

11:628:320 Dynamics of Marine Ecosystems 2009

Informal Term Paper guidelines:

1) The paper:

Writing style should try to emulate the Primary literature: Your paper should have an **introduction, body and conclusion**.

Introduction: should overview and introduce the topic in a few paragraphs. It should be concrete and concise not vague and general.

It could and should address one or more of the following issues

Why does anyone care about this topic?

What is the purpose and direction of the overall paper

Tell us “what you are going to tell us”

Body of the paper should cover results and provide a discussion of the data presented: It should present the information data and results on the topic and then discuss this data in the context of the other information also presented. If different sources come to different conclusions then this should be addressed. This is an interdisciplinary paper the discussion should pull together the data and ideas from different fields and present to the reader an analysis of how these several lines of evidence add up to a greater understanding of the topic at hand.

The overall paper should have a governing point (or “thesis”) around which the data and the discussion should center. Use concrete examples and data to support your thesis.

Figures to illustrate the data and clarify the discussion are required. These should be **numbered** sequentially and have a **caption** that acknowledges where it came from and text that explains not only what it is but what it says.

Conclusions/summary: The summary should present a summary of the body of knowledge presented and detail any conclusions leading on from the discussion. Ultimately the paper should end by “telling us what you told us”

2) Referencing

a. In text referencing should be in the scientific style: (first author, year of publication) with single, dual and multiple author papers having slightly different callouts: as in:

Antarctic phytoplankton have been found to rock (Schofield, 2005). However, recently evidence shows that they have rocked less in recent years (Sikes and Schofield, 2006). This appears to be due to changes in currents (Wilkin et al, 2007).

b. References in the bibliography should be in journal style: with year, journal title, volume and page numbers:

Fuchs, H., 2006, On the rockabilly nature of phytoplankton in nearshore Antarctic waters, *Oceanography News*, **33**, 222-230.

Sikes, E.L. and H. Fuchs, 2007, Changes in the musical nature of *Emiliania huxleyi* over the last century, *Subantarctic Science*, **26**, 123-145.

Wilkin, J., E.L. Sikes, and H. Fuchs, 2008, Current control of musical flow fields and phytoplankton behavior, *Southern Ocean Physics*. **49**, 666-671.

Please note underhanging style: Journal is italicized and volume highlighted.

Books should be similarly referenced:

Blowhard, B. 2004. *A Treatise on Antarctic Plankton: Is It Rock or Is It Jazz?*, Simon & Coltrain, New York, 200pp.