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COURSE OUTLINE  
Advanced Topics in Geography: Whale Geography

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Office Hours:  
Office Location:  
Contact:

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will explore the concept of organism-centric biogeography, using whales as a case study. In turn, concepts of marine ecology and niche space will also be explored. We will draw on both long-term data sets and more recent research of the Whale Research Lab, in particular exploring the application of acoustics to ecology. This builds on a more traditional approach to biogeographical study, adding layers of understanding of the habitat use of marine mammals.

Course material will cover the many aspects of spatial use by whales as well as a more general appreciation of marine ecology, with particular reference to the west coast. Scientific investigation involves detailed data collection and observations, and so students will be able to follow the process through hypothesis building, data collection and analysis, to result presentation and discussion. The objective of this course is to create a foundation of information and skills so the student may integrate material from various sources including scientific literature and field data, to build a critically enhanced body of knowledge on a marine-based research topic.

KEY THEMES:

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analysis and presentation.

#### EVALUATION

Students will complete a research paper on one aspect of the research of the Whale Research Lab describing whale habitat use, drawing on previous data as well as that acquired throughout the course. A research paper, outlining a proposed line of inquiry or an analysis of a data stream will be started in the field, and completed in time following the course. A presentation will be given to outline the research idea and methods, as well as any preliminary results. Throughout the time in the field students will be encouraged to actively take part in all aspects of fieldwork, which will contribute to their participation mark.

Each student grade will be a sum of the following proportions:

Research Paper	70%
Research presentation	15%
Participation	15%

#### GRADING SYSTEM

Grade

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

cheating, plagiarism unauthorized use of an editor multiple submission  
aiding others to cheat

Policy on Academic Integrity

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## ACCESSIBILITY

## POSITIVITY AND SAFETY

## COURSE EXPERIENCE SURVEY (CES)