**Semester:** Fall 2022

**Student:** Kayla Emerson

**Faculty Advisor:** Dr. Lindsay Dubbs

**Committee Members:** Dr. David Lagomasino, Kriddie Whitmore

**Description:**

The goal of this course is to begin a Senior Honors Thesis project exploring the influence of salinity and water level on dissolved macronutrients and carbon fluxes in two wind-tide dominated marshes in the Albemarle Sound. During field working hours, the student will collect data including, but not limited to, water level, dissolved organic carbon, carbon flux, and inorganic carbon from two different marshes. During lab time, the student will analyze samples and organize data. Independently, the student will work towards completing written assignments (listed below). The student will begin to conduct a literature review, collect data, write a methods section of her thesis, and begin writing the results section of her thesis. The student will work towards a written thesis and oral defense of the research in the spring of her senior year (2023).

**Meeting Requirements:**

Meetings between the student and advisor will occur for approximately one-hour, weekly. Weekly meetings between the student and the advisor will address the student’s research questions and methodology, progress towards completing assignments, field and literature review methods and results, and future research directions and timelines.

The student will also work closely with committee members, meeting at least once a month. Once to twice a week, the student is expected to complete field work or process data in the laboratory, working towards data collection. This will occur during the scheduled “internship” time allotted with the UNC field site schedule.

**Reading Assignments:**

The advisor and student will work together to determine reading assignments to begin the thesis project. The student will be expected to complete these readings and conduct a literature review to find additional resources that are relevant to her research. The student will spend a minimum of 9 hours each week working towards completion of her thesis.

**Assignments:**

The student must submit the following assignments to the faculty advisor; see **Important Dates** for due dates:

* Biweekly written summaries of research progress, including literature review to date, methods drafts, results to date, and interpretation of data collected in the field, which the student will compile in field and lab notebooks.
* A draft Literature review section that will inform the Introduction of her thesis.
* A final draft of the thesis Methods section that includes a detailed explanation of methods used to collect field data.
* A draft of the Results section based on results to date.

**Grading:**

Course assessments will be based on advisor evaluation of the following assignments:

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| **Assessment** | **% of Course Grade** |
| * Biweekly written summaries | 35% |
| * Draft Literature review | 20% |
| * Final draft of Methods | 25% |
| * Draft of results | 20% |

**Important Dates:**

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| **Assignment due** | **Due date** |
| * Draft Literature Review | Monday, October 10 |
| * Final draft of Methods | Monday, Nov. 7 |
| * Draft of Results | Monday, Nov. 21 |
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