prerequisite: This course is open to both undergraduate and graduate students. An American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) certification and instructor permission are required. Students must be current in adult CPR, First Aid, and Emergency Oxygen Administration. Please contact UAF Risk Management or the instructor (Konar) if you have questions about the required certifications. Students also must possess a current SCUBA medical physical. A letter of reciprocity from the student's Diving Safety Officer is required if the student is not in the UAF program. It is highly suggested that interested students contact the instructor prior to registering to ensure that paperwork is in order.

Required Books: none
Organism keys and field guides will be provided while at the Kasitsna Bay Laboratory.

Grading: Pass/Fail. A pass will result after the successful completion of all open ocean skills.

SCHEDULE:

DATE	TOPIC	LOCATION
Aug 18	Orientation & drysuit fitting Lecture: Introduction to drysuits DIVES: AAUS drysuit skills Optional: Fun dive Evening: drysuit video	Kasitsna Bay Jakolof Bay
Aug 19	DIVES: Buoyancy drills Boat dive Night dive (optional)	Kasitsna Bay Hezketh Island Kasitsna Bay
Aug 20	Lecture: Cold water rescues DIVES: Cold water rescue Boat dive Night dive (optional)	Kasitsna Bay Herring Island Jakolof Bay
Aug 21	Lecture: Scientific Sampling DIVES: Assist in Research Project Night dive (optional)	TBA TBA
Aug 22	DIVE: Scientific Sampling Lecture: Cold Water Opportunities in Alaska	TBA

Those that need AAUS skills must complete them prior to doing any "fun" dives.

It is possible to do more dives than those listed above. Please keep in mind that this is a draft and will be tailored depending on student skill levels.

Course policies:

Attendance is required. Failure to attend classes without prior instructor approval will result in a failure.

Support and Disability Services

The Office of Disability Services (203 WHIT 474-7043) implements the Americans with Disabilities Act and insures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials. Students with disabilities can be assured that they will be provided with reasonable accommodation.

The class is a field course. Facilities at the lab are disability accessible. However, SCUBA diving excursions are required.