

Scientific Diving
Program



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To: Incoming Scientific Diver
From: Christopher Rigaud, Diving Safety Officer/ Course Instructor
Re: SMS 324- Introduction to Research Diving (Summer 2023)
Date: 03 May 2023

Student Diver,

The University has informed me that you have registered for SMS324- *Introduction to Research Diving*. You should have already read the Course Syllabus and Registration Instructions which contain important information about this course. Information is also posted on the UMaine Scientific Diving website (www.umaine.edu/scientificdiving); under the 'Diver Training', 'SMS324' tabs; this website will be the primary bulletin board and source of information for this class.

Course Schedule

The first day of class will be Wednesday **May 31** (Summer) and Wednesday **Aug 30** (Fall); detailed course schedules will be posted in the coming weeks. Unless otherwise noted, we will meet each day on the lower campus of the DMC in the Mitchell Classroom or Dive & Field Staging Building (Dive Locker) at 0800 (8am), and not be done until 1800 (6pm) or later. Dive days are long and weather and diving conditions may be inclement, please plan accordingly. Also, please note that there will be a rotating 'Duty Roster' for this course. Diving is a team effort and students will not be dismissed until all tasks are complete; do not make plans which require you to leave class early. In general, it is best to dedicate the entire day to this class. *It is extremely challenging to make-up missed class days, please plan your schedules accordingly.*

Course Materials, Equipment, & Fees

All required texts for the course are provided by the course instructor and will be yours to keep. As previously described in the course syllabus, students are responsible for providing a number of personal equipment items and are encouraged to provide all of their own diving equipment with the exception of scuba cylinders. All equipment is needed starting on the first day of class. Regulators, BCDs, weight belts, and dive computers are available for use from the Scientific Diving Program with payment of the course fee. If you plan to use equipment from UMaine please indicate so on your Sci. Diver Information sheet. **The Course Materials and Equipment Fee for 2023 is \$850**; this course fee is separate from any other fees paid to the University. This fee will be charged to your student account by the Bursar's Office.

Pre-Course Assignments

Please review all pre-course documents that you have received thus far. I have posted to the website additional documents/tasks for you to complete/review prior to the first day of class. They are:

- *Sci. Diver Code of Conduct*
- *PADI Liability Waiver*
- *UMaine Diver in Training Exercise*

- *DAN Prepared Diver*- free online course, email invitation sent by Diver's Alert network

Please complete these items and be prepared to submit them to the Instructors, on-paper/hardcopy, on the first day of class. Failure to do so will prevent you from diving on that day and result in an inability to continue with this course. There will be no exceptions.

See you soon!

-Chris