

MARINE AQUACULTURE

Professor: Kevan Main, MFA

I'd like to welcome you to the special topics course in marine aquaculture, which is being offered both at the graduate level and for senior students that are interested in learning more about aquaculture. My name is Kevan Main. I am a Research Scientist at Mote Marine Laboratory and an Adjunct Faculty Member in the College of Marine Sciences at the University of South Florida.

What we're going to be doing in this course is covering a whole range of topics related to marine aquaculture. I've had a lot of experience working in this field. I've been involved in aquaculture for more than 30 years. And I run one of the largest research laboratories that is developing the latest technologies in marine aquaculture.

So we'll study both the systems and the animals. And that will give us a really good background in the different types of technologies that are used to produce these animals. We're also going to have a strong focus on the new directions that the field is moving in, the innovations that have been developed in the last 10 years, and where we're going to in the future, and the importance of aquaculture to supplying our critical protein needs for the future of the world.

Your job as students in this course, will be to review the materials that we present in the syllabus. And to choose particular areas that you're interested in and develop a presentation associated with that topic area that will then be presented to the rest of the class to enhance their education. So we're going to use a combination of lectures that are presented by me and lectures presented by the students. It'll be a really interactive course throughout the entire program.

The other thing that you'll be expected to do as students is to watch a certain number of those presentations and to comment back on it. And I'd say the third thing that we're going to look at is what is going on in the popular press? What are people saying about aquaculture? What does it mean? And how do you interpret that in light of the science of the field?

I think it's really important to know that because one of the things that I get asked all the time is, is aquaculture seafood safe to eat? I want to have you cover those types of topics in our course. And then be able to answer those questions when people ask you those things.

And what kinds of new approaches are being used to be able to produce that food in a safe and sustainable manner. Because we've really got to move in new directions as we continue to produce the food that people need.

So I'm looking forward to working with all of you throughout the course this coming semester. And I think that one thing you need to be sure to do is if there's anything you don't understand or question that you have, you need to be able to get online and send me those questions so that we can interact together. Keep in mind if you've got a question, somebody else probably has the same question too.

So we're going to create a forum so that we can dialogue back and forth throughout the course. Make it as interactive as possible, get you to know the other students. And the last thing I want to say is that we will during the course have a field trip that will be done. If you're here in this area, you'll go with me. But if you're not, we can make arrangements for you to visit some analogous facility in the place that you're located. So we'll make it so that everybody can have the same access to the educational experience. So I look forward to working with you. And I will see you online.