Group Research Project

1. You will work in groups of 3 or 4 to develop a research project centered on some aspect of the ecology of the coral reef ecosystem adjacent to Tobacco Caye (the small island where you will spend the last several days of our class). This project will be the basis of a presentation and a research paper (for students registered for BIOL 3980). This project accounts for a significant proportion (25% for BIOL 1980 students & 40% for BIOL 3980 students) of your course grade, so you will need to put a lot of effort into this.

2. You will determine the specific topic for your project, create an appropriate study design (see Project Design worksheet), and carry out your research while we are at Tobacco Caye. When we return to Hamline at the end of J-Term you will present your findings to the class (and students registered in BIOL 3980 will write a group research paper).

3. Steps for project:
   i) Form groups, explore the reef (snorkeling), brainstorm topics for project, and begin designing plan for project (first full day on Tobacco Caye).

   ii) Formalize study design (complete Project Design Worksheet) and begin data collection (2\textsuperscript{nd} day on Tobacco Caye).

   iii) Continue data collection & analysis (3\textsuperscript{rd} and 4\textsuperscript{th} full days on Tobacco Caye).

   iv) Prepare presentation and write research paper (students in BIOL 3980) – days 1 & 2 back at Hamline. See rubrics in course syllabus for the criteria by which your presentations and papers will be evaluated.

   v) Present findings of your study to the class and submit papers on final day of class.
      - Presentations will be in \textit{Powerpoint or Google Presentation} format and will be 12-15 minutes long
      - All group members must participate in the presentation.