

NSCI 7000  
MASTER'S THESIS FOR COURSE CREDIT

Term Spring 2009

Number of Credits: 2

INSTRUCTOR: K. David Hyrenbach

MEETING TIME : Mondays 12 – 2 pm

*STUDENT NAME* Brenda Asuncion

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*TELEPHONE AND E-MAIL FOR INSTRUCTOR* (808) 228-4464 [khyrenbach@hpu.edu](mailto:khyrenbach@hpu.edu)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** MSMS students will work with their advisor and their thesis committee to complete data analysis and write up their thesis. In addition, students will write up the results of their research in an appropriate scientific format as defined by their advisor and thesis committee. Pre-requisites: Approval of the graduate thesis committee.

*(provide problem being addressed, general nature of work done, location of work, other pertinent information)*

This course builds upon the work Brenda will be completing under the auspices of a 3-unit NSCI-6900 course this semester, analyzing data on the distribution / habitats / movements of individually marked green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) tagged off Kaimalino (Oahu), as part of her MS dissertation. The outcomes of this course will be: (i) collection of visual and acoustic data on turtle distributions and movements; (ii) the processing and interpretation of the turtle movement data from visual surveys; and (iii) the synthesis of these results in written / tabular / graph form for inclusion in Brenda's MSMS dissertation. Brenda will discuss the results and analysis with Dr. Hyrenbach via email and through weekly meetings (~ 2 hr / week) to review the progress of the analysis and write-up of the project results. This course will lead to the submission of an abstract for the "Hawaii Conservation Alliance" conference, scheduled for July 2009.

### ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Graduate students are expected to comply with HPU's academic honesty policies but are further more required to understand the reasons for this policy and internalize the principles of scientific integrity. This thesis is the culmination of this process. The written product of this course can be submitted to turnit.com as a developmental process. All research results must be documented with laboratory notebooks, computer files of raw data and instrument read printouts. Data analysis and presentation must be accompanied by clear and accurate descriptions. All major writing assignments will be analyzed at Turnitin.com. For homework problems and any other take-home assignment, students may work with each other but must turn in their own answers to assigned problems. For additional information on plagiarism see the links in Campus Pipeline under the Libraries folder. Another excellent site explaining plagiarism (and how to avoid committing it) can be found at the Purdue University's Online Writing Lab at [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r\\_plagiar.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_plagiar.html)

### LEARNING OUTCOMES:

After completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Analyze and interpret the results of scientific research.
2. Apply and integrate scientific principles and research data to solve complex problems in marine systems
3. Summarize the results of their scientific work in a form acceptable for publication in the referred scientific journal as defined by the thesis advisor and the thesis committee.

### ASSIGNMENTS

Completion of a written thesis that describes the student's scientific research in a format acceptable to the thesis advisor and the thesis committee is the major requirement of this course. Successful completion of this course will be indicated by the submission to the Dean of the College of Natural Sciences a thesis with an attached signature sheet indicating that this work is acceptable to the thesis advisor and to the thesis committee.

### EVALUATION

The thesis will be evaluated by the Research Advisor and Thesis Committee on whether the following criteria were met to an unacceptable, acceptable, or exceptional standard:

- Was the thesis of professional standard, in both the clarity of the writing, organization and quality of the graphics and tables?
- Was the written thesis complete in covering essential material concerning the background, methodology, results and significance of the research?

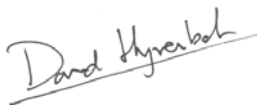
### GRADE DETERMINATION

This course will be graded on pass/fail basis.

If the presentation approved by the committee and the presentation deemed acceptable the student will pass the course.

(Print) K. David Hyrenbach  
FACULTY ADVISOR

(Sign)



(Date) January 20, 2008

(Print) \_\_\_\_\_  
ASSOCIATE DEAN

(Sign)

(Date) \_\_\_\_\_