

### **Riding the Knowledge Wave:**

**Credit value:** 3 USA Credits (6 ECTS Credits) – equivalent to 12 NMMU credits (the programme is open to students with a GPA of 2.5 and above (for students from the United States))

**Facilitator:** Professor Graham Kerley

#### **Introduction**

“Riding the knowledge wave” will incorporate aspects of our environmental programme, focusing on marine ecology and coupling it with surfing lessons in the beautiful Nelson Mandela Bay in South Africa.

Students will gain first-hand knowledge of the unique coastal environment of the Eastern Cape Province in South Africa. This programme will introduce the students to the rich marine heritage of the area and allow them to explore basic concepts and principles of marine ecology. The key focus in the programme will be on oceanography, estuaries, rocky shores, sandy beaches and reefs. The students will combine theoretical and classroom knowledge with practical trips and classes on the sandy and rocky beaches in the Nelson Mandela Bay.

In addition, the students will experience of the unique environmental issues that define the Eastern Cape. This area is recognized as a frontier and in many respects provides an ideal location to learn how our development opportunities are shaped by our environment. Finally, there will be opportunities to experience the “wild” nature of South Africa and see the “big five,” including elephants and rhinos, up close.

#### **Programme Presentation**

The course is largely field-trip based with visits to ancient caves, overnight stays and visits to modern National Parks. It also includes a longer overnight field trip to a rural area where students have the opportunity to experience first-hand the history and local culture with knowledgeable hosts.

Lectures are taught by NMMU academics and are scheduled daily from Monday - Thursday. Friday's are reserved for self-study or programme related activities.

#### **Learning Outcome: On completion of this programme students will:**

- Understand how the Eastern Cape region is a unique human and environmental habitat in South Africa
- Understand the diverse past and present environmental challenges within the coastal regions of the Province of the Eastern Cape in South Africa.
- Understand the underlying ecology to manage and conserve the coastal areas within the Province of the Eastern Cape
- Understanding the key issues in Marine Ecology in South Africa
- Become familiar with general principles of open ocean environments
- Learn about the life on Rocky Shores, Sandy Beaches and Coral reefs

Understand the Ocean Interface and estuaries present within the Province of the Eastern Cape in South Africa

### Assessments

There are two assessments: portfolio and presentation. The final mark for the module will be determined as follows:

- 60% of the final mark will come from the portfolio;
- 30% of the final mark will come from the presentation;
- 10% will be awarded for attendance of lectures and participation in discussions.
- **Grading explained**

Needs improvement	Below 50%	The assignment does not meet the requirements; does not include all components and/or does not go beyond a descriptive level. No interaction with the learning subject, little or no reflection
Satisfactory	50-64%	Some evidence of critical and analytical thinking, examples, illustrations and reflection.
Good	65-74%	Substantial evidence of critical and analytical thinking; engagement with the learning subject; examples and illustrations; in depth reflection.
Excellent	75% and above	Exceeds expectations in all criteria/outcomes

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- **Comparison of grades**

NMMU grades	US grades
80-100%	A+
75-79%	A
70-74%	B+
65-69%	B
60-64%	B-
57-59%	C+
54-56%	C
51-53%	C-
50%	D
0-49%	Fail