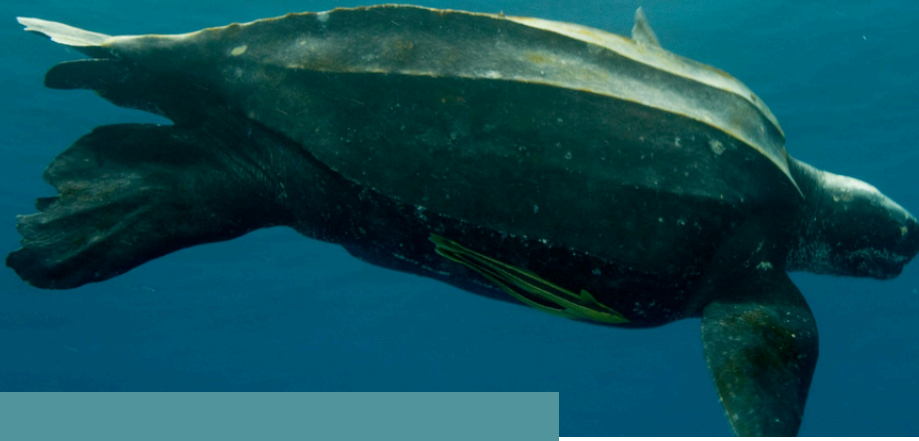


# VOYAGE OF THE TURTLE

SPRING 2025 Syllabus

Honors Course



IDH 2930  
(UN)COMMON READS

Tuesdays, period 7th  
(1:55 - 2:55 PM)

Location: 117 Little Hall

Credits: 1

Required Textbook:

Safina, Carl (2007)

Voyage of the turtle: In  
pursuit of Earth's last

Dinosaur

ISBN-10: 0805083189

Course website:

[VoT on UF e-Learning.](#)

## COURSE INFORMATION

### COURSE SYNOPSIS

In this course we will cover the book *Voyage of the Turtle* by Carl Safina, which explores the plight of sea turtles and how human intervention has impacted both positively and negatively these animals and their ecosystems. During weekly discussions students will learn not only about sea turtles but also about the scientific, political, and cultural challenges encountered while conducting marine conservation around the world. This will provide students with a better understanding of current issues faced in the marine environment and help them reflect on what the ocean means to them and what steps they can take to make a positive impact on the marine environment.

### LEARNING GOALS

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Appreciate sea turtles and other endangered marine species,
- Describe the impact of human activities on marine life,
- Explain how scientific, cultural, and political issues affect the conservation and management actions carried out in the marine environment, and
- Recognize steps they can take to make a positive impact on the ocean.



## INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Mariela Pajuelo  
Assistant Scientist  
Florida Museum of Natural History

- **Office Hours:** Before class , period 6th or by appointment.
- **Telephone:** (352) 214-3060
- **Email:** [mpajuelo@floridamuseum.ufl.edu](mailto:mpajuelo@floridamuseum.ufl.edu)

## COURSE POLICIES

### CLASS DEMEANOR

- Students are expected to be to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students.
- Please do not use of cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom.
- Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.
- Emails sent to the instructor must follow professional etiquette (e.g., [How to Write a Professional Email](#))

### GRADING & ATTENDANCE

- Requirements for class attendance and make-up assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the [Undergraduate Catalog](#).

### COURSE EVALUATIONS

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at [GatorEvals](#). Summary results of these assessments are available to students at [GatorEvals Results](#).

## GRADING

### LIST OF GRADED WORK

- **CLASS PARTICIPATION (70%):**
  - Students are expected to actively engage in weekly discussions.
  - A day before class, students will submit 2 **written discussion questions** based on the reading assignment for that week.
  - Students will also have the opportunity to lead one class discussion.
- **INFOGRAPHIC (25%):** students will select a topic of interest related to issues addressed in the book or any related to the marine environment and create a visual representation of the data, knowledge or other information related to their topic.
- **PRESENTATION (5%):** Based on the topic chosen to create an infographic, students will deliver a **5-7 min presentation** at the end of the semester.

### GRADING SCALE (%)

A:	93-100	C+:	77-79
A-:	90-92	C:	73-76
B+:	87-89	C-:	70-72
B:	83-86	D:	60-69
B-:	80-82	E:	<60

A minimum grade of B is required to earn Academic points towards your Honors Completion Requirements (Exception: Honors Quest I and II sections require a C).

Once you have earned your final grade in this course, please upload the course information and final grade from your Unofficial Transcript into your Honors Canvas Cohort: Honors Completion module to earn Honors Completion credit.

## ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE (Subject to change)

Week	Date	Reading/Assignment	Topics
1	14-Jan	<b>Due: Complete Intro</b>	Introduction to the class and discussion of syllabus.
2	21-Jan	Pages 1-8, Chapter 1: Angels of Eden	What is a sea turtle?
3	28-Jan	Chapters 2-3: Weight of the world. Moonlight in the Sunshine State <b>Due: presentation topic</b>	Cultural value of animals. Fieldwork and research in Florida nesting beaches. <b>Students choose a presentation topic.</b>
4	4-Feb	Chapter 4: Leatherbacks and Cannonballs	Endangered species. Fisheries impact and fishers' knowledge.
5	11-Feb	Chapter 5: On the Edge	Decline of fisheries
6	18-Feb	Chapter 6-7: Animal magnetism, Northeast of Summer	Animal magnetism. Bycatch. In-water research. Climate change.
7	25-Feb	Chapter 8: The view from Turtle Island <b>Due: project description</b>	Bycatch mitigation techniques. Conserve and fish? <b>Students provide project description</b>
8	4-Mar	Chapter 9: The Great beach. Chapter 10: Flying Turtles	Decline of a giant. Ecotourism and development. Technology in sea turtle research. Challenges and risks in marine conservation.
9	11-Mar	Guest speaker	<b>Guest speaker: TBD</b>
10	18-Mar	<b>No class- Spring Break</b>	<b>Students submit Infographic outline</b>
11	25-Mar	Chapter 11: Baja. Chapter 12: The Other Grand Canyon	Small-scale fisheries. Economic reliance on endangered fauna. Deep ocean.
12	1-Apr	Chapter 13-14: Jamursba	Money in conservation. Traditional use of marine fauna. Conservation in developing countries. Can we cause recovery?
13	8-Apr	Betimblings, Chant for the Enchanted.	<b>Students submit infographic assignments. Students provide a 5-7 min presentation of their chosen topic.</b>
14	15-Apr	<b>Due: Infographic</b> Final presentations	
15	22-Apr	Final presentations <b>Due: Infographic review</b>	<b>Students submit infographic reviews and provide a 5-7 min presentation of their chosen topic.</b>
16	29-Apr	Course wrap-up	

## PLAGIARISM

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code.

## PLAGIARISM (Continued)

On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Honor Code.](#) If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

## HELP & OTHER RESOURCES

### HONORS PROGRAM

201 Walker Hall, 352-392-1519

Quick questions for an Honors advisor? Email [advisor@honors.ufl.edu](mailto:advisor@honors.ufl.edu)

Need an Honors advising appointment? Schedule via Microsoft Bookings:

<https://bit.ly/ufhonorsadvising>

### ACCOMODATIONS

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the [Disability Resource Center](#) (352-392-8565) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible.

### UF COUNSELING RESOURCES

Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals. The resources include:

- UF Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Rd, 392-1575, psychological and psychiatric services.
- Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career and job search services.

Many students experience test anxiety and other stress related problems. [The Counseling and Wellness Center](#) can help you address those problems (4th floor at Peabody Hall, 392-1575).