

Day 1	Friday, September 18, 2026—Live Online via Zoom
1:00-2:30pm	Welcome to FMNP Coastal Systems! Course expectations, goals, and format Introductions and Icebreaker Dropbox tutorial Intro to Final Projects Pre-test (link sent via chat)
2:30-2:40pm	Break
2:40-3:40pm	Introduction to Florida's Coastal Systems: Karen Rose
3:40-4:00pm	Questions and Discussion
On Your Own 1 hour+	• Download the class manual and review Chapter 1, Introduction to Florida's Coastal Systems. • Final Projects: Spend some time thinking about project topic ideas. What are your personal interests within the topic of Florida's coastal ecosystems that you'd like to research more about? What aspects of coastal conservation are the places where you would most like to make a difference? What is your strong suit and what creative ideas do you have for an interpretive project?

Day 2	Friday, September 25, 2026—Live Online via Zoom
1:00 – 2:00pm	Coastal Invertebrates Part 1: Nicole Castilla
2:00 – 2:15pm	Break
2:15 – 3:15 pm	Coastal Invertebrates Part 2: Nicole Castilla
3:15 – 4:00pm	Questions & Discussion, Brainstorm Project Topic Ideas; Introduction to Keeping a Nature Journal
ON YOUR OWN 4.5 hours +	• Watch Video: Nearshore Environments and complete reflection worksheet. • Field Trip Nearshore Environment: Explore the salty ocean beyond the estuary, at the nearshore location of your choice, anywhere between where the ocean meets the land and about 30 feet deep. You can visit an aquarium, go diving or snorkeling, go out on a boat with a trawl net, go fishing, or even wade close to shore looking for small fish, mollusks, crabs, and other invertebrates. Record your observations. Suggested statewide locations provided. • Review Chapter 4, Coastal Invertebrates. • Final Projects: Narrow your topic and refine your ideas according to personal interest, whether working with a group of classmates or going solo.

Day 3	Friday, October 2, 2026—Live Online via Zoom
1:00 – 1:20pm	Breakout Rooms: Share Field Trip Experiences
1:20 – 2:20pm	Marine and Estuarine Environments: Victor Blanco
2:20 – 2:30pm	Break
2:30 – 3:30pm	Saltwater Fish: Victor Blanco
3:30 – 4:00pm	Questions & Discussion, Assignments
ON YOUR OWN 4.5 hours +	• Watch Video: Estuaries and complete reflection worksheet. • Field Trip Estuaries: Visit the estuarine location of your choice, a place where a river meets the sea and there are either salt marshes or mangroves. Suggested statewide locations provided. During your field trip take note of something that especially catches your attention that you would like to share with others. • Review Chapter 2, Marine and Estuarine Environments, and chapter 5, Saltwater Fish. • Final Projects: Determine a plan for your final project. If you would like to present your project to an organization when it's completed, contact that organization and ask for parameters. If you are working in a group, divide tasks among group members based on individual strengths and preferences.

Day 4	Friday, October 9, 2026—Live Online via Zoom
1:00 – 1:20pm	Breakout Rooms: Share Field Trip Experiences
1:20 – 2:20pm	Coastal Birds Part 1: Karen Rose
2:20 – 2:30pm	Break
2:35 – 3:35pm	Coastal Birds Part 2: Karen Rose
3:35 – 4:00pm	Questions & Discussion, Assignments
ON YOUR OWN 1 hour +	• Activity: Adaptive Artistry (1 hour) • Review Chapter 7, Coastal Birds. • Final Projects: Research and Develop Content.
Day 5	Friday, October 16, 2026--Live Online via Zoom
1:00 – 1:20pm	Breakout Rooms: Share Adaptive Artistry Activity
1:20 – 2:20pm	Coastal Uplands: Mark Tancig
2:20 – 2:35pm	Break
2:35 – 3:35pm	Amphibians and Reptiles in Coastal Systems - Guest Speaker: Alex McKelvy
3:35 – 4:00pm	Questions & Discussion, Assignments
ON YOUR OWN 4.5 hours +	• Watch Video: Beach and Dune Systems and complete reflection worksheet. (1 hour) • Field Trip Beach, Dune, or Maritime Forest: Visit coastal uplands at the location of your choice, suggested statewide locations provided. (3.5 hours) • Review Chapter 3, Coastal Upland Environments and Chapter 6, Marine and Estuarine Amphibians and Reptiles. • Final Projects: Continue to develop content. If working in a group, give feedback on each other's work.
Day 6	Friday, October 23, 2026--Live Online via Zoom (Continued)
1:00 – 1:20pm	Class Discussion: Share Field Trip Experiences
1:20 – 2:20pm	Ethics in Coastal Systems: Karen Rose
2:20 – 2:35pm	Break
2:35 – 3:45pm	Interpretation in Coastal Systems: Karen Rose
3:45 – 4:00pm	Questions & Discussion, Assignments
ON YOUR OWN 1 hour +	• Interpretation: Using what you've learned so far, prepare a brief (5 minute) interpretative talk inspired by something you've observed during a field trip. (1 hour) • Review Chapter 9, Ethics in Coastal Systems and Chapter 10, Interpretation. • Final Projects: Put it all together and work towards completing project
Day 7	Friday, October 30, 2026—Live Online via Zoom
1:00 – 2:20pm	Student Interpretative Practice
2:20 – 2:35pm	Break
2:35 – 3:45pm	Student Interpretive Practice
3:45 – 4:00pm	Questions & Discussion, Assignments
ON YOUR OWN • hour +	• Watch Video: Human Dimensions and complete reflection worksheet. • Final Projects: Complete your project and add finishing touches. Include the FMNP logo

Day 8	Friday, November 6, 2026--Live Online via Zoom
1:00 – 1:20pm	Breakout Rooms: Discuss current conservation issues
1:20 – 2:30pm	Student Interpretative Practice
2:30 – 2:45pm	Break
2:45 – 3:45pm	Marine Mammals: <i>Karen Rose</i>
3:45 – 4:00pm	Questions & Discussion, Assignments
ON YOUR OWN	• Review Chapter 8, Marine Mammals • Final Projects: Rehearse Presentation and Delivery.

Day 9	Friday, November 13, 2026--Live Online via Zoom
1:00 – 2:00pm	Student Final Project Presentations
2:00 – 2:10pm	Break
2:10 – 3:20pm	Student Final Project Presentations
3:10 – 3:20pm	Break
3:20 – 4:20pm	Student Final Project Presentations
4:20 – 4:30pm	Break
4:30 – 5:00pm	Student Final Project Presentations
5:00 – 5:45pm	Break, Post-test, and Course Evaluation. <i>Post-test and Evaluation links provided by instructor via chat.</i>
5:45 – 6:00pm	Review Post-test, watch endowment video
6:00 – 6:30pm	Graduation