

OCES2005 Coastal Marine Habitats

Venue: LSK 1033, Friday 8:30 – 12:50

Course Description

The course introduces students to a range of local marine coastal habitats through lectures and various field trips. Through this course, students are expected to deepen their understanding of and interest in marine ecology, biodiversity and natural conservation. After receiving training related to Hong Kong marine ecology and biodiversity, students will conduct group projects on local marine conservation, acquire skills for scientific exploration, and devise related applications. This course emphasizes positive attitudes and values education, which encourages students to care for the environment and respect for life.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

By the end of this course, the students are expected to be able to:

- 1) define and explain the concepts of biodiversity and conservation
- 2) describe the diversity of coastal marine habitats, and explain how these habitats contribute to both biodiversity and ecological integrity
- 3) apply critical thinking skills to identify, analyze and propose solutions to problems related to conservation of marine habitats and its biodiversity
- 4) develop the ability to conduct research, including data collection, analysis and interpretation, within the context of marine biodiversity and conservation
- 5) evaluate the effectiveness of existing policies and management strategies aimed at conserving coastal marine habitats and its biodiversity
- 6) instill a strong sense of ethical responsibility towards the conservation of coastal marine habitats and its biodiversity
- 7) enhance the ability to communicate complex environmental issues and proposed solutions clearly to a variety of audiences, including their peers, scientists, policy makers and the general public

Course Format

Lectures + Field Trips

Course Assessment

- iPRS quizzes (20%)

- Group Project (30%)
- Group Project Presentation (20%)
- Peer Evaluation (10%)
- Course Participation (20%)

Summary Table

Assessment Task	Contribution to Overall Course Grade (%)	Due Date
iPRS quiz 1	4 %	19 Sep 2025
iPRS quiz 2	4 %	26 Sep 2025
iPRS quiz 3	4 %	17 Oct 2025
iPRS quiz 4	4 %	24 Oct 2025
iPRS quiz 5	4 %	7 Nov 2025
Group Project	30 %	28 Nov 2025
Group Project Presentation	20 %	28 Nov 2025
Peer Evaluation	10 %	28 Nov 2025
Course Participation	20 %	

Assessment marks for individual assessed tasks will be released within two weeks of the due date.

Mapping of Course ILOs to Assessment Tasks

Assessed Task	Mapped ILOs	Explanation
Quizzes	ILO 1, ILO 2	This task assesses students' ability to catch up with the lecture materials that cover basic concepts of biodiversity and conservation (ILO 1) and define diversity of different coastal marine habitats and its unique biodiversity (ILO 2)
Group Project	ILO 3, ILO-4, ILO-5	This task assesses students' ability to collaborate and apply critical thinking skills to identify problems in coastal marine habitats (ILO 3), develop scientific skills in data collection, analysis and interpretation (ILO 4), evaluate the effectiveness of existing policies and management strategies in coastal marine habitats conservation (ILO 5)
Group Project Presentation	ILO-3, ILO 4, ILO-5, ILO-7	This task assesses students' ability to collaborate and apply critical thinking

		skills to identify problems in coastal marine habitats (ILO 3), develop scientific skills in data collection, analysis and interpretation (ILO 4), evaluate the effectiveness of existing policies and management strategies in coastal marine habitats conservation (ILO 5), learn different methods to present data in oral presentation (ILO-7)
Peer Evaluation	ILO-5, ILO-6, ILO-7	This task assesses students' ability to foster critical evaluation of group members' contributions to the project, aligning with ILO 5, ILO 6 and ILO 7, and promoting the development of evaluative and communicative skills
Course Participation	ILO-6	This task assesses students' contribution and enthusiasm in the course activities, develop a strong sense of ethical responsibility towards conservation of coastal marine habitats and its biodiversity (ILO-6)

Final Grade Descriptors:

Grades	Short Description	Elaboration on Subject Grading Description
A	Excellent Performance	Students demonstrate an exceptional understanding of marine biodiversity, coastal habitats, and conservation strategies. They apply critical thinking, research, and analysis at a high level, clearly integrating field experience and theoretical knowledge. Their group work shows exemplary collaboration and communication, and their project presentations are well-structured, insightful, and engaging. Active participation in all course activities is evident, with a strong ethical commitment to environmental conservation.
B	Good Performance	Students exhibit a solid understanding of the key concepts and effectively apply critical thinking and research skills. Their projects and presentations are well-executed, with minor gaps in insight or detail. They contribute actively in group work and field activities, demonstrating good communication and

		collaboration. Participation is consistent, and they show an ethical understanding of conservation, though there is room for deeper engagement.
C	Satisfactory Performance	Students meet the basic course requirements, showing a satisfactory understanding of the key concepts of marine biodiversity and conservation. Their research and critical analysis are adequate, though lacking depth in areas. Group work and presentations meet expectations, but may lack clarity or comprehensive analysis. Participation in course activities is acceptable, and their ethical approach to conservation is present but not strongly articulated.
D	Marginal Pass	Students demonstrate minimal understanding of the course material. Their research and analysis are weak, and their contributions to group work and presentations are limited. Participation in course activities is inconsistent, and their commitment to environmental conservation is superficial. The work lacks depth and may only meet the minimum criteria to pass.
F	Fail	Students fail to demonstrate an understanding of the course material. They are unable to apply critical thinking or research skills adequately, and their group work and presentations are incomplete or poorly executed. Participation is negligible, and there is little to no evidence of an ethical approach to environmental conservation. Their work does not meet the required standards for a passing grade.

Communication and Feedback

Assessment marks for individual assessed tasks will be communicated via Canvas within two weeks of submission.

Course AI Policy

The use of Generative AI is not applicable to this course as all quizzes are closed book examinations.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to the university's academic integrity policy. Students are expected to uphold HKUST's Academic Honor Code and to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. The University has zero tolerance of academic misconduct. Please refer to [Academic Integrity – HKUST – Academic Registry](#) for the University's definition of plagiarism and ways to avoid cheating and plagiarism.

Tentative Schedule

Week	Date	Activity
1	Sep 5	Course Introduction & Safety Briefing
2	Sep 12	Field Sampling Techniques Nature Photography
3	Sep 19	Lecture 1: Plankton ecology and biodiversity
4	Sep 26	Lecture 2: Mudflat ecology and biodiversity
5	Oct 3	Field Trip 1: Plankton sampling at HKUST pier
6	Oct 11 (Sat)	Field Trip 2: Pak Nai
7	Oct 17	Lecture 3: Rocky shore ecology and biodiversity
8	Oct 24	Lecture 4: Marine mammals in Hong Kong
9	Oct 31	Field Trip 3: Ma Shi Chau Geopark
10	Nov 7	Lecture 5: Wetland ecology and biodiversity
11	Nov 15	Field Trip 4: Dolphin Survey in NW Lantau
12	Nov 21	Field Trip 5: Bird Watching in Long Valley
13	Nov 28	Group Project Presentation + Peer evaluation