**Marine Ecology MASC 440/BIOL 462 Fall 2019**
Th/Th 8:00-8:15 in GSB 1378

[Dr. John F Bruno](http://johnfbruno.web.unc.edu/) Professor, Department of Biology 340 (office) and 342 (lab) Wilson Hall
jbruno@unc.edu

Go [here](https://www.canumeet.com/johnbruno) to set up a meeting with me via CanUMeet

Text: There is no textbook for this class. Instead, we will read and evaluate published peer-reviewed literature, which will be in the Resources folder.

Sakai: I will use the course Sakai site for pre-lecture quizzes, some in class assignments, homework (out of class assignments), and to record your grades (so you can track them). You need an onyen to log on. It is your responsibility to check it regularly. At least daily.

Course content: The class will cover the evolution, ecology, and conservation of marine plants, invertebrates, and vertebrates and a wide variety of marine habitats and ecosystems.  This semester we will focus on coral reef ecology and conservation, assessments of the causes of coral decline, strong inference and experimental design, and conservation interventions.

Learning objectives: 1)  Marine ecology: goals, history, state, progress 2)  How the science of ecology is done: evidence, experiments, etc. 3)  Factors that control populations and community structure 4)  Natural history of marine communities 5)  Threats to and conservation of marine ecosystems (changes: patterns, causes, remedies)

Assessment: The degree to which students have met the course learning objectives will be assessed via weekly quizzes, in-class activities, and the final exam.

Exams: There will be both online and in class quizzes, and a cumulative final exam.

Grade calculation:

Attendance      5%
Participation     5%
Quizzes            20%
Assignments    50%
Final                 20%

In general, the scale for each letter grade comes very close to a 10-point scale. However, I reserve the right to change that scale since it is impossible to predict the difficulty level of any particular test. I will keep you updated about the estimated scale as the course moves along.

Digital etiquette: This course will require you to use your laptop during class time. While we recognize that you are an excellent multitasker, research suggest that your peers are not. Please be respectful of your classmates and restrict your use of digital devices to course content. If we see that you or your peers are distracted, we will ask you to put your devices away and you may forfeit your ability to earn participation points that day. We understand that your devices connect you to your friends and family (a wonderful thing!) but the classroom should be a place apart, however briefly (even if it seems like an eternity to you), from the outside world and distractions. You will learn more if you concentrate on the course while you are here and your classmates will thank you for not impeding their ability to learn.

Diversity Statement: The Department of Biology values the perspectives of individuals from all backgrounds reflecting the diversity of our students. We broadly define diversity to include race, gender identity, national origin, ethnicity, religion, social class, age, sexual orientation, political background, and physical and learning ability. We strive to make this classroom and this department an inclusive space for all students.