University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Marine Mammals - Biology and Management - lecture, PG_00204924		
Field of study	Oceanography		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026	Academic year of realisation of subject	2026/2027
Education level	Master's studies	Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study Optional subject group Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	1	Language of instruction	Polish
Semester of study	2	ECTS credits	1.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit	Faculty of Oceanography and Geography -> Rector		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr Iwona Pawliczka Vel Pawlik	
	Teachers		

Lesson types

Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
Number of study hours	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15

E-learning hours included: 0.0

Learning activity and number of study hours

Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
Number of study hours	15	1.0	9.0	25

Subject objectives

Learning life strategies related to the challenges of the marine environment, including feeding, communication and reproduction.

Familiarization with the ecological role of marine mammals in aquatic ecosystems.

Presentation of the importance of health condition in the survival of marine mammals in the face of the challenges of the aquatic environment.

Familiarization with conservation conflicts in population management, the importance of knowledge about species and modern research methods for the effective management of human activities in the protection of marine mammals and their habitats.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[OCEANMU2-U02] is able to fluently and accurately use scientific terminology when presenting and discussing oceanographic issues, and to propose and justify innovative solutions	the student is able to fluently and appropriately use current scientific terminology in presenting and discussing problems in the field of marine mammals	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
[OCEANMU2-W01] knows and understands in-depth specialized terminology used in oceanography and related sciences (in Polish and a selected foreign language)	the student knows and understands in-depth specialist terminology relevant to marine mammal science	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
[OCEANMU2-W06] knows and identifies potential threats to the marine environment on a local and global scale resulting from strong anthropopressure, predicts their effects on various time and space scales	the student knows and identifies potential threats resulting from strong anthropopressure for marine mammals, especially in coastal areas of seas and oceans, and knows and understands the impact of human activities on the condition of marine ecosystems, knows the benefits of using its resources	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
[OCEANMU2-W07] knows and understands legal regulations, principles of sustainable development of the marine environment, its protection and management of the marine environment and its resources	the student knows and understands the regulations and terminology applicable to sustainable marine environment development, with particular emphasis on marine mammals.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written

Subject contents

Variety of the degree of adaptation of marine mammals to life in the aquatic environment.Behavioral ecology as a cognitive tool in marine mammal science.

Life strategies of marine mammals, i.e. feeding, reproduction, protection against predators, lifespan and mortality, social life.

Health condition as a condition for the survival of marine mammals in the marine environment.

Parasitism in marine mammals as a pathogenic element and a factor in interactions with humans.

The importance of habitat sustainability for marine mammals.

Managing the exploitation and conservation of marine mammals as a social process.

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
oral or written assessment	51.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	Gójska, A., Pawliczka, I. Program Ochrony Morświna, GDOŚ, 2015. Jefferson, T.A., Webber, M.A., Pitman, R. Marine Mammals of the World: A comprehensive Guide to their identyfication. Academic Press. 2018 Society for Marine Mammalogy, Committee of Taxonomy. Marine Mammals Species List. 2024. Evans, P. i Raga, T. (ed.) Marine Mammals: Biology and Conservation. Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers. 2001 Brennecke, D. Knickmeier, K., Pawliczka, I., Siebert, U., Wahlberg, M. Marine Mammals: A Deep Dive into the World of Science. Springer, 2023
	Supplementary literature	Carlén I., Thomas L., Carlström J., Amundin M., Teilmann J., Tregenza N., Tougaard J., Koblitz J.C., Sveegaard S., Wennerberg D., Loisa O., Dähne M., Brundiers K., Kosecka M., Kyhn L.A.,Ljungqvist C.T., Pawliczka I., Koza R., Arciszewski B, Galatiuse A., Jabbusch M., Laaksonlaita J., Niemi J., Lyytinen S., Gallus A., Benke H., Blankett P., Skóra K.E., Acevedo-Gutiérrez A., Basin-scale distribution of harbour porpoises in the Baltic Sea provides basis for effective conservation actions, Biological Conservation, Volume 226: 42-53. 2018 Głowaciński (red) Polska Czerwona Księga Zwierząt IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (online) 2001 Marine Mammal Necropsy: An introductory guide for stranding responders and field biologists. Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. 2007 (online) State of the Baltic Sea - Second HELCOM Holistic Assessment 2011-2016 (online) Varjopuro R Co-existence of seals and fisheries? Adaptation of a coastal fishery for recovery of the Baltic grey seal. Marine Policy 35:450456. 2011
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	The role of marine mammals in the marine ecosystem.Methods for estimating marine mammal populations.The importance of post-mortem research for marine mammal conservation management.Reproductive strategies.of Mysticeti.Types of external parasites of marine mammals and their importance for the health of the hosts.	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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