Course Description:
This four-week class will emphasize the existing knowledge, hypotheses, and disputes regarding kelp forest ecology. A strong focus will be on the ecological interactions that influence kelp forest structure and dynamics. During the class, students will critically read published literature and will learn local Alaska subtidal flora and fauna. Students will be given an opportunity to work underwater by conducting their own ecological research including: formulating questions, collecting and analyzing ecological data, writing reports based on such data, and giving and receiving critical feedback. This course takes place at the Kasitsna Bay Lab.

Prerequisites:
College course in Biology or ecology
Current Open Water Diver
Current American Academy of Underwater Sciences Scientific Diver

Principle Goals:
1. To introduce students to the existing knowledge, hypotheses, and disputes regarding the components of kelp forest communities and the ecological interactions that influence their structure and dynamics.
2. To familiarize students with critically reading primary published literature in marine kelp forest ecology.
3. To familiarize students with local Alaska marine subtidal flora and fauna.
4. To give students an opportunity to work underwater.
5. To provide students with experience in doing ecological research of their own including: formulating questions, collecting and analyzing ecological data, writing reports based on such data, and giving and receiving critical feedback.
6. *Graduate students will also be required to conduct their own research project.

Grading:

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Recommended Courses: Invertebrate Zoology, Fish Biology, Ecology, Statistics

Recommended General Books:
Recommended Organism Books: