**SIO 133 TERM PAPER OVERVIEW & GUIDELINES**

The main objective of this term paper assignment is to provide you with experience of writing scientific-style papers. You will need to become familiar with using primary literature, either scientific journals or monographs. Term papers will examine a topic or species covered in the course lectures, but at a greater level of detail. Your paper may address a scientific, management, or conservation issue, or provide a summary of what is known about a particular species. A list of potential topics has been provided (see “Term paper topics inspiration.doc”), but we encourage you to develop your own idea for a topic, and to discuss it with the TA’s.

**Format**
- 5 to 7 pages, double-spaced, of writing; figures/tables and references are NOT included in the page count. 1” margins and 12 pt font
- Sections and subsections (see Section Guidelines and Rubric below for more detail)
  - *If “Methods” and “Results” are not appropriate for your topic, develop your own sections/subsections that make sense*
    - Introduction
    - Methods
    - Results
    - Discussion/Conclusion
    - Figures and Tables
    - References
- Include page numbers and your name on each page

**Milestones:**
- **27 April 2015** Topic due (e-mail proposed topic to TA)
- **11 May 2015** Outline due (e-mail outline to TA)
- **18 May 2015** First draft due *optional* (e-mail first draft to TA if you would like comments)
  TA’s will revise papers and return on 27 May 2015 during lecture
- **1 June 2015 (6:00 pm)** Final Paper (submit final term paper document electronically on Turnitin.com)

"Students agree that by taking this course all required papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com site."
Section Guidelines

Introduction
• Describe the problem or topic being researched
• Describe why the problem or topic is important

Methods
• Describe how scientists have collected information about this topic

Results
• What is known about this problem or topic? (Bulk of the paper)
• Present key findings without interpretation

Discussion/Conclusion
• Describe implications of results (short and long term)
• Describe what remains unknown or still needs to be investigated

Figures and Tables
• Figures and tables are labeled in the order in which they appear in the text
• Include references in the figure/table label if appropriate

References
• References are included in-text and in bibliography form
• Use the proper citation format of the Marine Mammal Science journal
• At least 10 primary, peer-reviewed sources must be included

Miscellaneous
• Write clearly and concisely. Try reading your sentences out loud to see if they’re too long or too confusing. Use topic sentences and a logical order when you structure paragraphs and sections.
• Avoid flowery, emotional, and opinionated writing. This paper is an objective review of scientific literature. Use the tone you see in other scientific articles.
• Species names: the first time you introduce a species, include its scientific name. E.g., "Indo-Pacific Humpback dolphins (Sousa chinensis) occur in the Pacific and Indian Oceans." Hereafter you can refer to the species by common name, or abbreviated G. species. Be consistent
• Use past tense throughout, with exceptions for projections about the future in the discussion section.
In your Text
References should be cited in the text in the following form: Smith (1982); Smith (1982a, b); Smith (1983, 1984); Smith and Jones (1984); (Smith 1986); (Smith 1986, Jones 1987); (Smith 1986; Jones 1986, 1987); (Smith 1986a, b; Jones 1987); (U.S. Federal Register 1997); more than two authors, Smith et al. 1987. References are cited chronologically, not alphabetically in the text.

Literature Cited Section
References should be double-spaced and listed alphabetically as 'Literature Cited' in the following standard form, giving the journal titles in full and each author's last name starting with a full capital followed by lowercase for the rest of the name.

Primary Literature (journal articles and monographs)


Government Reports


Book


Book Section/Chapter

**Support:**
There are many excellent writing support options for free on campus:

https://writingcenter.ucsd.edu/

How to write a paper in scientific journal style and format – Greg Anderson of Bates College Dept. of Biology

http://abacus.bates.edu/~ganderso/biology/resources/writing/HTWtoc.html

**Rubric:**
Your paper should be well written and comprehensive; it should thoroughly review your topic and include the most important references from the primary literature. Grades will be based on the criteria outlined in the “Term Paper Rubric” (below). This rubric will be returned with your final paper, **Read these guidelines carefully!** You can earn (or lose) many points simply by formatting correctly.

You will also be given credit for having turned in the “milestones” (topic and outline)
### SIO 133 Term Paper Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Deficient</th>
<th>Satisfactory</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Outstanding</th>
<th>Pts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appropriate Structure</td>
<td>Content was not organized into appropriate sections and/or sections were not utilized. Tables and figures were not captioned or formatted correctly.</td>
<td>Sections were used to organize the paper, but they were not always clear or appropriate.</td>
<td>Appropriate sections were used to organize the paper. Formatting (e.g., spacing, margins, length) had some errors.</td>
<td>Well organized into appropriate sections. Formatting was perfect. Tables and figures were captioned, and at the end of the paper.</td>
<td>/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarity of Writing</td>
<td>Writing was excessively wordy, not clear, or otherwise difficult to read. Content was not always related to the topic. Numerous grammar and/or spelling errors. If offered, suggestions from the rough draft were not incorporated into the final.</td>
<td>Writing was understandable, but contained some spelling and grammatical errors. Content was mostly appropriate to the topic.</td>
<td>Writing was clear, and the content was appropriate to the topic. Spelling and grammatical errors were limited. If offered, suggestions from the rough draft were addressed.</td>
<td>The content was appropriate to the topic and comprehensive. Each section was focused and well written utilizing proper grammar, spelling and formatting. A clear improvement from the rough draft.</td>
<td>/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>The nature and/or importance of the topic was not well defined. There was no logical progression through the section or between paragraphs.</td>
<td>The topic was appropriate, but not well explained. Transitions between paragraphs were awkward, and some paragraphs were not related to the thesis.</td>
<td>The topic was appropriate and well defined. Each subsequent paragraph developed the thesis.</td>
<td>Topic is clearly and concisely defined. There was a logical progression within the section. Each paragraph supports the thesis with excellent transitions between paragraphs.</td>
<td>/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methods/Results</td>
<td>The findings and methods of previous studies presented were not relevant to the topic, or conclusions of the paper.</td>
<td>The findings and methods of previous studies presented were relevant to the topic but poorly organized.</td>
<td>The findings and methods of previous studies presented were relevant to the topic and discussion, and were well organized.</td>
<td>The findings of previous studies were clearly presented. Tables and figures, if used, were relevant to the topic and discussion.</td>
<td>/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion/Conclusions</td>
<td>Conclusions were unclear and/or not related to the topic. Author comments were based on subjective opinion rather than an objective interpretation of the topic and results presented.</td>
<td>Addressed the implications of the presented results, but in an unclear or non-linear way. Text was often not directly related to the results or topic.</td>
<td>Described the important implications of the presented results as they related to the topic, and pointed the reader areas of future research.</td>
<td>Clearly summarized the main points of the paper, incorporated the results presented, and addressed the significance of the topic.</td>
<td>/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>Referenced content was not properly cited and/or a format other than Marine Mammal Science was used. Secondary literature or popular news stories were utilized.</td>
<td>Referenced content was mostly cited, but either the format was incorrect, or the references were not from the primary literature. There were less than 10 appropriate sources from the primary literature.</td>
<td>Referenced content was always cited in the correct format. There were some errors in formatting the references section.</td>
<td>All referenced material had a properly formatted in-text citations. The references section was formatted correctly. There were 10, or more, appropriate sources from the primary research literature.</td>
<td>/5</td>
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**Milestone Bonus Points:**

**Late Submission Subtraction:**

**TOTAL =** /30