

## BIO 318 for F2015, 11 comments from 17 students enrolled

## Comments

- Dr. Pawlik is one of the best professors I've had. I really enjoyed this course and Dr. Pawlik's passion for this field of study inspires me and makes me very excited for my future career as a biologist.
- I thought the course material was very interesting and it was nice to have a professor who showed a clear enthusiasm for the material. However, I don't believe the class and lab were scheduled in a way that promoted long-term learning of the material. I feel it more encouraged unnecessary stress, hasty, and extensive short-term memorization instead of actually thinking about and acquiring knowledge of the subject. I think it would create a better learning environment if you reduced the number of tests or did not schedule practicals and exams on the same day or within the same week. Also, I thought it was rude and disrespectful for Dr. Pawlik to make jokes about the students failing important tests. Even considering the fact that he accounts for fair grades, comments like that discourages the students.
- I really enjoyed this course despite the difficulty of the subject matter. The lectures were always enjoyable and I looked forward to class every week. Many of the labs were long but they were interesting and you learned a lot from them that was helpful not only for the lab practical but also for solidifying things learned in lecture. Thank you!
- Dr. Pawlik is an outstanding teacher. He really knows what he is talking about and explains everything very well. I thought I would hate this course, and at times I admittedly did but I am happy I took it because I learned a lot about marine biology and taxonomy. Dr. Pawlik is a great lecturer and even found ways to make learning about worms interesting. One of my only complaints about the course were the tests. I understand that the course is meant to challenge the students in it. However, I felt that many question on the test were next to impossible (and yes I did in fact study my butt off for the exams!), with very intricate detail that asked you to pick one option from A-J! Because of this, getting a good grade came down to getting your hands on a few of the old exams and because of this the best grades in the course were undoubtedly earned by those who had the most friends who previously took the course, rather than who actually knew the most material or who studied the hardest. Therefore I would encourage switching the tests up more, maybe adding in a few new questions but not make them AS difficult. But overall I enjoyed the course and am glad I took it as I know it will make me a better marine biologist. Thank you Dr. Pawlik and I hope to see you around.
- I have known Dr. Pawlik outside of academia for about two years now and have been waiting to take this course for that duration of time. Now that I am a senior and finally got into this amazing course he has all but disappointed! Dr. Pawlik has a vast knowledge of the subject matter, and makes this course an amazing one. I love that he speaks to the class like the adults that we are and uses his extended vocabulary in a very professional manner while pushing us as students to not only thrive in his classroom but in life as well! UNCW is very lucky to have an instructor such as Dr. Pawlik on staff and he continues to impress year after year! I wanted to personally thank Dr. Pawlik for putting an exclamation mark on my senior year and this is an experience I will never forget.
- Dr. Pawlik was alright. He was a great teacher in the information he presented in class (which was wonderful) because he taught us so dang much. However, the tests were pretty tough. Every student is different, but being an A and B student I struggled to do well on his tests. He is pretty critical on tests. Also the lab practicals are death. He doesn't expect most people to pass them which makes no sense to me, and because of that I put less effort into studying for them because why study really hard if you're expected to fail? Also the lab itself wasn't that great. I respect Dr. Pawlik for putting the time into presenting us with organisms and other lab materials that aren't easy to come by, but every lab is the same. You walk in and take notes on a set amount of stations for a couple hours and then walk out. There's no interaction between professor and student. I just wish there was more interaction in lab. I respect Dr. Pawlik but his teaching methods are not exactly what I hoped they would be
- I really enjoyed learning about the course material in Invertebrate Zoology and I believe that this course is essential for any student studying marine biology. I liked that the lab was set up in a laid-back manor, however, I would have appreciated a bit more structure when it came to the lab practicals, as far as just being a bit more informed of what and how to study for them so that during lab we could keep this in mind and enhance our learning experience.
- The taxonomy needs to be updated in this course if it is going to be tested on. I felt that I wasted a lot of time learning taxonomic information that I cannot apply to my field because it is incorrect. I also think it is unnecessary to put a lot of focus on the taxonomy in this course because it is constantly changing and is therefore less important down the road than understanding the physiology of the organisms discussed.
- I came into the course with a lot of reservations; it wasn't the direction within biology I planned to take, and I'd heard multiple people describe the class as very difficult. After I've taken the course, I have to agree that it is somewhat difficult in that there is a lot of information presented, and it isn't entire clear from the start what exactly is and isn't important to remember. However, the class is definitely worthwhile. It remains entertaining thanks to Dr. Pawlik's excellent teaching skills. The only real (and what I'd consider at least somewhat fair) complaint is the inability to tell where within the class one stands grade-wise.
- This is a great course and I am happy I took it. I learned a lot about the material and learned a lot about studying in general. I appreciate a challenging course, however I think it would be beneficial to provide more materials to help students learn. For example if a study guide were given for the practical, I think we would be able to learn and remember the material, and take more away from it. I think many students are discouraged from taking this course because of the teaching style or because they are worried about having a bad grade affecting their gpa, which is too bad because it is an excellent course. Overall I am glad I took this class.
- This is, by far, one of the hardest classes I have ever taken. Having said that, it is also one of the only courses that has really challenged me and allowed me to stretch my limits. I learned more in this course than any other course here, and I think any marine biology major should take this course. Dr. Pawlik is so knowledgeable about what he teaches, and really wants his students to be excited and do well.