Welcome to Biology 131L!

In this class you will be carrying out experiments that examine the function of several organ systems including the nervous, cardiovascular, respiratory and muscular systems. In most cases you will be using equipment similar to that in research labs and working with human volunteer subjects. You will also get a chance to work with animal subjects. In addition you will get the rare opportunity to participate in a necropsy (an animal autopsy).

**Attendance:** This is REQUIRED. If you will be missing a lab you must contact your TA or instructor within 24 hours of the missed class. An absence is a mandatory 10% reduction in your class score.

**Human subjects:** Most of the lab exercises will be performed on human volunteers. Participation as a subject is voluntary and will not affect your grade. If you have questions or concerns about being a subject please contact the instructor.

**Animal subjects:** You will be interacting with the various animals at Long Marine Lab including the dolphins, birds, and seals. These animals are trained for voluntary collection of data. Please respect the animals and always listen to the trainers to avoid distress or injury to yourself or the animals.

**Necropsy:** You will have the opportunity to participate in a necropsy of a marine mammal at the end of the quarter. We will be assisting in determining the cause of death. This is a unique opportunity that is rarely offered and will help the stranding network identify causes of strandings along our coast. If you have any questions and concerns about the necropsy, please contact your instructor.

**Submitting assignments:**
- Collected at the beginning of each class
- 10% penalty if one day late. No points after.
- Contact the instructor if an assignment is late
- No papers accepted via email and must be handed in person to your instructor

**Academic integrity:**
- All written and graph work must be original and you own work!
- No plagiarism- this includes copying, paraphrasing, etc. from another site, the web, another student.
- Evidence of cheating or plagiarism on an assignment will result in a grade of zero. Two strikes will result in dismissal and failure for the course.
Lab reports and worksheets: There are weekly worksheet assignments including a mini-formal lab report and one formal lab report. You are given one week to complete each assignment.

Participation: Participation in the laboratory activities is required and constitutes 30% of your grade with attendance. Even if you are not acting as a volunteer subject you are required to assist in data collection and recording during the laboratory period. Arrive on time and prepared by bringing a copy of the lab with you (downloaded from the website). Read the lab assignment ahead of your lab period to expedite the experiments.

Practical exam: You will have a final laboratory practical exam during the last lab session. This will test you on the methods and concepts in the laboratory course, and represents 10% of your final grade.