

Bahamian Conservation Biology

6-credit study abroad field course focused on the ecology, evolution, and conservation of aquatic ecosystems in the Bahamas

Directors: Dr. Brian Langerhans, Dr. Nils Peterson

Teaching Assistant: Justa Heinen-Kay

Location: Forfar Field Station, Andros Island, The Bahamas

BIO 495 (Ecological and Evolutionary Dimensions of Conservation Biology in the Bahamas, 3 cr.)

FW 495 (Human Dimensions of Conservation Biology in the Bahamas, 3 cr.)

Research Project Proposal Information

Prepare your proposal in **Microsoft Word** or equivalent, and submit your proposal to Justa Heinen-Kay (justaheinen@gmail.com) as a .doc, .docx, or equivalent. (We will use Word's track changes feature to make comments on your proposal, so be familiar with that feature.)

Your proposal should have the following structure:

- Title, team member names
- Abstract (<250 words)
- Introduction
- Methods
- Potential Results
- Implications of Findings
- Literature Cited

You will need to conduct literature searches to find relevant previous studies to place your research in the appropriate context (peer-reviewed primary literature).

The **introduction** should establish the background and importance of the research question(s), and clearly describe the hypotheses to be tested.

The **methods** section should describe the means by which the project will be conducted in order to test the questions posed in the introduction. These methodological descriptions should generally be of sufficient detail that others could replicate your methods based solely on the text in your proposal—in the present case, you may not be familiar enough with logistics on the islands to accomplish this, but do your best to accurately describe your desired methods. Use the information presented in the brief online descriptions of your project to guide you.

In the **potential results** section, discuss the sorts of results you expect to be able to find at the conclusion of the study.

In the **implications of findings** section, describe the interpretations of various possible results—what sorts of conclusions might you be able to draw at the end of this study, what do they mean for the particular study system examined and for a broader context as well?

For the **literature cited**, use the style for citation and bibliography for a journal that you believe would be appropriate for the publication of your eventual results. Choose an appropriate journal and denote this in your proposal. The research proposal should include **at least 10 references to peer-reviewed primary literature**.