

# BISC 349, Biology of Sharks and Their Relatives

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Book recommended- Sharks, Skates and Rays of the Gulf of Mexico by Glenn R. Parsons

Office hours- Monday and Tuesday, 8-10 or by appointment.

This class will entail lecture and class discussion. You will be assigned readings and some will be provided either as an internet link or will be posted to blackboard. You must read those papers before coming to class. Test 1- 33.3%, Test 2- 33.3%, Final Exam (not comprehensive)- 33.3%

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>
Aug 27	Introduction: Characteristics, basic anatomy
Aug 29	Introduction: Chondrichthyes, Systematics
Sep 03	Diversity
Sep 05	Holocephali
Sep 10	Batoidea, (skates, rays, sawfish)
Sep 12	Batoidea (skates, rays, sawfish)
Sep 17	Shark survey
Sep 19	Shark survey
Sep 24	Natural history of sharks
Sep 26	<b>TEST 1</b>
Oct 01	Swimming in elasmobranchs
Oct 03	Buoyancy
Oct 08	Respiration, circulatory system
Oct 10	Reproduction
Oct 15	Food, feeding, bite force
Oct 17	Age determination and growth
Oct 22	Warm-bodied sharks
Oct 24	Osmoregulation and stress
Oct 29	Osmoregulation, freshwater sharks
Oct 31	<b>TEST 2</b>
Nov 05	Sensory systems
Nov 07	Sensory systems
Nov 12	Fishery landings
Nov 14	Shark conservation
Nov 19	Shark attack
Nov 21	Shark populations dynamics
<b>Nov 23-Dec 01</b>	<b>FALL BREAK</b>
Dec 03	Great white shark
Dec 05	Miscellaneous
<b>FINAL EXAM- Dec 10th, 4 PM</b>	

**Attendance is required and roll will be taken every day. If you miss a class a doctor's excuse is required. I will deduct 1% from your final grade for every un-excused absence.**

## **Note Regarding Electrical Devices**

I do not allow lap tops or cell phones in my classroom. My class is an electronics free zone.

## **Learning Outcomes/Objectives**

In this course I intend to inform the student concerning the basic biology of sharks, skates, and rays. This will include diversity, physiology, biology and conservation of these animals. Additionally, the student will be able to converse intelligently in class, engaging in discussion regarding variously assigned readings